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Contact:

Cat Harper
National Steinbeck Center
One Main Street, Salinas, CA 93901
(831)-775-4735
cat@steinbeck.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW EXHIBIT AT THE NATIONAL STEINBECK CENTER: *Bringing the work of Civil Rights era photojournalist, Griffith J. Davis, to Salinas.*

On Saturday, January 13, 2024, the National Steinbeck Center (One Main Street, Salinas, CA) will launch its latest temporary exhibit: **Artists in Parallel: Griffith J. Davis and John Steinbeck**. This exhibition juxtaposes the photography of Griffith Davis and the writing of John Steinbeck—both of whose lives entwined with the leading celebrities, politicians, and development leaders of their day.

The National Steinbeck Center will host an opening reception for this exhibit on January 13, 2024, from 5:30 PM to 7 PM. This event features Dorothy Davis, daughter of Griffith J. Davis and President of the Griffith J. Davis Photographs and Archives, remarking on the historical importance of her father's work and the impact it had on her family.

In partnership with Dorothy Davis of Griffith J. Davis Photographs and Archives, the National Steinbeck Center has curated a four-fold exhibit of the enduring art these men leave behind. The exhibit shows Davis and Steinbeck's artistic depictions of **Celebrities, Political figures, Family life, and Development projects**.

From Lena Horne and Sidney Poitier to Burgess Meredith and Arthur Miller, both men documented their friendships with the most recognizable singers, actors, and writers of the 1940s to the 1960s. Through Davis' work in the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Steinbeck through his visits to Cold War era Soviet States, both were near seats of power worldwide.

Both men documented their family lives through their art, photographing and writing about their wives and children. Their photography and writing mingle the simple scenes of family life with world-changing historical events and people. Finally, both men shone a light on the need for development projects. Davis through his photography in Liberia, Ethiopia, and newly liberated Ghana, while Steinbeck immortalized the plight of the Okies in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

This exhibit is a deep dive into the importance of art in the unfolding of world events and explores how the people who document these momentous events leave as much of an enduring legacy as those who author them. Tickets to the opening reception are available at www.steinbeck.org. Tickets for the reception *must* be purchased in advance (\$5 for NSC Members, \$10 for General Admission). The exhibit runs until March 24, 2024. It can be viewed by any museum visitor with a valid ticket to the permanent exhibition at the National Steinbeck Center. Museum hours are Wednesday to Sunday, 10 AM to 5 PM.

The National Steinbeck Center is dedicated to educating audiences on the work of John Steinbeck through its permanent exhibit, educational programs, and partnerships with artists all over the world.

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