

Andrew Wyeth Press Conference
Friday, February 2, 2001
10:00 a.m.
Mississippi Museum of Art

(Message: 7-9 minutes on the importance of visual arts, art education and the MS Museum of Art to Mississippians)

Talking Points

- Good Morning
- I'm pleased to be here this morning to join in the opening of the Andrew Wyeth exhibit "Close Friends."
- His work is known around the world for its original depiction of America.
- Andrew Wyeth is often called "America's Painter."
- (to Andrew Wyeth) This reference, in itself, is a great honor to have bestowed upon anyone.
- Mississippi's rich cultural background has helped nurture many great artist.
- We are proud to have this exhibit debut in Mississippi, the home of Andrew Wyeth.
- This collection is a great way to recognize Black History Month at the museum and in the State of Mississippi.

- Hopefully, the exhibit will inspire children and adults to better appreciate the importance of art and art education.
- I would like to commend the Mississippi Museum of Art for the work they do in promoting and preserving visual arts and art education in Mississippi, especially:
 - Andrew Maass, Art Director of the MS Museum of Art, and
 - Rene' Barilleaux (pronounced BearRio), Chief Curator
- The museum provides Mississippians with the opportunity to view and experience the work of artists and view world-class exhibitions within our state.
- The Andrew Wyeth exhibit will allow Mississippians to be one of the first in the world to view paintings and drawings never before seen outside private collections.
- Indeed! We are excited at this opportunity.
- Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Wyeth for allowing Mississippi this opportunity.