For Immediate Release

Contact: Steven Bowling
Chief Marketing Officer
Speed Art Museum
sbowling@speedmuseum.org
(502) 634-2702 Office
(502) 386-5235 Cell

Speed Art Museum Recognizes “First” Women at Luncheon In Honor of International Women’s Day.

March 8, 2019, Louisville, KY – As part of the 2nd Annual International Women’s Day Luncheon, The Speed Art Museum recognized the achievements of ten “First Women” in the community. The First Women are leaders throughout Kentucky who serve as the first women, or African American women, in their appointed or elected positions. The Speed recognizes and honors their achievement, drive, and contributions to the advancement of women in positions of leadership.

“International Women’s Day is now in its second century, and the Speed wants to do its part in recognizing and promoting the advancement of women in our community,” said Stephen Reily, Director of the Speed Art Museum. March 8, 2019 recognizes the 110th International Women’s Day – a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, as well as serving as a call to action for the acceleration of gender parity. The Speed Art Museum, founded by a Hattie Bishop Speed and led by women throughout its 92 years as an institution, welcomes this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Louisville’s First Women, as well as the many women who have contributed in furthering the Speed’s mission to Celebrate Art and Invite Everyone.

During the luncheon, the women curators of the Speed, Kim Spence, Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Photography; Miranda Lash, Curator of Contemporary Art; and Erika Holmquist-Wall, Chief Curator and Mary and Barry Bingham, Sr. Curator of European and American Paintings and Sculpture, delighted attendees with an overview of the latest acquisitions and exhibits by the women artists at the Speed. The Museum looks forward to sharing with the public information about newly acquired works such as sculptural artist Diana Al-Hadid’s In Square Opposition and a first
look at ...while the dew is still on the roses..., Ebony G. Patterson’s hauntingly beautiful, immersive night garden exhibition opening in June 2019. With the support of director Stephen Reily, the Museum will continue making deliberate efforts to expand and diversify its permanent collection to better represent a range of artistic perspectives, as well as the community in which it is based.

**2019 FIRST WOMEN**

*Martha Layne Collins*, First Female Governor of Kentucky  
*Keisha Deonarine*, Executive Director of the Passport Foundation  
*Nima Kulkarni*, District 40 – First Indian-American to serve in the Kentucky House of Representatives  
*Josie Raymond*, District 31 – Kentucky House of Representatives  
*Maria Sorolis*, District 48 – Kentucky House of Representatives  
*Lisa Willner*, District 35 – Kentucky House of Representatives

**2019 FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN**

*Judge Denise Clayton*, First African American woman to serve on the Kentucky Court of Appeals  
*Lieutenant Governor Jenean Hampton*, First African American to hold any statewide office in Kentucky history  
*Nikki Jackson*, First African American woman to head the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Louisville Branch  
*Diane Porter*, First African American Chairwoman for Jefferson County Board of Education

**About the Speed Art Museum**

The Speed Art Museum is Kentucky’s largest art museum. An independent and encyclopedic museum located on the campus of the University of Louisville, the Speed celebrated its 91st anniversary in 2018. Louisville philanthropist Hattie Bishop Speed founded the Speed Art Museum, which opened in 1927, with a belief in the power of art to change people’s lives.

The Speed reopened in 2016 following a three-year, $60 million renovation and expansion designed by Kulapat Yantrasast of wHY that doubled the museum’s overall square footage and nearly tripled its gallery space. Free Owsley Sundays, sponsored by the Brown-Forman Corporation, draw large and diverse crowds every week. For more information, visit www.speedmuseum.org.

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