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### FRIST CENTER CELEBRATES FIFTH BIRTHDAY

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – The Frist Center for the Visual Arts will celebrate its fifth birthday on April 8 with free admission, free birthday cake in the Frist Center Café and afternoon music in the Grand Lobby.

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts hosted its grand opening April 8, 2001, when more than 7,000 people enjoyed free admission to the inaugural exhibitions, art-making activities, a performance by the Nashville Symphony and a gala ribbon cutting by Mayor Bill Purcell.

Since opening, the Frist Center has hosted a wide array of exhibitions, including 2004's *From El Greco to Picasso: European Masterworks from The Phillips Collection*, enjoyed by more than 196,000 visitors during its four months at the Frist Center. Several public programs were inaugurated that have gained recognition in the community: the popular Frist Fridays concert series, free Family Days, musical and theatrical offerings and art demonstrations designed to educate visitors while complementing the exhibitions on display.

The Frist Center's current exhibitions include: *African Art, African Voices: Long Steps Never Broke a Back; Lost Boys of Sudan: A Journey of Hope; Beyond Sight: African Touch Gallery; Hamlett Dobbins: Early Morning Paintings; Paths to Impressionism: French and American Landscape Paintings from the Worcester Art Museum* and *Magnificent, Marvelous Martelé: American Art Nouveau Silver from the Jolie and Robert Shelton Collection*.

A highlight of the 2006 exhibition series will be *The Quest for Immortality: Treasures of Ancient Egypt*, on view June 9 – October 8. Considered the largest group of antiquities ever on loan from Egypt for display in North America, this exhibition includes more than 100 objects, many of which have never been seen publicly or outside of Egypt before this tour. Advance, timed tickets for *The Quest for Immortality* go on sale to the general public April 1.

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts, located at 919 Broadway in downtown Nashville, Tenn., is an art exhibition center dedicated to presenting the finest visual art from local, regional, U.S. and international sources in a program of changing exhibitions. The Frist Center's Martin ArtQuest Gallery features 30 interactive stations relating for Frist Center exhibitions. Gallery admission to the Frist Center is free for visitors 18 and under and to Frist Center members. Frist Center admission is \$8.50 for adults, \$7.50 for seniors and military, and \$6.50 for college students with ID. Special pricing for select exhibitions may apply. Discounts are offered for groups of 10 or more with advance reservation by calling 615.744.3246. The Frist Center is open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. The Frist Center is open extended hours Thursdays until 8 p.m. and Fridays until 9 p.m. For more information, visit the Frist Center Web site at [www.fristcenter.org](http://www.fristcenter.org).

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