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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Auburn University's Jule Collins Smith Museum to hold media preview for once controversial art collection

The Auburn University Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art will hold a media preview of its newest exhibition Thursday, Feb. 16. Within months after "Advancing American Art" began its exhibition tours, controversy erupted in the American media, in government forums and among the public. The paintings, and some of the artists themselves, were labeled as "subversive" and "un-American." Ultimately, Congress eliminated funding for the project and Secretary of State George Marshall recalled the exhibition. Now after being dismantled for 70 years, the exhibition, "Art Interrupted: Advancing American Art and Politics of Cultural Diplomacy," will display all but 10 paintings from the original 117 oils and watercolors.

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m.

WHERE: Auburn University's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, 901 S. College St., Auburn,

AL 36830

WHO: Media will be able to preview the exhibition.

VISUALS: The exhibition will be a collection of 107 paintings of modernist American art from the 1940s.

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Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, Jule Collins Smith of Fine Art is one of Alabama's leading art museums, with a growing collection of approximately 2,000 works of art ranging from traditional to contemporary. The museum holds over 30,000 visitors annually. JCSM is a charitable nonprofit organization committed to lifelong learning and community enrichment. Located at the entry to Auburn University's main campus, the museum consists of six changing galleries, and auditorium, a café, gift shop, and an English-inspired formal area. For

more information about the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, visit <http://jcsm.auburn.edu>.