



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Mummies on Display in *World of the Pharaohs* at the Arkansas Arts Center**

**(LITTLE ROCK, AR)** – Two mummies are on display in the monumental exhibition *World of the Pharaohs: Treasures of Egypt Revealed*, on view through July 5, 2010, at the Arkansas Arts Center.

Presented in cooperation with the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, *World of the Pharaohs* offers a glimpse into the 3,000 years that Pharaohs ruled ancient Egypt. More than 200 objects examine not only the rich opulence of kings, but also the everyday life of Egyptian citizens. On view are objects of the kings, gods, family, household, scribes, craftsmen and tomb, including mummies, that tell the story of ancient Egyptian life and culture.

“We are very fortunate to have been able to negotiate the loan of mummies from two different museums for our presentation of *World of the Pharaohs*,” said *World of the Pharaohs* Curator Joseph Lampo.

One of the mummies is on loan from the University of Quebec in Montreal. The mummy and sarcophagus was made in northern Egypt during the 26<sup>th</sup> Dynasty. In 2008, a CT Scan of the mummy was performed at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, and the mummy was determined to have been a woman named Hetep-Bastet, who died at the age of 40 and was five feet four inches tall. She suffered from a severe dental disease, which may have caused her death. In 1969, the sarcophagus was damaged by a student who had grievances against the University. Although the attack resulted in irreparable damage, the sarcophagus has been restored.

The second mummy is from the Mabee-Gerrard Museum of Art in Shawnee, Okla. The mummy is an unknown female, and the sarcophagus is from the Roman Period, 2<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. The mummy and sarcophagus were excavated in the el-Hiba/Sediment area near Fayum in Egypt in the early 1930s. The internal organs of this mummy were not removed, which indicates that the woman either was not wealthy or had low social status.

Lampo stated that “both mummies are from late periods in ancient Egyptian history and the painting styles and hieroglyphs on their cases provide clues that help identify the specific regions from which they came. And, modern medical diagnostic equipment has been used to elicit information about the ages and other characteristics of the deceased. For example, we know that the brain of Hetep-Bastet was removed from the base of her skull. It is through this kind of detailed information that these human remains become more than examples from the pages of ancient history texts.”

“We have tried to present these mummies in the most respectful way and ask that visitors be mindful of their past lives and their wish for immortality,” said Lampo.

Now through February 28, the Arkansas Arts Center is offering a Winter Special on tickets to *World of the Pharaohs*. Visitors can receive \$5 off regular admission. The Arts Center is also offering matinees Tuesday – Friday from 1 – 4 p.m., where all tickets are \$14. Children 5 and under are always free. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 501-372-4000 or visit [www.arkarts.com](http://www.arkarts.com).

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Contact:** 501-372-4000

**Location:** Arkansas Arts Center – 9<sup>th</sup> and Commerce, Little Rock, AR 72202

**Gallery Hours:** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday - Friday

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

Closed Monday & Major Holidays

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**Arkansas Arts Center programs are supported in part by: the City of Little Rock; Arkansas Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage and the National Endowment for the Arts.**

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