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Harn Museum of Art Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Birthday Benefit Party, Public Celebration, Collections Exhibition and Free Membership

GAINESVILLE, Fla, July 7, 2015— The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida opened September 22, 1990. Over the past 25 years, the Harn has served a wide and diverse audience of more than 2 million visitors with a broad range of exhibitions and programs, made accessible through free admission. The Harn Museum of Art invites the public to celebrate its 25th Anniversary by purchasing tickets to 25 Candles, a fundraising benefit party held Sept. 25, and attending a free family-friendly public celebration on Sept. 27.

The benefit party 25 Candles will be held Friday evening, Sept. 25, the night before the UF vs. UT football game. Proceeds from the event will support exhibitions and programs at the Harn. Guests may choose from a range of ticket packages, with different price points and entry times. Depending on the package chosen, guests will enjoy dance and musical performances, a sit-down dinner, cocktails, fireworks and dancing with a special guest DJ for the 9 p.m. “After Party.” More information on ticket packages can be found at www.harn.ufl.edu/25candles.

Conversations: A 25th Anniversary Exhibition will debut on Friday, Sept. 25, 2015 at the 25 Candles Benefit and run through Jan. 3, 2016. The exhibition will not only mark the 25th anniversary of the Harn but will celebrate the growth of the Harn’s collections over the past 25 years. The exhibition will feature paintings, photographs, prints and sculpture, each from the Ham’s five main collecting areas of modern, contemporary, African and Asian art, and photography. Artists represented include: Diane Arbus, Milton Avery, Ross Bleckner, Rockwell Kent, Herman Herzog, Paul Jacoulet, Candida Höfer, Jacob Lawrence, Kimiyo Mishima, Aphrodite Désireé Navab, Liza May Post, Maurice Brazil Prendergast, Frank Stella, Qes Adamu Tesfaw, Andy Warhol, Carrie Mae Weems and Hale Woodruff. The selected works will be organized along broad themes representing various media, periods and countries and will encourage dialogue and new ways of thinking about art.

On Sunday, Sept. 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. the Harn Museum of Art will hold a 25th Anniversary Public Celebration which is free to attend. Visitors will enjoy tours of *Conversations: A 25th Anniversary Exhibition*, art-making activities, performances and refreshments during this event. The Harn will launch its free membership campaign on this day providing an opportunity for visitors to participate in the Harn’s free membership program.

“We want the Gainesville community and beyond to feel a sense of ownership and belonging to

the Harn” said Rebecca Nagy, Harn Museum of Art Director. “I can’t think of a better time to offer free membership than on the Harn’s 25th Anniversary. Eliminating our membership pricing structure and providing free membership means giving the public an opportunity to get involved and experience how we support the community prior to choosing how they would in turn support the museum. Patrons can define their generosity by giving the amount they choose at the time that works best for them.” Donations make exhibitions, programs and free admission possible.

For more information, call 352-392-9826 or visit www.harn.ufl.edu.

Images are available upon request.

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About the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

For more than a decade prior to the grand opening of the Harn, University of Florida administrators, faculty in the College of Fine Arts, and local arts advocates dreamed of a sizable art museum that would serve the University of Florida and the Gainesville community. In 1983 Dr. David A. Cofrin and his wife Mary Ann made this dream possible and donated a generous founding gift toward the construction of an art museum that would be named after Mary Ann’s father Samuel P. Harn. At the time, their \$3 million gift was the largest private gift ever received by the University of Florida. State matching funds were secured to complete the construction.

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university’s system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 9000 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic and Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, academic symposia, and educational programs for adults, students, and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida’s Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open until 9 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for Museum Nights. The Camellia Court Café is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 352-392-9826 or visit www.harn.ufl.edu.

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