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Information Contact:

Jessica Thomason, Development & Marketing Manager

The Art Center of Corpus Christi

(361) 884-8836

(601) 880-3718 – personal cell

www.artcentercc.org

The Art Center of Corpus Christi Honors Founding Member, Ellsworth Handy with a tribute at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 8th

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – *The Art Center of Corpus Christi* will honor its oldest living founding member, Ellsworth Handy at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 8th with a special tribute and champagne toast. Ellsworth will be recognized for his lifelong work in the arts and dedication to *The Art Center* with a bronze plaque during the opening reception of his retrospective exhibition from 5 to 7 p.m. in the *Dorothy Kucera Gallery*.

At 95 years old, Ellsworth is still creating art and is an active member of *The Art Center of Corpus Christi*. According to Managing Director Bob Baker, “*Ellsworth Handy is a treasure we want to share with Corpus Christi one more time. This exhibit has works spanning his over 80 years as a working artist.*”

All artwork in the show were handpicked from Ellsworth’s home, with each piece telling a story of his life. In regards to the exhibition, Ellsworth states, “*2010 makes me arrive where I have watched our world’s happenings for the 96 past years. Of those, 83 of them I have been painting opaque pictures with and without instruction, but with each, an attempt to improve something from the past, occasionally with some success.*”

Ellsworth’s interest in painting started at a young age. He was a self

taught artist with the only art school training received through a 1 year scholarship to the Indianapolis John Herron Art Institute. He worked successfully as a commercial artist doing illustrations for books and various other publications. His work has evolved over the years and he has explored various mediums including clay and sculpture. He has moved away from doing commercial work and travels extensively with his wife Suzy to sell their clay work.

His exhibition, "*Ellsworth Handy: An Art-Full Life*" shows in the *Dorothy Kucera Gallery* at *The Art Center* April 8th through April 30th. All artwork in the show are available for sale at modest prices with proceeds benefiting *The Art Center of Corpus Christi*.

About the Art Center of Corpus Christi

The Art Center of Corpus Christi (www.artcentercc.org, (361) 884-6406), was founded in 1972 by a group of dedicated arts advocates. *The Art Center* is an incorporated 501 (c)3 non-profit organization privately funding and supported by its members. Its facilities include fourteen art organizations that house a formal gift shop and gallery, five exhibition halls, and studio space for art classes and workshops. *Desiree's By the Bay*, a popular lunchtime restaurant leases space within *The Art Center* and its facilities are available for weddings, receptions, parties and special events. *The Art Center* is free admission and open to the public Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 AM to 4 PM.