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Alamo Drafthouse Showcases Documentary to Benefit Local Homeless Artists

Austin filmmaker's award-winning documentary takes audiences inside the lives of five local homeless artists participating in the Art From the Streets art program/show and sale

What: Austin screening of locally produced and directed feature-length film *Art From the Streets* is a documentary about homelessness, art, tenacity, courage and hope. Austin filmmaker Layton Blaylock tracks the lives of five Austin homeless artists who participate in the Art From the Streets art program run for the past 16 years by a dedicated staff of volunteers. Viewers will visit homeless camps, learn of the daily challenges of street life, hear the whys of homelessness and witness the strengths of the human character. The film is gritty and real, yet beautifully inspiring. Alamo Drafthouse has agreed to host the documentary screening in order to help raise funds for the program and increase awareness around the 16th Annual Art From the Streets Show and Sale taking place the following weekend: November 15-16, 2008.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with Blaylock, Art From the Streets co-founders and participating homeless artists in a panel session format with Q&A immediately following the showing.

When: Sunday, November 9, 7 p.m.

Where: Alamo Drafthouse South Lamar, 1120 South Lamar, Austin 78704, (512) 476-1320

Photo/Media Opportunities: Interviews with Blaylock, Art From the Streets co-founders, and artists before and after the screening

About The Film: In 2003 when Austin Filmmaker Layton Blaylock filmed a television public service announcement promoting the Annual Art From the Streets Show and Sale, he realized the project had all the makings for a compelling documentary film. Blaylock's *Art From the Streets* is a locally made award-winning documentary about homelessness, art, and community service. This 72-minute documentary tracks the lives of five Austin homeless people who participate in a unique art program run for the past 16 years by a dedicated staff of volunteers. Viewers will witness homeless camps, visit the twice weekly art "classes", experience the Annual Show and Sale, and see how this program changes the lives of all involved. *Art From the Streets* has won Best Documentary at three film festivals across the country and currently has played at 20 film festivals around the world. To see the trailer, visit www.artfromthestreets-themovie.com

About Art From the Streets – www.artfromthestreets.org

Art From the Streets was born in 1991 when a handful of Austin artists decided to reach out to Austin's growing homeless population. What began with homemade sandwiches soon grew to a room filled with paper, crayons, markers, pencils, paints and pastels — and ultimately, a supportive, friendly, safe, and fun place to create art. The quality and sheer numbers of works created in the classes demanded an outlet. The first Art From the Streets Show and Sale was held in 1992 in response to the hundreds of art works displayed on every available inch of wall space in the meeting room where the classes were held. The Show exhibited pieces by 30 artists, attracted 400 visitors, and raised \$1,600 – all of which went to the artists who created the work.

Since the first show in 1992, approximately 700 homeless people have taken part in the Art From the Streets classes and have displayed their work in the annual shows, earning more than \$600,000 through sales of their art to the 20,000+ Austinites who have attended. Sponsors of the 16th Annual Art From the Streets Show and Sale include Capital Printing, Clampitt Paper, and HEB. For more information, contact info@artfromthestreets.org.

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