

NORTH CAROLINA

Museum of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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N.C. Museum of Art Receives \$1M Gift to Benefit Classical Collection

RALEIGH, N.C.—A personal gift from Steve and Frosene Zeis, of Asheville, N.C., will establish an endowment to support the North Carolina Museum of Art's Classical collection. In recognition of the gift, the Classical Court in the Museum's new gallery building, scheduled for completion in late 2009, will be named in their honor.

"We are grateful to Steve and Frosene for this tremendous gift which will enable us to support curatorial activities, educational programs, and conservation related to the Museum's collection of Greek and Roman art, as well as allow us to make important acquisitions and continue to grow the collection, said Museum Director Lawrence J. Wheeler.

The Steve and Frosene Zeis Classical Court will border the new gallery building's north courtyard overlooking a linear pool of water; and will hold many of the Museum's large marble sculptures, mosaic floor, and Greek vases.

"Our gift is an opportunity to share our love of the Museum with many," said Steve Zeis. "Art is important to all people because of its ability to inspire and educate. We are pleased to assist the North Carolina Museum of Art; it is one of the great cultural institutions in the state," he said.

In making the gift, the Zeises both stressed the cultural importance of the Museum to all of North Carolina. "Whether we're east, west, north or south in the state, this is our museum. We as North Carolinians need to be proud of it and support it however we can," said Steve Zeis.

The Zeis's involvement with the Museum began in fall 2005 after attending a fundraising event in Asheville sponsored by Mary Easley and the North Carolina Museum of Art's Friends of Greek Art, an affiliate membership group devoted to preserving and enhancing the Museum's collection of Classical art. The couple quickly became involved with the group and their initial contribution helped purchase the first work of art—an ancient Greek krater vase—as part of the Friends of Greek Art's \$1 million campaign to purchase art.

"When we first visited the Museum, we were so impressed," said Frosene Zeis. "It is a jewel for all the people of the state and I became passionate about sharing how wonderful the Museum is," she said.

(more)

Steve Zeis, a 1962 graduate of the North Carolina State University College of Textiles, grew up in Turkey and came to the United States from Istanbul in 1957 to attend NCSU. The couple moved to Asheville, N.C. in 1965 when Steve was recruited by Northrop Carolina as they diversified into textile machinery. In 1983, the couple established their own company—ZTM Sales and Service Inc. Steve handled the technical sales side representing many prominent European manufacturers of textile and plastic machinery throughout much of North America, and Frosene managed the business side.

The Museum's expansion initiative includes construction of a new 127,000 square foot building to house the permanent collection and renovations to the existing 1983 Edward Durrell Stone building. In December 2006 the Museum officially broke ground on the new gallery building, designed by New York architectural firm, Thomas Phifer and Partners.

For more information on the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Museum's Classical collection, or the Friends of Greek Art, please visit www.ncartmuseum.org or call (919) 839-NCMA (6262).

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Note to the editor: Rendering of the Museum's new gallery building and a photo of Steve and Frosene Zeis are attached for your use.

Cutline: Steve and Frosene Zeis, of Asheville N.C.

Cutline: Rendering of the new gallery building's Steve and Frosene Zeis Classical Court

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution 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–Thursday and Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Monday. Admission is free. For information call (919) 839-NCMA (6262) or visit the NCMA's Web site at www.ncartmuseum.org.