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**LSU Museum of Art Receives Highest National Recognition
Awarded Accreditation from the American Association of Museums**

Baton Rouge, LA (August 11, 2010) – **LSU Museum of Art** has achieved accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition for a museum. Accreditation signifies excellence to the museum community, to governments, funders, outside agencies, and to the museum-going public.

AAM Accreditation is the field's primary vehicle for quality assurance, self-regulation, and public accountability, and earns national recognition for a museum for its commitment to excellence in all that it does: governance, collections stewardship, public programs, financial stability, high professional standards, and continued institutional improvement. Developed and sustained by museum professionals for 35 years, AAM's Museum Accreditation program strengthens the profession by promoting practices that enable leaders to make informed decisions, allocate resources wisely, and to provide the best possible service to the public.

"We are extremely pleased by this recognition and honor," stated the Museum's Executive Director, Tom Livesay. "It confirms the hard work of hundreds of volunteers, of the

University, and of the donors that made the Museum of Art possible as well as the Shaw Center for the Arts. I am especially thinking of generous donors such as Paula Manship, our previous Director, Dr. Laura Lindsay, the Advisory Board for the Museum, the Friends of the LSU Museum of Art and the first-rate staff. All deserve the considerable credit for this rare achievement.”

Of the nation’s estimated 17,500 museums and related organizations in the United States, less than 5 percent meet the professional standards and best practices that accreditation requires. The LSU Museum of Art is one of only 12 museums accredited in Louisiana. Only 15% of College/University Museums have received this honor and just 23% in the Southeastern Museum Conference (SEMC).

“Accreditation assures the people of Baton Rouge that their museum is among the finest in the nation,” said Ford W. Bell, president of AAM. “As a result, the citizens can take considerable pride in their homegrown institution, for its commitment to excellence and for the value it brings to the community.”

Accreditation is a rigorous process that examines all aspects of a museum’s operations. To earn accreditation, a museum first must conduct a year of self-study, then undergo a site visit by a team of peer reviewers. AAM’s Accreditation Commission, an independent and autonomous body of museum professionals, review and evaluate the self-study and visiting committee report to determine whether a museum should receive accreditation. While the time to complete the process varies by museum, it generally takes three years.

The LSU Museum of Art in the Shaw Center for the Arts is located in downtown Baton Rouge overlooking the Mississippi River. The 4600-work collection is highlighted in 14 galleries of American and British portraiture, decorative arts, landscape painting, New Orleans Coin Silver, Newcomb Pottery, and Chinese Jade as well as contemporary Louisiana and American painting. LSU MOA also presents special exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, works on paper and photography to the local art public. There is something for everyone at the LSU MOA.

The American Association of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy

on issues of concern to the entire museum community. With more than 15,000 individual, 3,000 institutional, and 300 corporate members, AAM is dedicated to ensuring that museums remain a vital part of the American landscape, connecting people with the greatest achievements of the human experience, past, present and future. For more information, visit www.aam-us.org or contact us at 202-218-7704.

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