



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Ignite your Curiosity at *Portraits of Hmong Women by Kou Vang*

Green Bay, WI—December 7, 2012— The Neville invites you to *Portraits of Hmong Women by Kou Vang*, a display of 14 photo portraits of Hmong women in traditional and contemporary dress, along with their fascinating stories. This small exhibit is now open and continues through February 3rd.

Kou Vang says:

My art offers a reflection of the world I live in as a Hmong-American woman, where boundaries of traditional and modern cultures collide, blend or vanish altogether. As a bi-cultural woman and the first generation to arrive in the United States, I feel honored and blessed, but at times this journey is lonely and unpaved. This hybrid identity gives me the opportunity to seek valuable information about the history and truths of the Hmong, which has often been told by others.

My art depicts contemporary and historical images, the past and present interwoven, separated by time. My images are a communicative device encouraging people to think about their own history, ethnicity, significance in time. My artwork is pure, drawn from the depths of my soul.

Vang is a Hmong-American woman, artist, writer, advocate, wife and mother. She has an M.A. in Art from Cardinal Stritch University and a B.A. in Art from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Ms. Vang has received grants from the Ella Lyman Cabot Trust Fund, Wisconsin Arts Board and the Institute of Race and Ethnicity for photographic documentaries on Hmong women and Shamanism. Her art has been exhibited in Minnesota and Wisconsin and has been published in three issues of *Paj Ntuab Voice*, a Hmong literary arts journal. She was the spotlight artist for the Hmong Artist Summit Exhibition (HASE) in Fresno, California in collaboration with Hmong National Development, Inc.

Portraits of Hmong Women by Kou Vang is on display in conjunction with the *Who are the Hmong* exhibit? Discover the Hmong as an ancient culture, allies, refugees, and neighbors at *Who are the Hmong?* through May 5, 2013.

Portraits of Hmong Women by Kou Vang is sponsored by the Wisconsin Arts Board, Ella Lyman Cabot Trust Fund, and Hmong American Women's Association in Milwaukee.

Editorial expansion of story available upon request.

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