



Media Advisory

Release date: Immediate



Contact:

Caitlin McQuade
Phone: 314-655-1720
E-mail: caitlin_mcquade@nps.gov

Chrissy Hugyez
Phone: 314-469-3500
E-mail: chugyez@standingpr.com

Paint the Parks at Old Courthouse in St. Louis October 1 Through December 1

Exhibit Features 100 Paintings of America's National Parks

WHAT: America's national parks have inspired artists for centuries. Beginning October 1, artwork depicting our National Parks will inspire visitors to the Old Courthouse in St. Louis as part of *Paint the Parks*. This national touring exhibit combines America's stunning history and landscape with the talent of nationally recognized American artists. Visitors will see this year's 100 best depictions of some of the 391 inspiring natural and historic areas preserved by the National Park Service. The free exhibit is open from October 1, 2010, to December 1, 2010.

A panel of America's top contemporary artists judged hundreds of submissions. Criteria included the artist's ability to convey the essence of their chosen park, artistic and technical merit, composition and use of media. The 100 selected paintings are as diverse as the parks themselves with subjects including wildlife, landscape, human figures and historic buildings.

WHY: St. Louis is home to the National Park Services' Jefferson National Expansion Memorial (JNEM), which includes the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse. The city's close relationship with its national park makes it a perfect location for the *Paint the Parks* exhibit.

Contest organizer PaintAmerica brings *Paint the Parks* to cities across the nation. All paintings in the exhibit are for sale. A percentage from paintings sold in St. Louis goes to the Jefferson National Parks Association, which supports the educational activities of JNEM.

WHERE: Old Courthouse at JNEM, 11 North Fourth Street, St. Louis, Missouri

WHEN: October 1, 2010 – December 1, 2010; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.