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Feb. 13, 2009

Media Web site: americanart.si.edu/pr

Media Advisory

WHAT: Photo opportunity: “Presidential Cupcakes,” a double portrait of Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama, titled “A New Birth of Freedom,” made from more than 5,600 cupcakes

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 14
Noon – 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Smithsonian American Art Museum
Luce Foundation Center
8th and F streets N.W.

WHO: Zilly Rosen, artist

A double portrait of Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama, created by artist Zilly Rosen from more than 5,600 cupcakes, will be on view in the Smithsonian American Art Museum Saturday, Feb. 14. From noon until 5 p.m., the public is invited to view the portrait, titled “A New Birth of Freedom,” from the mezzanine level in the museum’s Luce Foundation Center; at 5 p.m. everyone will be asked to help “de-install” the portrait by eating the cupcakes.

Rosen will work during the afternoon of Feb. 13 and the morning of Feb. 14 to assemble the cupcake portrait. Although her construction is not part of the public event, the installation will be broadcast live from 2-5 p.m. today, and noon to 6:30 p.m. Saturday, on the museum’s Web site, <http://americanart.si.edu/calendar/activities/cupcakes/>. In addition, a time-lapse feature of the portrait’s construction and de-installation will be posted on the museum’s blog, Eye Level, next week.

“Presidential Cupcakes” is presented in conjunction with Presidential Family Fun Day, a separate event jointly sponsored by the Smithsonian American Art Museum and the National Portrait Gallery, which will take place Feb. 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the museums’ Kogod Courtyard. See americanart.si.edu/calendar for more information.

Camera crews and photographers will be asked to sign in and must have a staff escort while in the museum’s galleries.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is located at Eighth and F streets N.W., above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily, except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Smithsonian information: (202) 633-1000 or TTY (202) 633-5285. Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Web site: americanart.si.edu.

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