



For Immediate Release

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**Richard Thompson's "Paintings from 97114" to be exhibited in the Governor's Office Dec. 1 – Jan. 31**

Salem, Oregon – Dayton artist Richard Thompson will exhibit "Paintings from 97114" in the Governor's Office of the Capitol Building in Salem from Dec. 1 to Jan. 31, 2018.

In 2011, following a 30- year academic and professional career in New Mexico, Texas and New York, Thompson returned to live and paint on what was once his family farm just outside of Dayton, Oregon. The area of farms and orchards is defined by the zip code 97114, hence the title for this exhibition. The agricultural landscape outside Thompson's studio door – with its spread of fields bounded by forests, clusters of farm buildings reminiscent of still-life elements, distant blue mountains, and vast blowing skies – provides the inspiration and central focus for Thompson's recent works.

Born in Oregon in 1945, Thompson later enrolled at Oregon State University to study forestry, but discovery of the visual arts led to a master's degree in painting and drawing from the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, in 1972. During the following four decades, Thompson maintained his studio practice as he moved from New Mexico to Texas and then to New York. He taught as a faculty member at the University of Texas, San Antonio, a professor of painting at the University of Texas, Austin from 1984-1997, and as dean and professor at the School of Art and Design, NYS College of Ceramics, Alfred University, from 1997 to 2008.

Thompson has exhibited nationally and internationally at institutions such as the Groniger Museum, The Netherlands; National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian, Washington, DC; and Museum of Fine Art, Houston, Texas. His work has been featured in several major exhibitions including the *Whitney Biennial*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York; in both 1975 and 1981. His participation in the creative community of the Pacific Northwest in recent years has included selection by curator Amanda Hunt for the *Portland2014 Biennial*. Thompson's works can be found in

the collections of the Portland Art Museum, the Hallie Ford Museum of Art, Salem; the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Eugene; and Maryhill Museum, Maryhill, Washington.

The Art in the Governor's Office Program honors selected artists in Oregon with exhibitions in the reception area of the Governor's Office in the State Capitol. Artists are nominated by a statewide committee of arts professionals who consider artists representing the breadth and diversity of artistic practice across Oregon, and are then selected by the Arts Commission with the participation of the Governor's Office. Only professional, living Oregon artists are considered and an exhibit in the Governor's office is considered a "once in a lifetime" honor. Artists whose work has previously been shown in the Governor's office include Henk Pander, Michele Russo, Manuel Izquierdo, James Lavadour, Margot Thompson, Gordon Gilkey and Yuji Hiratsuka.

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The Oregon Arts Commission provides leadership, funding and arts programs through its grants, special initiatives and services. Nine commissioners, appointed by the Governor, determine arts needs and establish policies for public support of the arts. The Arts Commission became part of Business Oregon (formerly Oregon Economic and Community Development Department) in 1993, in recognition of the expanding role the arts play in the broader social, economic and educational arenas of Oregon communities. In 2003, the Oregon legislature moved the operations of the Oregon Cultural Trust to the Arts Commission, streamlining operations and making use of the Commission's expertise in grantmaking, arts and cultural information and community cultural development.

The Arts Commission is supported with general funds appropriated by the Oregon legislature and with federal funds from the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust. More information about the Oregon Arts Commission is available online at: [www.oregonartscommission.org](http://www.oregonartscommission.org).