

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ACADIANA CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS
"FROM INSIDE OUR HEARTS: OUTSIDER ART" GALLERY TALK**

Wyatt & Becky Collins will lead tours and discussions, February 12, 2008

Lafayette, LA – The Acadiana Center for the Arts in downtown Lafayette is currently featuring Wyatt and Becky Collins' first ever exhibition of their folk art collection. **From Inside Our Hearts: Outsider Art** is an extraordinary exhibit, featuring large and small sculptures, paintings, furniture and more from local, national and international folk artists.

To celebrate this unique exhibition, the AcA has scheduled a one-time only **From Inside Our Hearts: Outsider Art Gallery Talk** to take place 6–8 p.m., February 12, 2008. During the Gallery Talk, Wyatt and Becky Collins will lead gallery tours, discuss the artwork and be available to answer questions.

"We only buy what we like," say the collectors, "We never consider if it will appreciate in value, and quite frankly, we don't think most of it will. We purchase folk art because we love looking at art, and we have caught the 'bug' of collecting."

Rose M. Courville, curator of exhibitions, says, "We are fortunate to have access not only to this exhibition but also to the couple who amassed the collection. Over the past four years, Wyatt and Becky have collected artworks as well as relationships. During this gallery talk, they will give us insight into their journeys – allowing us a peek into the dynamics of art collecting."

Admission to the Gallery Talk is free and open to everyone. Refreshments will be served and the evening is generously supported by our 2008 exhibition series sponsor Lafayette Convention & Visitors Commission.

From Inside Our Hearts: Outsider Art can be viewed at the Acadiana Center for the Arts, 101 W. Vermilion St. in downtown Lafayette, on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 6pm. Admission is free to members, \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, \$2 for those 17 and under and free to those 4 and under.

For more information, please call the Acadiana Center for the Arts at (337) 233-7060, visit www.AcadianaCenterfortheArts.org or email info@AcadianaArtsCouncil.org.

Founded in 1975, the Acadiana Arts Council is a not-for-profit organization that exists to create, facilitate, nurture and fund arts and cultural activities to enrich quality of life and place in Acadiana. Our award-winning regional programming and services include Arts in Education, which provides curriculum-based arts activities for schoolchildren, Louisiana Crossroads, which is a top-caliber concert series, and an exhibition series of meaningful collections from around the corner and across the globe. The Acadiana Center for the Arts in downtown Lafayette is managed by the Acadiana Arts Council and has been opened to the public since 2004.

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