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**LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM TO PRESENT TOM PRESSLY
COLLECTION OF ABSTRACT REALISM PAINTINGS**

Secretary of State Tom Schedler and the Friends of LSEM, Inc. announce the opening of an exhibit of paintings by the noted Texas artist, Thomas A. Pressly, Jr. Titled, *Of Waters' Edges*, the show will open at the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum on Sunday, April 3, 2011 in the West Wing Gallery from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Born in San Antonio Texas, Mr. Pressley obtained both a liberal arts degree and a degree in architecture. After working as an architect for many years, he began painting during the 1970's.

According to the artist, "I always search for abstract subjects in nature or the environment, and then paint them as realistically as possible." Receiving a grant to travel abroad, Pressly became interested in painting the nuances of light and shadow on water. Now that he has settled in Shreveport on Cross Lake, he takes inspiration from the lake view at his home. The exhibit, *Of Waters' Edges*, will illustrate Pressly's expertise in translating his vision.

Numerous professional publications have published articles on Pressly's work – including *American Artist Magazine*, *Watercolor* and the *Texas Watercolor Society*, where Pressly served as President and is a signature member. He is also a charter member of the National Watercolor Society.

Pressly's works are in private collections throughout the United States, Ireland, England and France. Numerous museums also have holdings of Pressly's works – including the McNay Art Museum of San Antonio, Arkansas Fine Arts Center in Little Rock and the Crawford Art Museum in Cork, Ireland.

The exhibit will be on display until June 17, 2010. The public is invited to view the exhibit during regular museum hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The museum is located at 3015 Greenwood Road, between Hearne and Jewella Streets.

Admission is free and tours are available by appointment. For more information about the Friends of Louisiana State Exhibit Museum, Inc. go to www.friendsoflsem.org and for the Secretary of State's Museums Program, please visit our Web site at <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/museums>.