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Pulitzer Prize-Winning Editorial Cartoonist Tony Auth Is the Subject of WHYY's First Exhibition

PHILADELPHIA, September 9, 2013 — A retrospective of Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Tony Auth will be the first exhibition ever mounted at WHYY's Technology Center on Independence Mall. Spanning a half century, ***To Stir, Inform and Inflamm: The Art of Tony Auth*** is a thought-provoking exhibition of 150 pieces. Running September 24 to November 8 at WHYY in Philadelphia, the exhibition presents a wide range of Auth's work, including drawings, paintings, prints, and digital animation.

To Stir, Inform and Inflamm: The Art of Tony Auth will look at Auth's past as well as showcase his groundbreaking digital work. Auth worked for the *Philadelphia Inquirer* for nearly four decades before joining WHYY's Newsworks.org with his blog *Behind the Lines*, where he combines both political and cultural visual commentary. WHYY will display some of the images that have touched the lives of countless newspaper readers in our region and, through syndication, all over America.

"The exhibition is organized in sections. There's local, national, and international news," said David Leopold, author and exhibition curator, "as well as sections on the economy, the arms race, civil rights and healthcare. Throughout are sections on the nine presidential administrations which function as a timeline for the show."

Concurrently, over 40 of Auth's Philadelphia-focused drawings will be featured at the Philadelphia History Museum at 15 South 7th Street. ***AUTHentic Philly: Tony Auth's Cartoons of Philadelphia*** runs from October 11 through January 2014 and will be open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Visitors who wish to see both exhibitions will be offered discounted admission. Both exhibitions were organized by the James A. Michener Art Museum, located in Doylestown, PA.

Tony Auth's cartoons, seemingly simple and always direct, have influenced public opinion and politicians for more than 40 years. "Our job is not to amuse our readers," Auth says of a national artistic heritage of editorial cartooning that began with Benjamin Franklin in 1754. "Our mission is to stir them, inform and inflame them."

Auth was a fledgling artist from California in 1971 when *The Philadelphia Inquirer* flew him in for a weeklong job interview as the paper's editorial cartoonist, and thus began an award-winning legacy of excellence that documents the changing political and cultural landscape of our time. He won one of the paper's first Pulitzer Prizes in 1976, and among many other awards, the Thomas Nast Prize in 2002, and the Herblock Prize in 2005.



“Auth’s drawings make a difference in how we view the world,” said David Leopold, author and exhibition curator. “His cartoons tell us more than columns of newsprint in a way that we remember long after other viewpoints have faded.”

“In his 41 years at the drawing table in the Editorial Board’s offices, Tony has praised, lamented and skewered the deeds of U.S. presidents, Philadelphia mayors and a myriad of other politicians of all persuasions,” said Chris Satullo, vice president of news and civic dialogue at WHYY. “From Watergate to Whitewater, he’s been unsparing on presidents who violated the public trust. From citizen’s band radio to ‘Survivor,’ his drawings have commented with wry wit on the fads and fancies of American culture.”

To Stir, Inform and Inflamm: The Art of Tony Auth will be on display September 24 to November 8 at WHYY, located at 150 North Sixth Street. Exhibition hours are Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Some exclusions apply. WHYY Sustainer Members have free access to the exhibition, WHYY Member tickets are \$10, and non-member tickets are \$15. Free admittance for children under 12. For more details, call (215) 351-0511, or visit WHYY.org/tonyauth.

About WHYY

For nearly 60 years, WHYY has been Greater Philadelphia’s leading public media provider, serving southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey and all of Delaware. WHYY takes pride in bringing audiences news when they need it, entertainment when they want it and education when it counts— on television, radio, the Web and in the community. For more information, visit WHYY.org.

About Philadelphia History Museum

Reopened to the public in September 2012 with the completion of a total interior renovation, the Philadelphia History Museum unveiled redesigned galleries to showcase its outstanding collection of historical objects, art, and artifacts. The Museum, founded by City Ordinance in 1938 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution in Philadelphia, is housed in an historic 1826 building at 15 South 7th Street, designed by John Haviland as the original home of the Franklin Institute. The Museum provides historical context for issues of contemporary urban life using its premier collection of over 100,000 objects, paintings, and photographs in exhibitions, programs, and interactive media. Visit philadelphiahistory.org for info.

About James A. Michener Museum

The James A. Michener Art Museum collects, preserves, interprets and exhibits American art, with a focus on art of the Bucks County region. The museum presents changing exhibitions that explore a variety of artistic expressions, and offers a diverse program of educational activities that seeks to develop a lifelong involvement in the arts as well as nurture a wide range of audiences. We also seek to educate our community about nationally and internationally known Bucks County artists of all creative disciplines. The James A. Michener Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums. For more information, visit www.michenermuseum.org

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