

Step into a Masterpiece

theMcNay

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**McNay Presents the Prints of Radcliffe Bailey**

San Antonio, Texas — Over the last decade, Radcliffe Bailey has gained national recognition for his ability to transform rich layers of materials into moving meditations on African American life and history. From July 16 to October 5, 2008, the McNay Art Museum focuses on the 40-year old, Atlanta-based artist's prodigious achievements in the field of printmaking.

The museum brings together 15 large-scale prints created between 1997 and 2006 at the Paulson Press in Berkeley, California, for *The Prints of Radcliffe Bailey*. The prints in the exhibition wed virtuosic printmaking skills to rich, haunting imagery of the Old South. Bailey combines a variety of print media in his work, including etching, aquatint, photogravure, and drypoint, with unconventional materials such as velvet and gold leaf, as well as smoked and painted papers. Together, they create a tapestry of vibrant colors, painterly drips, vintage photographs, and symbolic drawings that piece together visual inspirations from both African and African American cultures.

Daguerreotypes of proud African Americans, childhood snapshots, a blue-tinted photograph of a cotton field, and the print of a naked foot are among the images transformed here into brightly colored, syncopated quasi-abstractions. In Bailey's deft handling of his subjects these prints transcend the individual and relate to a universal sense of memory as well as the melancholy of passing time.

"Radcliffe Bailey's prints are among the most highly experimental being made in the United States today," says Lyle W. Williams, the McNay's curator of prints and drawings.

Radcliffe Bailey is represented in many public and private collections throughout the United States, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Art Institute of Chicago; Denver Art Museum; and Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. His work has also been exhibited at the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut; and The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York.

*The Prints of Radcliffe Bailey* in the Lawson Print Gallery and related programs are sponsored by the Ewing Halsell Foundation Endowment.

### **About the McNay**

Built by artist and educator Marion Koogler McNay in the 1920s, the Spanish Colonial Revival-style home opened as Texas' first museum of modern art in 1954. Today more than 100,000 visitors a year enjoy works by 20th-century masters including Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Jackson Pollock, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir. In June 2008, the museum opened the 45,000-square-foot Jane and Arthur Stieren Center for Exhibition designed by internationally renowned French architect Jean-Paul Viguier. Nearly doubling the McNay's exhibition space, the Stieren Center includes three separate outdoor sculpture galleries, the first in South Texas.

Beginning June 10, museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 am – 4 pm; Thursday, 10 am – 9 pm; Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm; and Sunday, noon – 5 pm. Admission: McNay members – free; Adults -- \$8; Students 13 and under -- \$5; Seniors -- \$5; Active military -- \$5; Children 12 and under – free. The museum will be free to the public every Thursday evening from 4 pm until 9 pm and on the first Sunday of each month.

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