

"Tactile Visionaries"

Arrives at Tampa International Airport

For immediate release

Tampa, Fla. (May 3, 2000) - - The Hillsborough County Aviation Authority's (HCAA) Rotating Arts Program is pleased to present the Florida Craftsmen Exhibit, titled "Tactile Visionaries", at Tampa International Airport.

The exhibit is situated in the Arcade, the walkway between the Landside Terminal Building and the Marriott Hotel, Level 3, at the Airport. On Thursday, May 4, 2000, at 9:30 a.m. a reception is planned to dedicate the new exhibit which features fine contemporary crafts by ten of Florida's finest artists. "Tactile Visionaries" is a diverse collection of works in clay, wood, glass, fiber and metal. The exhibit will be on display from May 1, through September 30, 2000.

The Florida Craftsmen Inc., is a statewide non-profit organization that was established in 1952 to promote contemporary craft art and Florida's craft artists. Their exhibition gallery opened in 1986, on the corner of Central and Fourth in the heart of downtown St. Petersburg, Florida.

The Airport Public Art Committee has been working with Michele Tuegel, Executive Director, Florida Craftsmen Inc., to bring "Tactile Visionaries" to the Airport. The Art Committee members include, Stella F. Thayer, HCAA Vice Chairman; Arthenia L. Joyner, Stewart, Joyner and Jordan-Holmes, P.A.; Ted Corwin, Chairman Hillsborough County Public Art Program; Renee A. Williams, Cultural Affairs Director, City of Tampa, and Robin F. Nigh, Administrator for Art in Public Places, Tampa Museum of Art.

Featured craft artist include:

"Coral Vase" - Chuck Boux, St. Petersburg, FL
"Only One Day" - Rebecca Gifford, St. Petersburg, FL
"Coming Full Circle V" - Barbara Grodin, Longwood, FL
"Drumming to the Beat of the Band" - Mary Klein, St. Petersburg Beach, FL
"Spalted Maple Burl with Ebony" - John Mascoll, Safety Harbor, FL
"Boat without Oars" - Larry Miller, Seminole, FL
"Basket" - Benjia Morgenstern, North Bay, FL
"Fish Handled Urn" - Vincent Sansone, Orlando, FL
"Ewer and Tray" - Bonnie Seeman, Plantation, FL
"Sculptured Chair" - Al Zimmerman

The Airport's Public Art Program was established in July 1998. It created an Airport Art Committee for the purpose of establishing a Public Art Program to enhance the appearance of the Airports under the Aviation Authority's control

and to present a Florida, historical and cultural theme to the users of the Airport System.

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