

# PROCLAMATION



City and County of Denver

Proclamation No. C11-0834

On the occasion of the opening of the new Clyfford Still Museum on November 18, 2011

**WHEREAS**, on November 18, 2011, the Clyfford Still Museum, which houses 94% of the artist's creative output over a 60-year career, opens its doors to the public reintroducing the life and work of a giant of American Abstract Expressionism whose life has been shrouded in mystery with the bulk of his work hidden from public view for over 30 years until his widow bequeathed the estate to the City of Denver in 2004; and

**WHEREAS**, most of the collection of approximately 2,400 paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures have never before been on public display following the artist's legendary break with the commercial art world in the 1950s and the museum provides an unprecedented opportunity to experience rarely seen work representing the scope of Still's legacy and his profound influence on American art; and

**WHEREAS**, born in North Dakota in 1904, Clyfford Still is believed to be the first of his peers, including Willem de Kooning, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, and Barnett Newman, to arrive at the concept of pure abstraction with his early works marked by an exaggerated figurative style that shifted from representational painting to abstraction by the late 1930s and his 1944-N No. 1 (PH-235), which will be on display at the museum's opening, believed to be the first example of pure Abstract Expressionism, having pre-dated Pollack's drip paintings by three years; and

**WHEREAS**, the privately funded, \$29 million, 28,500-square-foot museum, designed by Brad Cloepfil and Allied Works Architecture especially to display the prolific artist's work, is a dense, cantilevered two-story building of richly worked concrete, featuring nine light-filled galleries on its second level, as well as a library, educational and archival resources, a conservation studio, and collection storage on its first floor with the public entrance framed by a woodsy grove of trees and landscaped forecourt, which creates a compelling environment to experience Still's work, and learn about his life and impact; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clyfford Still Museum is the newest addition to Denver's burgeoning Cultural Arts District located adjacent to the Denver Art Museum (DAM) in the city's Civic Center Cultural Complex and joins the DAM's dramatic, titanium-clad Frederic C. Hamilton building, designed by architect Daniel Libeskind and Denver's own Davis Partnership Architects, the 1971 DAM building designed by Italian architect Gio Ponti in partnership with Denver's James Sudler Associates, as well as, the Denver Public Library designed by Michael Graves and the nearby Colorado History Museum designed by David Tryba to create an unprecedented international cultural destination in the heart of Denver; and

**WHEREAS**, the Still museum is orchestrating a two-week series of inaugural events—ranging from the World Premiere of STILL, a film about the artist at the Denver Film Center on November 10 and 13 to the opening ceremony on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 am - in celebration of the museum's opening and its premier exhibit of about 60 paintings, 50 works on paper and three sculptures of the legendary artist.

**NOW THEREFORE,**

**BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council hereby honors the Clyfford Still Museum and urges residents to visit and participate in the many events celebrating the inauguration of Denver's newest cultural gem in the heart of the City's cultural district.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to the Dean Sobel, director of the Clyfford Still Museum.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL November 7, 2011

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PRESIDENT