



MEMPHIS ARTIST GEORGE HUNT CREATES NUMBER 17 IN CELEBRATION OF THE 2008 MEMPHIS IN MAY BEALE STREET MUSIC FESTIVAL

Memphis, TN – Nationally renowned artist, George Hunt, unveiled his composition entitled, “Jimbo’s Juke Joint,” in celebration of the 2008 Beale Street Music Festival at the Hard Rock Café in downtown Memphis. The unveiling was on March 6th during Memphis in May’s annual Beale Street Music Festival press conference.

This piece incorporates many rural club elements which served as entertainment and a way to escape daily life for its patrons. From the fish and chitterling plates to the original Prince Albert tobacco in the overall pocket of the bass guitar player, this oil painting breathes texture, color and life into the long forgotten Saturday night juke joint parties.

“A classic George Hunt painting is full of detail that takes literally hours to completely absorb,” says Jim Holt, Memphis in May President/CEO. “Touching the original painting puts you in the juke joint; his paintings have a timeless effect.”

Hunt was born in Lake Charles, LA and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, in 1960. He studied with two giants of African-American art, John Howard at the University of Arkansas and Hale Woodruff at New York University. Hunt retired as head of the Art Department of Carver High School in Memphis.

His work has been displayed in national galleries as well as private collections, including those of the Football Hall of Famer, Jimmy Brown and the late actor Larry Riley (Knots Landing).

During the 2003 celebration of the “Year of the Blues”, Hunt’s work was featured in Radio City Music Hall during the official kick-off celebration. Additionally in 2005, the United States Postal Service

honored Hunt with a commemorative stamp from his painting “Little Rock Nine”, one of 10 Civil Rights stamps. This year will mark Hunt’s 16th anniversary as the Beale Street Music Festival’s featured artist.

The Beale Street Commemorative work is sponsored by 1910 Frame Works, the official framer of Memphis in May International Festival, J.W. Moore Printing, IMEC Engraving, and Athens Paper.

The Memphis in May International Festival is a month-long celebration of local and international color, customs, cuisine, and culture. Memphis in May produces many of the city’s largest events like the Beale Street Music Festival, the World Championship Barbecue Cooking Contest, and The Sunset Symphony. For additional information about the 2008 honored country of Turkey, or any aspect of the Memphis in May International Festival, please visit the Memphis in May website at www.memphisinmay.org.

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*For more information, contact: Diane Hampton, Executive Vice President,
Memphis in May (901)525-4611*



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Tom Lee Park
Memphis, TN