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SCETV documentary “Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art” chronicles the life and legacy of South Carolina artistic legend

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The new South Carolina ETV documentary [Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art](#) is an intimate exploration of the life and work of Leo Twiggs, a pioneering South Carolina artist and educator. Premiering on Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. on ETV-HD, this one-hour program delves into the rich personal history, innovative artistry and profound societal reflections of Twiggs, offering viewers a captivating portrait of a man whose work has left an indelible mark on both the state and the world.

Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art features in-depth interviews with Twiggs himself, along with insights from his agent, former museum directors and gallery curators. These conversations are woven together with footage of Twiggs' creative process, his South Carolina hometown, key artworks and archival materials, painting a comprehensive picture of a life dedicated to art and education.

Born in St. Stephen, Twiggs' journey began with a BA Summa Cum Laude from Claflin University, followed by studies at the Art Institute of Chicago and a MA from New York University, where he studied under renowned painter Hale Woodruff. His academic achievements culminated in a doctorate in Art Education from the University of Georgia. As a Professor of Art at South Carolina State University, Twiggs developed the Art Department and the I.P. Stanback Museum. His innovative batik technique and over 70 one-man shows have earned him international recognition, with exhibitions at the Studio Museum, American Crafts Museum and in U.S. Embassies across the globe.

Twiggs has also been widely celebrated for his contributions to art in South Carolina, including being the first visual artist to receive the Verner Award (Governor's Trophy). His works have been featured in art textbooks, television documentaries, and prestigious exhibitions, including a retrospective organized by the Georgia Museum of Art that toured the Southeast from 2004-2006. Today, Twiggs continues to create in his Orangeburg studio, where he serves as Distinguished Artist in Residence at Claflin University.

The documentary was executive produced by William Richardson, the Director of ETV Upstate with a long-standing career in broadcasting and production. Xiao Yu served as producer, director and editor of the documentary. Yu received her MFA in film production from Ohio University School of Film. Prior to joining SCETV, she produced and directed numerous award-winning documentary films, dramatic series and television programs for over two decades. At SCETV, Yu has produced workforce development PSAs and contributed to various SCETV series including *Palmetto Scene* and *Our Town*.

Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art premieres on Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. on ETV-HD, with additional airings on Sept. 23 at 9 p.m. on the South Carolina Channel, and a repeat on Sept. 26 at 9 p.m. on ETV-HD. Following the premiere, the program can also be watched on-demand using the free PBS App or on [scetv.org](#).

More information on *Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art* can be found on the SCETV website at [scetv.org](#).

QUOTES

“This program is a testament to the enduring legacy of Leo Twiggs, whose work has profoundly influenced the cultural landscape of South Carolina and beyond. Through his unique artistic vision and deep connections to his roots, Twiggs offers a narrative that is both personal and universal, reflecting the complexities of societal change. We are honored to share his story with our viewers and celebrate his remarkable contributions to the arts.” **–SCETV President and CEO Adrienne Fairwell**

"Bringing Leo Twiggs' story to life on screen has been a challenging, yet inspiring, journey. His work is not just art; it's a powerful narrative of resilience, identity and societal transformation. Through this program, we hope to honor his profound impact and allow viewers to connect with the deep layers of meaning within his artistry." –**Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art** producer, director and editor **Xiao Yu**

"My art has always been a reflection of my life experiences, my heritage and the changes I've witnessed in society. It's an honor to see my story shared through this program, and I hope it encourages others to explore their own roots and the narratives that shape our collective history." – **Artist and educator Leo Twiggs**

FAST FACTS

- [Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art](#) explores the life and work of South Carolina artist and educator Leo Twiggs.
- The one-hour documentary features interviews with Twiggs, his agent, former museum directors, and gallery curators, as well as footage of Twiggs' creative process and key artworks.
- Leo Twiggs was the first visual artist to receive the Verner Award and has exhibited his work internationally.
- The program premieres on Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. on ETV-HD, with additional airings on Sept. 23 at 9 p.m. on the South Carolina Channel and Sept. 26 at 9 p.m. on ETV-HD.
- More information on *Arriving: Leo Twiggs and His Art* can be found on the SCETV website at scetv.org.

About South Carolina ETV and Public Radio

South Carolina ETV and Public Radio (SCETV) is the state's public educational broadcasting network. SCETV amplifies South Carolina voices, provides educational experiences and strengthens communities, while working toward creating a stronger, more connected and informed South Carolina. In addition to airing local programs, such as *Carolina Classrooms*, *Making It Grow*, and *This Week in South Carolina*, SCETV also presents multiple programs to regional and national audiences, including *By The River*, *After Action*, *Reconnecting Roots*, *Reel South*, *Somewhere South*, *Yoga in Practice* and *How She Rolls*. In addition, SC Public Radio produces the national radio production, *Chamber Music from Spoleto Festival USA*.

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