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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**MAJOR GEORGE RODRIGUE EXHIBITION COMES TO THE MONTHAVEN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER IN HENDERSONVILLE, TENN.**

**HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (Nov. 14, 2024)** – The Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center is pleased to announce a new exhibit, *The River is the Road: Paintings by George Rodrigue*, on display Nov. 23, 2024 to Jan. 19, 2025. This unprecedented exhibition, organized by the George Rodrigue Life & Legacy Foundation with Wendy Rodrigue, coincides with the 10th anniversary of Rodrigue’s death.

Curated by Dana Holland-Beickert, the exhibition traces 45 years of the river in Rodrigue’s paintings, exploring the unique ways Rodrigue used the river as a reference to his Cajun heritage, and ultimately as a metaphor for the journey of life.

Wendy Rodrigue, the widow of the esteemed artist, will be available Monday, Nov. 9 and Tuesday, Nov. 10 to lead exhibition tours for local schools, providing invaluable insights into the profound legacy of George Rodrigue. If you are interested in a tour of the exhibit for your school or community group, please contact [admin@monthavenarts.org](mailto:admin@monthavenarts.org). Docent-led tours will also be available for the duration of the exhibit.

The Opening Exhibit Reception for *The River is the Road* is Saturday, Dec. 7 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the MACC. Guests will have the opportunity to meet Wendy Rodrigue and attend her

Gallery Talk. Louisiana-inspired refreshments and cocktails will be available. Admission is free for MACC Members and \$10 for non-members. Military veterans and students are also free.

### **About the Artist**

George Rodrigue (1944-2013) was a visionary American artist who hailed from New Iberia, Louisiana. His artistic journey, ignited during his studies at the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, produced an extraordinary legacy in the world of American art. Throughout his career, Rodrigue's canvas captured the essence of his cherished Cajun heritage – its landscapes, people, traditions, and folklore. His iconic series, The Blue Dog, emerged from the myth of the “loup-garou” and continues to captivate audiences worldwide.

### **About the Curator**

Dana Holland-Beickert, Curator of the Life & Legacy Foundation, has more than 30-years of experience in the arts as curator, consultant and advisor, and is also an accredited art appraiser with the International Society of Appraisers. She holds Bachelor and Master degrees in art history, and has worked as a museum curator for more than 20 years before joining the Life & Legacy Foundation. Since 2006, she has curated or co-curated more than 20 exhibitions on Rodrigue’s art.

### **About the Life & Legacy Foundation**

The Life & Legacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 2017 by Wendy Rodrigue in honor of her late husband, artist George Rodrigue. Wendy brings original Rodrigue paintings from her collection into schools nationwide and presents ‘unplugged’ art and storytelling experiences as a way of inspiring her audience. Programs include education outreach, written and recorded Rodrigue history, and national museum tours. As of 2024, Wendy has shared this unique programming, personally, with some 90,000 students in 10 states. In November 2024 she will celebrate her 200th school at Rodrigue’s alma mater, Catholic High in New Iberia, Louisiana. Learn more at [legacyarttour.org](http://legacyarttour.org).

Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center (MACC) is a jewel-box art museum and education facility housed in one of Tennessee’s most spectacular antebellum mansions. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the MACC has staged exhibitions featuring everything from the ceramic art of Pablo Picasso to the evening gowns of Princess Diana. The artwork of local artists and

military veterans are also on frequent display. As an art school, the MACC offers classes to more than 1,000 children and adults each year. The MACC also provides free arts outreach and healing arts to underserved children, families and military veterans. For more information, visit [www.monthavenarts.org](http://www.monthavenarts.org) or call (615) 822-0789.

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