

***** MEDIA ALERT *****



**AWARD-WINNING SCULPTOR JOHN HENRY
BRINGS SEVEN-CITY FLORIDA EXHIBITION
TO TAMPA NOVEMBER 10**

**“BIG MAX” INSTALLATION IN MACDILL PARK ON THE RIVERWALK;
COMPLEMENTARY EXHIBIT AT
THE TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART**

WHO/WHAT:

Internationally acclaimed sculptor John Henry, known throughout the world for his sky-high steel sculpture, kicks off the *Tampa* portion of his unprecedented, seven-city Florida exhibition, titled *Drawing in Space: The Peninsula Project*. The indoor and outdoor exhibitions that are featured throughout the state of Florida bring together his colorful, monumental works in such a way that they conceptually interact with one another in a continuum, existing beyond their physicality with a conceptual presence. Other Florida cities in the project: Boca Raton, Miami, Naples, Orlando, Sarasota, and Tallahassee.

Tampa locals and visitors can view “**Big Max**,” a monumental sculpture (33 ft high x 65 ft wide) by John Henry, in MacDill Park on the Riverwalk beginning in mid-November. To accompany the outdoor component of *Drawing in Space: The Peninsula Project*, the Tampa Museum of Art will host an indoor exhibition titled “**FLORIDA COLLECTS**.” The exhibition will feature photographs and small-scale models of select sculptures by John Henry from private collections around the state. “**FLORIDA COLLECTS**” is a tribute to the Florida residents and institutions that have shown remarkable support of Henry’s career and contributed to making him one of America’s most celebrated contemporary sculptors.

WHEN/WHERE:

Outdoor Installation of “Big Max”

November 10-11, 2008

On View through May 31, 2009

MacDill Park on the Riverwalk

100 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa, FL

“FLORIDA COLLECTS” Exhibition

Installation (media only): January 16, 2008

Open to the public: January 17, 2008 – April 4, 2009

Tampa Museum of Art

2306 N. Howard Street, Tampa, FL

(MORE)

INFO:

For more information about *Drawing in Space: The Peninsula Project*, visit www.PeninsulaProject.com or www.tampamuseum.com

For more information about "FLORIDA COLLECTS" please contact Meredith Elorfi, (813) 259-1736 or meredith.elorfi@tampamuseum.org

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ABOUT JOHN HENRY:

The Chattanooga-based artist has a long-standing interest in the concept of works of art encompassing large tracts of land, a process also embraced by Christo and his wife, Jeanne-Claude. Henry's works grace numerous important museums, corporate, public and private collections as well as the collections of many American, European and Asian municipalities. Internationally recognizable since the early 1960s, his works range in scale from small tabletop pieces to some of the largest contemporary metal sculpture in the world. His recent exhibitions of works include "New Monuments" at the Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis, Missouri; "Back on the Plaza" on Chicago's Magnificent Mile; "In the Shadow of the Alps" at Art-St-Urban in St. Urban, Switzerland; "OPEN 2007" in Venice, Italy; "ODYSSEY" at Purdue University, North Central campus in Westville, Indiana; the 2006 "Vancouver Biennale" in British Columbia, and the 2007 "Sarasota Season of Sculpture" in Sarasota, Florida.

Henry attended the University of Kentucky, University of Chicago and the Art Institute of Chicago, where he received a Ford Foundation grant, the Edward L. Ryerson Fellowship and earned a BFA in 1969. He received an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from the University of Kentucky in 1996. As a visiting professor of sculpture, Henry taught at University of Iowa, University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He is currently Distinguished Professor of Art at Chattanooga State College in Chattanooga. In 1990, he received the Florida Individual Artists Fellowship. In 2002 he received the Governor's National Award in the Arts from the State of Kentucky and in 2004, The Mayor's Award of Distinction in the Arts from the City of Chattanooga. Other recent honors include recognition on the floor of the Tennessee State Senate in 2004 and the 2005 honorary renaming of North Cermak Road to "John Henry Way" by the City of Chicago in recognition of his contributions to public art on the local and national levels.

As an active participant in promoting the arts, Henry has served as a member of the Advisory Board of Lawyers for the Creative Arts in Chicago, a coordinator and advisor to the City and the Art Institute of Chicago for the "Sculpture in the Parks Exhibition" and as an advisor to the Art Council of Greater New Orleans for the "Super Sculpture New Orleans" Exhibition. Since 1991 he has been on the Board of Trustees of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Since 1996 he has served the Board of the International Sculpture Center in various leadership roles, serving as Chairman for two years through the spring of 2002. Henry has lectured extensively on the role of art in public places and is known as a strong advocate of all of the arts, not only sculpture.

Henry was a founding member of ConStruct, the artist-owned gallery that promoted and organized large-scale sculpture exhibitions throughout the United States. Other founding members include Mark diSuvero, Kenneth Snelson, Lyman Kipp and Charles Ginnever. Henry continues to curate exhibitions in the United States and in Europe, drawing on his nationally recognized expertise regarding sculptors and their work. He is the curator of the Outdoor Museum of Art at Chattanooga State College.

ABOUT THE TAMPA MUSEUM OF ART:

The Tampa Museum of Art is constructing a new 66,000-square-foot facility in downtown Tampa's Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park. Scheduled to open in the Fall of 2009, the museum will provide the region with a variety of world-class traveling exhibitions, a growing collection of contemporary and classical art, expanded educational programs and access to scenic outdoor events along Tampa's Riverwalk. TMA will become a nationally recognized major art destination and premier venue for residents and visitors. The museum's interim facility is located at 2306 N. Howard Avenue in Tampa. Visit www.tampamuseum.org for more information.