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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**BY NATIVE HANDS: NATIVE AMERICAN BASKETS FROM THE LAUREN ROGERS MUSEUM OF ART**

Corning, NY - Bring your family to Corning on November 30<sup>th</sup> for a FREE and FUN day at the Rockwell Museum of Western Art! The Rockwell Museum of Western Art is FREE ON THE 30th of every month this year! While visiting, take time to view the MUST-SEE special exhibition, *By Native Hands: Native American Baskets from the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art*. The Museum is open every day of the week 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Fun for the Whole Family:**

**Hands-on ArtPacks Make the Museum Interactive!**

ArtPacks – backpacks filled with creative activities, puzzles and games – are a young trailblazer's guide to the Museum. The hands-on ArtPack is a FREE activity available every day! Parents - help guide your young buckaroo (s) around the Museum and discover the Wild West through fun themes like Cowboy, Horse, Native American and Wilderness! Don't forget to turn in your completed pack to receive your fun-themed pin and free taco coupon for the adjacent Cantina restaurant!

**What else can guests expect when visiting?**

Great shopping is available at the Museum Trading Post with the finest Native American made jewelry, pottery, and weavings. Also check out our books, bronze reproductions, a fun corner just for kids, and much more! Be the first to see new selections for great holiday shopping!

**Visit Two Museums and Save!**

Combination tickets with The Corning Museum of Glass allow admission to both museums for a discounted price. Visitors can park once in the FREE parking lot behind the Rockwell Museum and take the FREE shuttle across the street to The Corning Museum of Glass!

(please see next page)

**About the Special Exhibition:**

The Lauren Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel, Mississippi, features an internationally known collection of approximately five hundred Native American baskets. Gathered at the turn of the century by Laurel resident Catherine Marshall Gardiner, this collection has been described as "...an astounding collection of Native American basketry" by Ann Drumheller of the National Museum of the American Indian. She went on: "I believe that no other institution in the Southeast comes close to having such a significant sampling of Native American basketry.... I cannot say enough as to the importance and future significance this collection can have...."

Humans have been making baskets for thousands of years; it is a craft that is common to all cultures. Today's native basket makers work within a tradition that is centuries old. There are Choctaw weavers in Mississippi, the home of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, who are fifth-generation basket weavers, learning a tradition passed down from mother to daughter over the decades. Although Native basketry traditions suffered in the dislocations and epidemics of the 18th and 19th centuries, many tribes are reviving the old techniques and encouraging the development of weaving skills in the community. Most basketry traditions are closely tied to the land: baskets are made of locally available fibers and dyed with local plants. Tribal styles and techniques, though grounded in tradition, are open to interpretation by individual weavers.

The exhibition features sixty-five baskets from this fine collection, many of which have never been loaned before. Most of the baskets were produced between 1850 and 1910, by artisans representing more than forty North American tribes from across the continent. Basketry is an infinitely variable medium; baskets can be simple, unadorned utilitarian objects, or objects of great complexity, made to be beautiful but not used. Yet even the most practical basket, well made, can be a thing of beauty wherein form follows function, centuries of tradition influence the weaver and the materials reflect the land in which the artist is grounded. This collection features baskets of all types: from the small burden baskets of the Klikitat in the Pacific Northwest to the ornate feathered basketry of the Pomo in the Southwest, large hand-painted splint storage baskets from the Northeast, and the elaborate double-weave of richly dyed Choctaw in the Southeast.

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