



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui to premiere on Western Reserve PBS

*Program to air in celebration of
artist's exhibition opening at Akron Art Museum*

NORTHEAST OHIO — May 24, 2012 — In celebration of the Akron Art Museum's exhibition "Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui," which opens Saturday, June 17, Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1) will air the documentary **Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui** on Friday, June 15, at 9 p.m.

Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui gives an insider's view of the artist's practice, the ingenious steps and thousands of hours of labor that convert used bottle tops into huge, opulent wall hangings.

Anatsui, a native of Ghana, explains how his artworks have become a marriage of painting and sculpture, objects that speak of African history but also reach for the ethereal. He also talks about his aspirations for artworks he has yet to make.

The program shows El Anatsui installing work on the great world stage of the Venice Biennale; visits the small town of Nsukka, Nigeria, as the celebrated artist goes about his daily life; and follows him inside the hive of his studio directing assistants as they stitch together bottle tops into a vast metal hanging. Finally, Anatsui admits viewers to the privacy of his home where he tells about his formative years and reveals a youthful discovery that clouded his life.

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In addition to the June 15 premiere, **Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui** will air on Western Reserve PBS on Saturday, June 16, at 11 p.m.; Monday, June 18, at 9 p.m.; and Monday, June 25, at 1 a.m. Airdates on Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2) can be found at WesternReservePBS.org/schedule.htm.

The Akron Art Museum is organizing the national tour of “Gravity and Grace: Monumental Works by El Anatsui,” and the exhibition will premiere in Akron from June 17-Oct. 7, 2012. Organized by Interim Chief Curator Ellen Rudolph, in collaboration with the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery in New York, the exhibition highlights Anatsui’s most recent work and features 12 monumental metal wall and floor sculptures widely considered to represent the apex of the artist’s career. Most have never before been seen in North America.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population (4.9 million people) of Ohio’s eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.9 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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