



Art From the Streets
15th Annual Show and Sale
November 3 & 4, 2007
ARCH, 500 E. 7th Street
Noon – 5 pm
\$3 Donation at the door
Information – 443-5572

For Immediate Release
October 11, 2007

Art From the Streets Annual Show and Sale

Half A Million Dollars and Still Counting – Helping Homeless Artists for 15 Years

(AUSTIN, TX) — A downtown Austin homeless shelter will be transformed into a public art exhibition and sale for one weekend in November, featuring some of the least known but arguably most determined artists in town.

“When people think of the homeless, they often have an image of someone begging for money on a street corner,” Bill Jeffers, volunteer co-director/co-founder, Art From the Streets. “This exhibition shatters that stereotype. Our artists may be homeless but they’re not hopeless. In fact, some have become celebrities in Austin’s art world, with customers returning each year to purchase works from their favorite artists.”

Art From the Streets (AFTS) is a volunteer-driven program providing a safe and encouraging environment for Austin’s homeless to exhibit artistic skills. Now in its 15th year, the Annual Art From the Streets Show and Sale has raised more than \$500,000, giving homeless artists a second chance by providing them the opportunity to raise funds to pay for necessities such as food, clothing medical care and housing – all while renewing their sense dignity and purpose.

The show will be held on Saturday, Nov. 3, and Sunday, Nov. 4, 2007, from noon to 5:00 p.m., at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), 500 East 7th Street.

Original art from more than 100 exhibiting artists offers an inspiring glimpse into the lives of homeless artists. Artwork starts at \$30 with proceeds going directly to the artists. Last year, more than 1,700 art lovers, collectors and philanthropists attended the event, helping to raise more than \$90,000.

"The artwork made by this year's artists is incredible," said Jeffers. "I am so proud to be able to help spotlight the creativity of Austin's homeless community and help them to make a real difference in their lives. We have high hopes again for this year. Every piece of art that sells makes an immediate, positive impact on the artists' quality of life."

To date more than 800 homeless artists have taken part in Art From the Streets annual shows, selling their artwork to the more than 28,000 Austinites who have attended the event. A \$3 admission donation is suggested so all attendees can help make a difference.

About Art From the Streets

Art From the Streets is a volunteer program established in 1991 that provides a safe and encouraging environment where the positive spirit and creativity of homeless people is nurtured through artistic expression. It is funded in part by the City of Austin through the Cultural Arts Division and by a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. Additional support comes from 3M Austin, Schlotzsky's, Subway, Downtown Austin Alliance, OK Paper and HEB. Art From the Streets is a fund of the Austin Community Foundation and is made possible by the support of Women and Their Work. Members of the Austin Ad Federation contributed pro bono PR/Marketing and advertising. For more information, call 512-443-5572 or visit www.artfromthestreets.org.

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