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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART CELEBRATES AMERICAN RESILIENCE WITH TWO IMPORTANT EXHIBITIONS *DOROTHEA LANGE: SEEING PEOPLE* AND *WHEN LANGSTON HUGHES CAME TO TOWN*

Reno, Nev. (March 17, 2025) – The Nevada Museum of Art today announced two major exhibitions that celebrate the spirit of American resilience – *Dorothea Lange: Seeing People* and *When Langston Hughes Came to Town*. The artistic output of these two leading cultural figures in the 1920s and 30s conveyed the struggles and resilience of marginalized communities, shaped public consciousness, and advocated for social change during a pivotal era in America’s history.

Dorothea Lange: Seeing People
April 12, 2025–February 15, 2026

Dorothea Lange reframes the famous artist’s work through the lens of portraiture, highlighting her unique ability to discover and reveal the character and resilience of those she photographed. Featuring more than 100 photographs, the exhibition addresses Lange’s innovative approaches to picturing people, emphasizing her work on social issues including economic disparity, migration, and poverty. The exhibition includes one of her most famous portraits, *Migrant Mother*, which highlights the plight of migrant farm workers looking for work in California during the Great Depression.

Dorothea Lange: Seeing People is presented as part of the National Gallery of Art’s “Art Across the Nation” program that aims to share the nation’s art collection with museums across the country.

“The Nevada Museum of Art is honored to partner with the National Gallery to debut this major exhibition of Lange’s photography on the West Coast,” said CEO David B. Walker. “The Museum has had a longtime commitment to photography and artists of the American West, including Maynard Dixon, Georgia O’Keeffe, Anne Brigman, and Charlotte Skinner, making us the perfect host to these ongoing dialogues.”

“We are thrilled to bring some of the most excellent and beloved works from the nation’s collection directly into communities across the country as we commemorate the 250th anniversary of America,” said Kaywin Feldman, Director of the National Gallery of Art.

This exhibition is curated by Philip Brookman, consulting curator in the department of photographs, National Gallery of Art. The Nevada Museum of Art is the only West Coast venue for this exhibition.

When Langston Hughes Came to Town

May 3, 2025–February 15, 2026

When Langston Hughes Came to Town explores the history and legacy of Black writer and poet Langston Hughes (1901-1967) during and after the Harlem Renaissance, a period of African American artistic expression and cultural revolution in the 1920s and 1930s. Highlighting Hughes’ little-known travels to the Hoover Dam and Reno during the Great Depression, the exhibition includes works inspired by his Nevada travels, including never-before-seen archival photographs, ephemera, artworks, short stories, and original poems written by Hughes.

“It is an honor to curate this exhibition celebrating Langston Hughes’s legacy through art, which also brings attention to his visits to Northern and Southern Nevada in the 1930,” said Nevada Museum of Art Associate Curator and Outreach Director Carmen Beals. “Hughes’s writing about the joyous moments, struggles, and resilience of African American communities spans over 100 years, and his insightful words still resound today.”

This unique exhibition incorporates a range of artistic voices, including significant works by notable Harlem Renaissance artists such as Augusta Savage, Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, Beauford Delaney, Aaron Douglas, Norman Lewis, and Archibald Motley, Jr. Hughes’s lifework continues to be a source of inspiration for contemporary artists, including Isaac Julien, Kwame Brathwaite, Glenn Ligon, Benny Andrews, Deborah Willis, David Shrobe, and Gordon Parks—who pay homage to his enduring legacy through a range of media.

Dorothea Lange: Seeing People and When Langston Hughes Came to Town are made possible thanks to the generous support of: **MAJOR SPONSORS** Thomas Lee Bottom, Carol Franc Buck Foundation **SPONSORS** Victoria and Victor Atkins, Nancy and Harvey Fennell | Dickson Realty, Hazel Foundation Fund, Jackie and Steve Kane, Dale Leonudakis, Sandy Raffealli, Phil and Jennifer Satre, Gayle and Cliff Scheffel, Elizabeth and Henry Thumann, Christine and Scott Tusher **SUPPORTING SPONSORS** Kathie Bartlett, Betsy Burgess and Tim Bailey, Mary Connolly, Tammy and Michael Dermody, Viki Matica and Doug Brewer, Charlotte and Dick McConnell, Peter E. Pool

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ABOUT THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

The **Nevada Museum of Art** is the only art museum in Nevada accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A private, nonprofit organization founded in 1931, the statewide institution was designed by architect Will Bruder. The four-level, 120,000 square foot building is inspired by geological formations in Northern Nevada and is a visual metaphor for the institution's scholarly focus on art and environment. The Museum's permanent collections are divided into thematic focus areas including the Art of the Greater West, the Altered Landscape, contemporary art, and work ethic in American art.

The Museum's **Center for Art + Environment** is an internationally recognized research center that supports the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their natural, built, and virtual environments. The Center houses significant archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Nevada Museum of Art acknowledges the traditional homelands of the Waššiw (Washoe), Numu (Northern Paiute), Newe (Western Shoshone), and Nuwu (Southern Paiute) people of the Great Basin. This includes the 28 tribal nations that exist as sovereign nations and continue as stewards of this land. We appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on these Indigenous homelands.

IMAGE CAPTIONS

1. Dorothea Lange, *Migrant agricultural worker's family, Nipomo, California, 1936*, Gelatin silver print, National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Daniel Greenberg and Susan Steinhauser
2. Langston Hughes, *Grand Hotel Chicago (detail), 1942*, Printed ink on paper, James Weldon Johnson Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University