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Exhibit Series Showcases Oklahoma Artists

OKLAHOMA CITY – “As an artist, it is my desire to combine both the physical and emotional worlds in my paintings. During this process of integrating the two through paint, I find hope,” said Michelle Firment Reid, a featured artist in the art on shARTEl series at the Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum.

Tulsa artist Reid is one of four Oklahoma artist groups whose works will be on display during 2008 in the Tulsa World Gallery at the Oklahoma City Museum. The series also features Paul Medina, Oklahoma City, a group of Ponca City artists and Paul Mays, Oklahoma City.

“The Gaylord-Pickens Museum focuses on telling Oklahoma’s story through its people,” said Karlee Chill, director of museum exhibitions. “The artists we are privileged to showcase this year are a tribute to our state’s creativity, talent and passion.”

While the artwork remains in keeping with the Museum’s mission, it’s a sharp contrast to other displays in the 22,000 square feet of exhibit space. The high-tech, interactive Museum is filled with plasma screen televisions, computer screens, touch screens and even sound recording booths.

“We have created a museum experience unlike anything else you’ll find in the state,” said Chill. “Student and adult visitors alike have enjoyed experiencing the history of our state’s people through very unconventional means. Because visitors can touch and interact with the majority of our exhibits, they become very engaged in what they’re learning.”

Just as visitors can get a unique look into the lives of famous Oklahomans like Reba McEntire, Wiley Post and Shannon Miller through video displays, they can get a glimpse into Reid’s soul through her series *From Here to There*, which includes paint and mixed media. Reid’s work will be on display at the Museum from Jan. 15 to March 20. A grand opening event will be held for Reid’s show on Thursday, Jan. 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Museum. The event is free to the public.

Medina’s series also will include mixed media and will show from May 10 to July 3. A variety of artists from Ponca City, whose art will include paint, mixed media and sculpture, will show from July 8 to Sept. 24, and Mays’ mixed media art will be on display from Sept. 26 to Dec. 31.

For information on opening events for the remaining three shows in 2008, visit www.oklahomaheritage.com.

The Gaylord-Pickens Oklahoma Heritage Museum is located at NW 13th Street and Shartel Avenue in Oklahoma City. The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. Group rates are available for groups of 15 or more. For more information about the Museum, call 405.235.4458 or visit www.oklahomaheritage.com.

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