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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MAJOR DAVID WRIGHT RETROSPECTIVE OPENS AT MONTHAVEN ARTS AND CULTURAL CENTER

HENDERSONVILLE, Tenn. (Nov. 3, 2026) – David Wright is one of the world's foremost artists of the American frontier. Recognized internationally, his paintings of mountain men, long hunters, Civil War soldiers and Native Americans are remarkable for their historical accuracy, expressive beauty and technical virtuosity. Monthaven Arts and Cultural Center will present a major retrospective of Wright's work in *The Art of David Wright: An American Master*. The exhibit, which runs Nov. 8 to Jan. 10, 2027, will feature nearly 60 of Wright's works in oil, acrylic, gauche and more.

"David Wright has been one of Tennessee's best-known artists for nearly 50 years," says Cheryl Strichik, the MACC's executive director. "I know of no other artist who creates historical paintings with so much authenticity and deep feeling. It's an honor to present these works to our Monthaven community."

Born in 1942 in Rosine, Kentucky, and raised in Tennessee, Wright's fascination with the American frontier began early. Professionally trained as an artist, with study in Europe, his art reflects a lifelong study of American history. He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War, an experience that has informed his artistic practice, especially as it relates to his Civil War paintings.

Wright has been called a “historian with a brush,” so it’s hardly surprising that realism forms the cornerstone of his style. His work stands in the tradition of Frederic Remington and George Catlin, but with a modern commitment to lived experience and scholarly rigor. Simply put, Wright is not merely an illustrator—he is a living historian, often donning 18th-century garb, trekking wilderness trails, and paddling birchbark canoes to experience the world of his subjects firsthand. His paintings don’t just depict history—they invite the viewer into it.

“You can’t paint what you don’t understand,” Wright has said. “And you can’t understand it unless you’ve lived it.”

An opening reception for *An American Master* will take place from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026. Visitors are invited to view the exhibition, meet the artist and enjoy light refreshments. Admission is free with a $10 suggested donation.

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 1,200 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 or call (615) 822-0789.

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