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“A VOICE IN THE CROWD: THE ART EXHIBIT AND THE CITIZEN”
A FREE PUBLIC LECTURE
BY WRITER AND SCHOLAR WILLIAM RAY

Portland, Ore.— The Oregon Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Cultural Trust, invites the public to a free lecture on the public art exhibit and civic life.

William Ray, Reed College Professor of French and Humanities, will present, **“A Voice in the Crowd: The Art Exhibit and the Citizen,”** on **October 21, 2005, at 7 p.m., in the Whitsell Auditorium of the Portland Art Museum at 1219 SW Park Ave.** Following Professor Ray’s lecture, OCH will host a reception in the Portland Art Museum’s newly restored Field Ballroom, formerly the Sunken Ballroom and now part of the Museum’s newly reopened Mark Building, which features the new Jubitz Center for Modern and Contemporary Art.

“A Voice in the Crowd” explores the roles that the public art exhibit and art museum have played in the formation of the modern citizen. Professor Ray will show how the enjoyment of art introduced the larger public to practices of self-expression and consensus that were crucial to the development of modern citizenship and representative government. “For two centuries, art museums and exhibits have developed alongside of democratic institutions and habits. The way we look at and talk about art says a great deal about modern citizenship as well. The opening of the Museum’s new Mark Building is a great opportunity to reflect on both the civic and aesthetic importance of art and the museums where art is exhibited,” says Christopher Zinn, executive director of the Oregon Council for the Humanities.

William Ray is the author of three books of literary history and theory, most recently The Logic of Culture: Authority and Identity in the Modern Era (2002). His previous books are Literary Meaning: An Introduction (1984) and Story and History: Narrative Authority and Social Identity in the Eighteenth-Century French and English Novel (1991). He is currently working on a study of the connection between three cultural forms (fashion, the art exhibition, and the novel) and civic life, from the eighteenth century to the modern era.

The **Oregon Council for the Humanities** is pleased to present this program in partnership with the Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Cultural Trust. OCH seeks to improve the quality of life for Oregonians by providing programs that enrich minds and broaden perspectives, foster positive human relationships, encourage civility and good citizenship, and bring together the diverse peoples who make up our statewide culture. The Oregon Council for the Humanities is an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities and is supported by gifts from individuals and foundations throughout Oregon.

The Portland Art Museum is one of the seven oldest museums in the United States. Founded in 1892 it is recognized for its permanent collection and the organization of ambitious special exhibitions drawn from its holdings and the world's finest public and private collections. The Museum's campus of landmark buildings houses a permanent collection of 35,000 objects displayed in some 112,000 square feet of galleries, with the completion of the *North Building Project* and the addition of the Jubitz Center for Modern and Contemporary Art. The Museum's collection is especially distinguished in its holdings of French painting, English silver, the arts of the native peoples of North America, its graphic arts collection, and a center devoted to the artists of the Pacific Northwest. Serving an annual audience of over 500,000 visitors, the Museum is a premier venue for education in the visual arts and the collection and preservation of art for the enrichment of present and future generations.

Tickets are required and available in advance at the museum's Community Box Office at (503) 226-0973. Seating is limited. Ticketholders are asked to be seated ten minutes prior to the lecture or seat may be re-ticketed.

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