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PRESS RELEASE

CUMMER MUSEUM OF ART & GARDENS AND JACKSONVILLE ASIAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE FEATURE “Japan in Jacksonville: The Cummer Collection of Japanese Prints”

Jacksonville, FL, September 26, 2006 – The Jacksonville Asian American Alliance (JAAA) and the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens are co-hosting a reception on Thursday, October 12, 2006, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. to highlight the Museum’s collection of 19th century Japanese woodblock prints. The exhibit showcases many aspects of this uniquely expressive art form. *Japan in Jacksonville: The Cummer Collection of Japanese Prints* is on view from September 14 through November 12, 2006. The display also highlights the Museum’s Asian art collection, and provides a wide-ranging view of the styles and themes encompassed by this vibrant genre. All of the prints featured in this exhibition, whether landscape, warrior, actor, or courtesan-themed, are considered to be images of this pleasure-filled world. Each in its own way illuminates an understanding of 19th century Japanese culture.

“The Cummer has an extensive collection of Asian art and this exhibition is a way for us to enlighten our visitors to other cultures and art forms,” said Museum Director Maarten van de Guchte. “This exhibition allows us to provide programs and experiences that deepen our visitors’ understanding of this special collection.”

According to Anjna Chauhan, JAAA President, “Art is a tool for building cultural understanding and community. Art transforms and inspires. It has the power to move communities, to bring about thought and show the way to insight, to open hearts and minds, and to encourage action towards a more culturally vibrant Jacksonville.” Ms. Chauhan is also President-Elect of the Up & Cummer, a program that offers young professionals and community-minded individuals, between the ages of 24-45, the opportunity to experience The Cummer Museum of Arts & Gardens.

The Jacksonville Asian American Alliance is incorporated as a Florida nonprofit corporation and provides Asian Americans in North Florida a venue for actively participating in socio-cultural, civic and economic programs that serve the community.

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