

NORTH CAROLINA

Museum of Art

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 9, 2011

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The North Carolina Museum of Art Receives Jaime Plensa Gift from Capitol Broadcasting Company

RALEIGH, N.C. – The North Carolina Museum of Art announced today it has received a gift of three Jaime Plensa sculptures, *Doors of Jerusalem I, II, and III*, from Capitol Broadcasting Company. The works of art will be installed in the lobby of the Museum's new building, which is slated for completion in late 2009.

"The work of Jaime Plensa is spectacular and innovative," said Jim Goodman, president and CEO of Capitol Broadcasting Company. "We are pleased to bring his work to the North Carolina Museum of Art."

Spanish sculptor Jaime Plensa is an internationally renowned artist at the forefront of contemporary art. With its contextually diverse, layered nature, Plensa's sculptures demand participation to enhance and extend their significance. *The Doors of Jerusalem I, II and III* are simultaneously one of Jaime Plensa's most intimate and compelling works done on a greater-than-human scale.

Cast in a translucent polyester resin and lit internally, the sculptures emit a strong, pure white light. This, combined with their sacred pose, lends a divine or celestial quality to the work. This notion is reinforced by the title of the work, which references the ancient gates of a holy city.

The sculptural surface is tattooed with words – or as Plensa describes them "an extension of our bodies, [intended] to expand our thoughts and ideas to the external world." The text is derived from the Old Testament: *Song of Solomon* or *Song of Songs* which is both a love poem and an allegory for love. Plensa's message is implicit – the viewer must decide for himself if the chosen excerpts speak of God's love, a carnal love, or another type of love.

"We are grateful to Capitol Broadcasting Company for this generous gift," said Museum Director Lawrence J. Wheeler. "These extraordinary sculptures are an important addition to our collection and will bring great energy to the new Museum building."

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Plensa's work is exhibited in major museums and galleries throughout the world, including the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume in Paris; the Henry Moore Sculpture Trust in Halifax, England; the Malmö Konsthallen in Sweden; Städtische Kunsthalle, Mannheim; Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon; Museo Luigi Lecci in Prato, Italy; Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid; Museum der Modernen Kunst, Vienna, and in New York, Chicago and Tokyo.

His numerous outdoor projects and commissions for public spaces include installations in the U.S., Europe, and Japan, and he has recently completed projects for the cities of Washington D.C., Chicago, Seoul, Stockholm, and Jerusalem.

The Doors of Jerusalem I, II, and III were exhibited in "Canetti's Dream" at Mario Mauroner Contemporary Art in Vienna, Austria, April 1–June 3, 2006. They will be on exhibition in "Sho" at Musée d'Art Modern et d'Art Contemporain MAMAC in Nice, France, November 22, 2007–April 27, 2008.

About Capitol Broadcasting Company

Capitol Broadcasting Company, Inc. is a diversified communications company which owns and/or operates WRAL-TV, WRAL Digital, WRAL-FM, WRAL-HD2, WCMC-FM, Microspace, the North Carolina News Network, CBC New Media Group and Wolfpack Sports Marketing in Raleigh, N.C.; WJZY-TV and WMYT-TV in Charlotte, N.C.; WILM-TV in Wilmington, N.C.; WRAZ-TV and The Durham Bulls in Durham, N.C.; and real estate interests including the American Tobacco Project and Diamond View office building in Durham, N.C.

About the Richard Gray Gallery

Jaume Plensa is represented by the Richard Gray Gallery. Founded in Chicago in 1963, and now located both in Chicago and New York, Richard Gray Gallery is one of the leading dealers in modern and contemporary American and European art, with museum as well as private clients worldwide. Offering artworks of exceedingly high quality as well as expert counsel in all areas of the field is almost an obsession. The gallery has a reputation for excellence, integrity and discretion that it continues to earn by providing a high level of service to understandably demanding clients.

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The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making it one of the premier visual arts museums in the Southeast. The Museum uses its collection to provide educational, aesthetic, intellectual and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The Museum offers a series of changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films and concerts.

The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the Art Museum of the State of North Carolina, Michael F. Easley, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Lisbeth C. Evans, secretary. Museum hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, the Museum is open until 9 p.m. every Friday. Closed Monday. Admission is free.

Visit the NCMA's Web site at www.ncartmuseum.org.