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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Along Water Street at the Akron Art Museum to Premiere on Western Reserve PBS

*New Western Reserve PBS production showcases Columbus artist
Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson and art of students from Miller South School*

KENT, Ohio — Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2009 — Western Reserve PBS (formerly PBS 45 & 49) explores the life and works of Columbus artist Aminah Brenda Lynn Robinson in **Along Water Street at the Akron Art Museum**. The program, which premieres on Sunday, Feb. 1 at 10:30 p.m., celebrates the artist's exhibition that opens Jan. 31, 2009, at the Akron Art Museum. The program also airs on Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 7 at 5:30 p.m. and Thursday, Feb. 12 at 2:30 a.m. It was made possible by a grant from Summa Foundation.

In the Western Reserve PBS special, host Jody Miller talks with the artist about her work and the wonderful way in which she gains inspiration from stories passed down to her from her family. It also includes interviews with teachers and students from Akron's Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts, who created art projects modeled after Robinson's work. The fourth and eighth grade students' art projects will be on display in the Akron Art Museum's Corbin Gallery concurrent with Robinson's exhibit.

For Robinson, Water Street is a metaphor for a larger story of the constant flow of African Americans to and from the Ohio Valley. Her art is grounded in the African concept of Sankofa (or learning from the past in order to move forward). The Along Water Street exhibition further reveals the importance of handed-down stories, conversations and memories as a means of strengthening perceptions of who we are and where we come from. It features twelve "rag" paintings (works on paper), a portrait of Robinson's uncle and a 60-foot-long, cloth-and-mixed-media "RagGonNon." RagGonNon is Robinson's term for an artwork in any form that

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is never finished but just “keeps ragging on and on.” The Along Water Street RagGonNon on display at this show was started almost 25 years ago and touches on creation, discovery, family and community. It was created using traditional art materials as well as buttons, fabric, twigs, shells, a snakeskin and hidden music boxes.

A 2004 MacArthur fellow, Robinson attended the Columbus School of Art (now the Columbus College of Art and Design) in the late 1950s. Her art has been widely exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in Columbus and throughout the United States.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

Western Reserve PBS, a service of Western Reserve Public Media, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information, visit WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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