



NEWS RELEASE

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The Women's Museum Shows *Apron Chronicles:* *A Patchwork of American Recollections*

Features Storytelling, Photography and Vintage Fashion to Connect Generations

DALLAS, Feb. 9, 2006—The Women's Museum, A Smithsonian Institution, today announced that it is premiering a traveling exhibit to North Texas—one that pairs powerful photography with real world stories and sentimental ties to the past—namely 200 vintage aprons. On display at the museum through May 14, ***Apron Chronicles: A Patchwork of American Recollections*** tells the emotional stories of 46 individuals, each of whom have unique memories about aprons and the people who wore them.

Each apron chronicle is paired with a portrait taken by award-winning photographer Kristina Loggia. The diverse contributors include a 111-year-old mother and her only child; a Holocaust survivor; a biology professor from Mali, Africa; a preteen and her grandmother; and more. Their stories explore the people behind the aprons and give life to the fabrics and the exhibit. Adding emphasis and history to these stories, the gallery space also features 200 vintage aprons, hung on clotheslines throughout the exhibit.

Prompted by project writer and apron curator EllynAnne Geisel, the contributors to ***Apron Chronicles*** recall a woman who had worn an apron and what she represented to a family; an event when an apron was worn; recipes; values and traditions from gentler, less complicated times; the bond between parent and child; survival; friendship; opportunity; challenge; and modern perspective.

"Part of our heritage today as women in all walks of life are the stories and memories we share with the women who have shaped our past," said Wanda Brice, CEO of The Women's Museum, "It's true that aprons do connect these stories; but that's where the similarity ends between them. They range from practical reflections on keeping the 'Sunday best' clean, complaints on today's barbecue pit varieties versus the frilly apron fashions of the 50s, teenage summer adventures—and all from the distinctly unique perspectives of many individuals. This is truly a quilt of American stories, and we hope it will not only intrigue but also inspire our visitors to reflect on their own."

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Loggia's portraits have been described as preserving the storytellers' images in an environmental style that complements the unadorned honesty of their recollections. Like the oral histories, the portraits' strength is their directness and lack of pretension. ***Apron Chronicles*** has been described as "one of the most nostalgic, thought-provoking and generational-friendly exhibitions currently touring America." In addition, Loggia's portrait of Ada Florence Ashford, which is included in the exhibit, recently won first prize in "The Best of Photojournalism 2005 (Magazine Portrait and Personality)."

A Smithsonian affiliate **The Women's Museum** is the nation's only comprehensive women's history museum that chronicles the lives of American women through interactive exhibits. The Women's Museum is supported, in part, by the City of Dallas and the Texas Commission on the Arts. The hours of this exhibition at The Women's Museum are Tuesday through Sunday, noon to 5:00 p.m. (closed Mondays). For additional information, including hours, admission and location, please visit www.thewomensmuseum.org.

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