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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 7, 2007

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### **Ric Collier, Director of the Salt Lake Art Center, announces his resignation**

SALT LAKE CITY, UT - Ric Collier, Director, of the Salt Lake Art Center for the past 11 years, has announced his resignation effective October 19. In making his announcement, Mr. Collier noted that he leaves with a sense of accomplishment, pride in the quality of the programs of the Art Center, and confidence in the knowledge that a strong staff and Board are in the best position possible to move the Art Center forward.

In his announcement to the Board, Mr. Collier made the following statement: "This has been a difficult decision but one I feel I must make at this time. The institution is financially stable, the staff is extremely professional and very capable, and the Board is of the highest caliber. But now there are significant personal responsibilities that require my immediate attention, as well as professional opportunities that beckon my consideration."

"I have been committed to the success of the Art Center, its dedicated staff, valuable Board of Trustees and excellent programs. They, along with the community of patrons and artists, have made this time one of great learning, occasional frustration and enormous accomplishments. I believe that the Art Center is a much stronger, more sophisticated and widely appreciated institution, not only in Utah but in the West and beyond, than it was when I first arrived."

During his tenure at the Art Center, Mr. Collier made significant strides in establishing the Art Center as a regional institution with a national reputation. Among his chief accomplishments are controlled growth of the operating budget from just over \$400,000 in 1996 to \$1 million plus in 2007; development of a professional staff of 9 individuals; partnerships with many local non-profits including Utah Opera, UMFA, Utah Symphony, Utah Judicial College; The Pickle Company, and the 337 Project; and a first-rate exhibition program. Fundraising successes include an anonymous gift of \$1 million to support GOS and staff salaries, two anonymous gifts of \$100,000 each to the program endowment to support exhibitions, and three successive grants for self-initiated programs from the Andy Warhol Foundation for Contemporary Art.

In praising Mr. Collier's tenure, Salt Lake Art Center Board President Erik Christiansen said: "Under Ric's leadership, the Salt Lake Art Center has featured works by some of the art world's most prominent figures, including Jun Kaneko, Gary Hill, Bill Viola, Sophie Matisse, Cris Bruch, Robert Taplin, Lee Deffebach, Robert Motherwell, Kazuo Kadonaga and the current exhibition, *Life After Death: New Leipzig Paintings from the Rubell Family Collection* including the work of Neo Rauch. The Center's education programs for Elementary and High School students are flourishing, and the Art Center is enjoying unprecedented financial stability."

Mr. Christiansen added that, "Ric's enthusiasm, energy, warmth, and vision will be greatly missed. We wish him well in his future endeavors, and we hope he will maintain a collaborative relationship with the Art Center on future projects. Ric has been the heart of the Art Center for the last 11 years, and he has left an indelible and lasting imprint on contemporary art and culture in Salt Lake City, Utah."

The Board of Trustees will shortly announce an Interim Director, and will immediately appoint a nationwide search committee to identify a successor Director.

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