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NEWS RELEASE

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MAIN ST. FORT WORTH ARTS FESTIVAL SHOWCASES NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS FOR ANNUAL EVENT

Ranked as Texas' #1 arts festival in 2005, Fort Worth rolls up its sleeves for another successful year.

FORT WORTH, Texas (Feb. 20, 2006) – With the success of last year's MAIN ST. Arts Festival, Fort Worth gears up once again in anticipation for the city's annual weekend art outing, beginning Thursday, April 20 and continuing Sunday, April 23.

The MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival, presented by Coors Light and produced by Downtown Fort Worth Initiatives, Inc., is a free outdoor visual and performing arts festival that annually draws thousands of attendees and generates millions in art sales and economic impact for downtown and greater Fort Worth area restaurants, hotels and other tourist attractions. Stretching nine blocks from the Tarrant County Courthouse to the Fort Worth Convention Center, organizers for the festival expect to entertain thousands of visitors again this year.

"MAIN ST. celebrates 21 years this year, and every year we've seen more people attending, buying art and enjoying the music, food and fun. We look forward to another great turnout this April," said Carlos De La Torre, chair of the Festivals and Events Committee for Downtown Fort Worth Initiatives, Inc.

The festival showcases 200 national and international juried artists exhibiting

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throughout the four days, live performances on three stages every afternoon, headliner concerts every evening, and culinary offerings by some of Fort Worth's best restaurants along with the usual fair festivities.

Among some of the artists to look out for is Fort Worth's own Gregory Story. "I'm excited about doing MAIN ST.," Story said. "The constant and close interaction with collectors and art lovers pushes me like a gallery relationship never could."

Story, who specializes in ceramics and oil paintings, first showed at MAIN ST. in 1991. Just out of college, Story said he didn't have money to invest in a booth, but managed to make it happen. However, his first time did not go the way he had expected.

"I got blown away by a storm and lost many originals before it was all over," Story said. After swearing to never participate again, Story finds himself on the brick-laden street 15 years later. "My work is developing and changing much faster than it used to. I think I'll be putting on a much better show this time."

In addition to ceramics, the festival displays a variety of art including paintings, photography, woodworks, glassworks, jewelry and multimedia compositions.

Over 1,100 artists were reviewed for the 2006 festival. Those selected include seven artists who are showing for the first time through the festival's new "Emerging Artist Program;" six artists from Fort Worth's sister city, Trier, Germany; and 25 of last year's winners who automatically qualify to show in 2006.

"Close to \$7 million worth of art is sold during the festival. Whether you are an art aficionado looking to uncover that next great artist, or someone just needing a new piece over the fireplace in your living room, you can find it at MAIN ST.," said John C. "Jay" Downie, festival director.

About MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival

MAIN ST. Fort Worth Arts Festival, presented by Coors Light, is produced by Downtown Fort Worth Initiatives, Inc., and supported by American Airlines, Bank of America, Sundance Square, Sewell Lexus of Fort Worth, Target and Washington Mutual. Official Media Sponsors include NBC5, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, D Magazine and Witherspoon Advertising and Public Relations. For more information or to purchase food and beverage coupons in advance, visit www.MainStreetArtsFest.org.