

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April, 29 2015

#### Arkansas Arts Center Artmobile to visit Ward Central Elementary in Ward

The Arkansas Arts Center Artmobile will roll into Ward Central Elementary in Ward on Monday, May 4th and remain there until Friday, May 8th. By reaching people in their own communities, the Artmobile has allowed the Arkansas Arts Center, the state's premiere center for visual and performing arts with a renowned collection of international art, to fulfill its mission of providing quality art experiences to the entire state.

"The Arkansas Arts Center is proud to be welcomed into Ward Central Elementary to offer Arkansans a quality visual arts experience and the wonderful opportunity to introduce the fine arts in such a unique manner," said Arkansas Arts Center executive director Todd Herman. "The Artmobile allows us to foster community connections and encourage creative and expansive thinking."

The 2014-15 exhibition is titled *Work/Play*, which encourages an examination of the ways in which artists use visual language to depict two actions that occupy the majority of our lives. This exhibition introduces the visitor to tools such as pose, props, and expression in an attempt to "read" the stories and reveal the personality of the sitter. *Work/Play* includes traditional representations of work and play as well as a glimpse of what happens when lines between two opposing concepts blur or vanish altogether.

The Arkansas Arts Center's Artmobile has been serving the state for over 50 years as one of the nation's only mobile art museums. This one-of-a-kind space features curated exhibitions of works from the Arkansas Arts Center's permanent collection. Works from diverse media are carefully selected each touring season for their artistic integrity and educational value.

Introduced in 1962, this mobile art museum had attracted more than 77,000 visitors even before the Arkansas Arts Center's dedication in 1963. The original Artmobile was a 40-foot trailer modeled after a similar program at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The design was adjusted to better accommodate rural Arkansas roads. Through generous support from the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the Arkansas Arts Center contracted for the construction and purchase of a new, significantly updated mobile museum in 2002. This mobile facility boasts an advanced lighting arrangement, a sophisticated climate control system, complete accessibility as well as hardwood floors, custom wall design, and security. Pat Salmon and Sons have kept the Artmobile "on the move" by providing a tractor to transport the mobile gallery.

The Arkansas Arts Center Artmobile is sponsored by Bank of America; The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston; Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc.; Union Pacific Foundation; and Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas. This program is supported in part by the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage and the National Endowment for the Arts with special appreciation to the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

The Artmobile will be open to the public Thursday, May, 7th from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. Ward Central Elementary is located at 1570 Wilson Loop in Ward. For more information about the exhibition, contact Sara Carter at 501-743-3569.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Contact: (501) 372-4000

Location: Arkansas Arts Center – 9th and Commerce, Little Rock, AR 72202

Gallery Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Closed Monday & Major Holidays

Arkansas Arts Center programs are supported in part by: the City of Little Rock; The Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau; The City of North Little Rock; and the Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage and the National Endowment for the Arts.