



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Documentary About Akron Art Museum's Chuck Close Exhibit To Premiere on Western Reserve Public Media Channels

KENT, Ohio — Friday, Oct. 9, 2009 — One of America's most renowned contemporary artists is the subject of a Western Reserve PBS production, **It's Close at Akron Art Museum**, which will premiere on Sunday, Oct. 18, at 10:30 p.m. It will re-air on Friday, Oct. 23, at 2 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 24, at 6:30 p.m.

The focus of the program is the Akron Art Museum and its exhibition, "Familiar Faces: Chuck Close in Ohio Collections," which brings together 37 of the artist's works from both public and private collections around the state. Close's painting "Linda" is the Akron Art Museum's iconic 9-foot-tall painting of author Linda Rosenkranz.

In Western Reserve PBS's **It's Close at the Akron Art Museum**, the artist talks about his life and his art. His friends, among them Rosenkranz and her husband, Christopher Finch, artist and author of "Chuck Close: Work," talk about their relationship with the artist. The program will cover the opening of the show and talk with private collectors of Close's work, who share their insights on the artist. Funding for **It's Close at Akron Art Museum** is provided by Summa Foundation.

Renowned for reinventing portraiture in the late 1960s, Chuck Close (born in 1940) is one of America's most important contemporary artists. He masterfully employs a multitude of media to create monumental portraits of his family and friends. The Akron Art Museum, an institution with a longtime commitment to Close's art, organized the exhibition of the artist's work from collections throughout Ohio. This will be the first time that Close's work in Ohio museums — Akron Art Museum, Allen Memorial Art Museum, Butler Institute of American Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, Cleveland Museum of Art, Toledo Museum of Art, Wexner Center for the Arts and Wright State University Galleries — can be seen together. These pieces will hang beside rarely seen pieces from private collections.

Close has redefined portraiture by using the human face as his compelling and most-often large-scale subject matter. His meticulous process and his array of mediums — among them, oil, acrylic, ink, paper pulp, photography, various printing

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methods and even tapestry — make his work a journey of discovery for the viewer. From the abstract to the realistic, from life-sized to small scale, Close's work engages the viewer along what has been called a magical mystery tour of talent, style and process.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) 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 the organization, 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. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO.2/WEAO.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO.3/WEAO.3) and V-me (WNEO.4/WEAO.4).

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 about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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