



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Living Color: Photographs by Judy Cooper
August 28 – November 1, 2009

BATON ROUGE, La. — *Living Color: Photographs by Judy Cooper*, a retrospective of the work of photographer Judy Cooper, PhD, opens at LSU Museum of Art (LSU MOA) on August 28, 2009. Consisting of approximately fifty pieces of Cooper's work, the exhibition is divided into four sections: *Women in Red*, *Local Color*, *Twins*, and *New Orleans Sunday*. These works, created over a span of twenty years, document the photographer's engagement with the personalities, and by extension, the cultural forces, that have contributed to the city's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

A New Orleans photographer whose work focuses on casual portraits, Cooper has devoted her career to revealing the personal idiosyncrasies of her subjects, mostly fellow New Orleanians, and the results of her careful observations are unparalleled.

"I find them fitting representatives of the human condition with the quirky individuality, their down-at-the-heels dignity, and their spunky defiance in the face of adversity, their ability to laugh at themselves their joy mixed with sadness, their sense of fun." said Cooper.

Cooper's subjects represent a cross-spectrum of society. Using primarily New Orleanians, she has photographed Uptown society women, local artists, second-liners, church women, and her old Bywater neighbors. Her latest body of work, *New Orleans Sunday*, centers on two aspects of the cultural tradition in the African-American community of New Orleans. The first is found in the small churches in which the ladies dress in colorful matching outfits and large hats for special occasions. The second tradition is that of the Sunday afternoon street parades of the Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs, in which the members dress in colorful suits and hats and dance through the streets

of the city behind a brass band. This element of Cooper's work shows the importance of dress and costume to the New Orleans African-American community.

Living Color: Photographs by Judy Cooper is on view at the LSU Museum of Art from August 28 – November 1, 2009. The exhibition is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue available in the LSU MOA gift shop. Sponsors for the exhibition will be named at a later date. Organization support provided by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. The catalogue is made possible through the support of International Well Testers, Inc., and Robert and Jolie Shelton, and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

Events

September

11

Members' Only Reception - *Living Color: the Photographs of Judy Cooper*

Fifth Floor, 6 pm -8 pm Free Admission with LSU MOA Membership

17

LSU Night – LSU Art: Past and Present exhibition

Fifth Floor, 5:30 pm -8 pm, Admission free with current LSU ID

LSU Night for all LSU faculty, staff, and students, celebrates the opening of the new selection of work in the *LSU Art: Past and Present* gallery.

27

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day

Fifth Floor, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Admission free with Museum Day admission card

Enjoy free general admission for you and a guest compliment of the *Smithsonian Magazine*. Admission card is available in the September 2009 issue of *Smithsonian Magazine* or downloadable via the website.

18

Gallery Talk with Judy Cooper Fifth Floor, 2 pm

If you want to know more about Edna Mae Klein, Juanita, the Flamingo Cowboy, or any of the other colorful individuals that captured photographer Judy Cooper's attention and our imaginations, this is your chance. Join us as Cooper talks about works in the exhibition, *Living Color*, and how the culture and the people of New Orleans have influenced her work.

November

1

Free First Sunday Fifth Floor, 1 pm- 5 pm, Free Admission

Free Admission to the LSU Museum of Art

1

Prince of Wales Social Aid and Pleasure Club second line performance

Shaw Center for the Arts Plaza, 2 pm

In celebration of the exhibition, *Living Color: The Photographs of Judy Cooper*. The LSU Museum of Art will host the Prince of Wales Social Aid and Pleasure Club for a Sunday afternoon second line performance in front of the Shaw Center for the Arts. Young and old alike will enjoy this remarkable event.

1

Last day to see the exhibition: *Living Color: The Photographs of Judy Cooper* Fifth Floor, 1 pm-5 pm, \$8 Adults, \$6 seniors/students, \$4 children ages 5-17