Art After Hours Spotlights 1930s Politics, Art at OU Art Museum

NORMAN – The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art invites the public to Art After Hours, a short program designed to acquaint visitors with works from the new exhibition, Art Interrupted: Advancing American Art and the Politics of Cultural Diplomacy, at 6 p.m., Friday, March 29. Art After Hours features a 45-minute discussion with light refreshments.

“Join us for a lively discussion about how art responds to politics and social issues,” said Susan Baley, director of education at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art. “We will consider how President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s 1937 ‘One Third of a Nation’ speech inspired a Federal Theatre Project play, a 1939 film and Louis Guglielmi’s 1939 painting Tenements.”

The monthly series continues April 26 with a presentation about how art responds to war, and will feature works by George L.K. Morris, Ralston Crawford and William Gropper. Other topics for upcoming discussion include nonobjective painting and the influences of jazz on American art. The full list of works to be discussed is available on the museum’s website, www.ou.edu/fjjma.

In 1946, the U.S. State Department assembled an exhibition of modernist paintings created by contemporary American artists. The intent was to show the world America’s artistic coming of age, highlighting the freedom of expression enjoyed by artists in the United States. The result was Advancing American Art, an exhibition designed to combat Communism but deemed un-American by members of the U.S. Congress and President Harry S. Truman.

The newly reassembled version of this exhibition, Art Interrupted, draws from the permanent collections of 10 museums, private collectors and other public
institutions and includes most of the original works from *Advancing American Art*. The new exhibition opened at the art museum at the University of Oklahoma March 2 and is on display through June 9.

*Art Interrupted: Advancing American Art and the Politics of Cultural Diplomacy* is organized by the Jule Collins Smith Museum at Auburn University, the Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia and the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma and was made possible by grants from the Henry Luce Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts as part of American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius. This program also is made possible, in part, by the Norman Arts Council Grant Program.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to a generous gift from the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938 or visiting www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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**IMAGE CREDIT**

A monthly series at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art continues at 6 p.m. Friday, March 29, with a discussion about art from the new exhibition, *Art Interrupted*, including this 1939 painting, *Tenements*, by O. Louis Guglielmi.

*Tenements*, 1939
Oil on canvas; 36 1/4 x 28 1/8 in.
Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia
University purchase, GMOA 1948.197