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Renowned JFK Exhibition Makes its Only Michigan Stop in Saginaw at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum

Saginaw, Mich. – An acclaimed photographic exhibition commemorating President John F. Kennedy’s private life and public trajectory is coming to Michigan. “American Visionary: John F. Kennedy’s Life and Times” opens at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University on Thursday, March 21.

The opening event, which takes place from 4 to 8 p.m., will feature a talk with exhibition curator and noted photojournalist Lawrence Schiller, who photographed JFK. He will speak on the development of this unparalleled and historic collection.

One of the most exhaustively researched collections of Kennedy photos ever assembled, “American Visionary” brings together images from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, Getty Images, private collections, and the Kennedy family archives that capture public and private moments from Kennedy’s life. Some of the photographs on display are iconic; others have never been seen publicly.

“The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is the only Michigan venue where this historically important exhibition will be shown,” said museum director Megan McAdow. “We are honored to commemorate the centennial of John F. Kennedy’s birth with this powerful and important exhibition.”

Highlights of “American Visionary” include images from Kennedy’s political and private life. Unforgettable images are featured, such as Jacques Lowe’s 1961 photograph of Kennedy standing hunched over his desk in the Oval Office, and a haunting photograph of the shattered First Lady departing the White House on the day of Kennedy’s state funeral in 1963, captured by I.C. Rapoport as a brief glimpse through the crowd.

The exhibition is based on “JFK: A Vision for America” (2017), the award-winning book celebrating the history of Kennedy’s historic life by Stephen Kennedy Smith and Douglas Brinkley, and the visual re-telling through Schiller’s unique photojournalistic perspective. The exhibition has traveled extensively around the United States, including to the Smithsonian American Art Museum, The New York Historical Society and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

The museum has a robust schedule of fun and engaging programs for this exhibition, including:

- “Brews & Brushes” on March 15, 6:30 – 10 p.m., invites attendees to paint their own one-of-a-kind creation while enjoying local beer and wine. Tickets cost \$40 a person and include art supplies and a tour of the new exhibition.
- “Create & Take Saturdays,” a free event, offers different hands-on art activities for all ages on select Saturdays. Activities include a JFK portrait scavenger hunt on April 6, and a JFK drawing contest on April 27, the winners of which will be displayed on the museum’s online gallery.
- “Lunch & Learn,” a free lunch and program series with presentations tied to the exhibition. Subjects include “John F. Kennedy and The Beatles,” “The Election of 1960” and “Sea of Peace or Sea of War: Kennedy, the Cold War and NASA.” RSVP is required for lunch at least one week prior to each program.

For a full up-to-date list of programming, visit the museum website at MarshallFredericks.org.

“American Visionary: John F. Kennedy’s Life and Times” runs through June 29, 2019. It is free of charge and open to the public. Those who wish to attend the opening reception should RSVP by March 15 by calling 989-964-7082, or emailing mfsm@svsu.edu.

Exhibition Credits

“American Visionary: John F. Kennedy’s Life and Times” is presented by the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum and Wiener Schiller Productions in cooperation with the John F. Kennedy Library and Foundation. Additional support is provided by Stephen Kennedy Smith and Getty Images.

The exhibition is made possible at the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum with grant support from the Michigan Humanities Council and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

The Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum is located on the campus of Saginaw Valley State University, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call (989) 964-7125 or visit the Museum’s website at www.marshallfredericks.org.

Photographs from the Museum and exhibition for press use are available upon request.

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