

The Japan-America Society of Mississippi  
October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
For Immediate Release

**Japanese Sword Masters to attend opening reception at GumTree Museum of Art on Monday, November 9th.**

**Tupelo, Mississippi** – The North Mississippi chapter of the Japan-America Society of Mississippi (JASMIS) is pleased to announce that the GumTree Museum of Art at 211 West Main Street in Tupelo, MS, will be opening a new exhibit called “Tupelo Collects: East Meets West - An exhibition of Japanese Arts and Artifacts” to run from November 9<sup>th</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The collection will include *Ukiyoe* (Japanese woodblock prints), Japanese scrolls, Satsma pottery, Kimono, children’s toys and other items loaned by local collectors for this exhibit.

The opening of this exhibit will coincide with the arrival of the 5 Sword Masters from Fukuoka, Japan, coming to Mississippi for 3 separate performances of martial arts, Japanese dance, and performances of Japanese folk songs in Oxford, Fulton and Jackson on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

On Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, the GumTree Museum will host a reception from 5:00 PM until 7:00 PM for the opening of the new exhibit, and this reception will be attended by the Japanese sword masters. This reception will be open to the public and will be free. Light *hors d'oeuvre* and sushi will be served along with drinks. Japanese sake will also be available for a toast (*kanpai*).

**About the GumTree Museum of Art**

The GumTree Museum of Art, Inc f/k/a The Tupelo Artist Guild, Inc. was established as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation in 1982. Since 1985, the GumTree Museum of Art has maintained a high standard of visual art among members and the public, and serves as an educational institution for the visual arts. The GumTree Museum of Art is located at 211 West Main Street in downtown Tupelo, MS.

**About The Japan-America Society of Mississippi**

The Japan-America Society of Mississippi is a private, non-profit organization established to serve all Mississippi residents and Japanese nationals with a mutual interest in each other’s economy and culture. The Society strives to serve this dual constituency by sponsoring a wide variety of business-related and cultural programs to benefit its members and the general public. It is tax-exempt under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Japan-America Society of Mississippi is not a political or religious organization, and is not affected by policies of either nation or the State of Mississippi.

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