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LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM TO SHOWCASE NEIL JOHNSON PORTRAITURE

Secretary of State Jay Dardenne and the Friends of the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum will showcase the portrait photography of Neil Johnson from May 2 through June 27, 2010.

In addition to the opening event, the artist, Neil Johnson, will conduct a gallery talk entitled, "Portrait Photography Techniques" on Thursday, May 20 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the museum auditorium. In June, Shreveport Regional Artist Council's Thursday Night Trolley Tour will include the exhibit on June 17, 2010 from 5:30-7:30p.m. Light refreshments will be served at both events.

Johnson will take three portraits and walk everyone through the process from beginning to end. For examples, he will use the portraits of Carol Anglin, Pam Atchison and John Henry Crawford. He explains, "Portraiture is not about framing someone in the camera and asking them to smile. I would like to explain the difference between a snapshot and a true portrait and help folks to improve their own portraiture."

"Every image in the exhibit has a story and I look forward to sharing my favorite ones that will tell both how the image came to be and maybe a little about how I work. I believe that portraiture is extremely challenging and extremely rewarding and I would like to explain that statement."

Johnson has been a commercial photographer and artist for 30 years. As an artist, he is known for his millennium project, *Portrait 2000*, which used 2,000 individual portraits from Shreveport and Bossier City to create a collective portrait of the community in the year 2000. The collection is now housed at the LSUS Archives. He is the author of a number of children's books and the coffee table books, *Shreveport and Bossier City* and *Louisiana Journey*.

"I have chosen the title, ***PEOPLE: the Portraiture of Neil Johnson***, because Shreveport and Bossier City people are my people and I'm proud to say that. Many of the people presented here helped make me the person I am. I am a product of this community."

Subjects in the exhibit--among many others--include Buddy Flett, Clyde Connell, Mayor Glover, Michael Butterman, Kendrick Farris, Mack McCarter, Dr. John McDonald, Albertha Lewing, Rose Van Thyn, Michael Williams, William Joyce, Mary Jane Hobgood, Kelvin Cochran, Andy Shaw and Bobby Darrow. Some of Johnson's favorite images from *Portrait 2000* will also be on exhibit.

The exhibit will be on display until further notice. The public is invited to view the exhibit during regular museum hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon

until 4 p.m. The museum is located at 3015 Greenwood Road, between Hearne and Jewella Streets. Details are listed on the Friends' website at <http://www.friendsoflsem.org>

Admission is free and tours are available by appointment. For more information about the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum and the Secretary of State's Museums Program, please visit our Web site at <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/museums>.

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