

A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Discover the Florida Landscape through the eyes of photographer Clyde Butcher and painter A.E. Backus in the new exhibition Backus & Butcher

Fort Pierce, FL – March 6, 2019 – This spring the A.E. Backus Museum will explore kindred spirits of the land through the works of two masters of painting and photography in the exhibition ***Backus & Butcher and the Florida Landscape***, on view March 9 – April 28, 2019. The opening reception will be held on Friday, March 15 from 6:00-8:00 pm (free for members, not-yet members \$20), and the Museum will offer an opportunity to meet photographer Clyde Butcher at a special book signing event on Saturday, March 30 from 1:00-3:00 pm. For more information, please visit www.BackusMuseum.com.

While a generation apart, these two artists share a reverent vision of the iconic majesty of the swamps, shores, glades, and savannas of the state they call home. A.E. Backus (1906-1990) with brush, oil, and canvas captured the natural wonder of our landscape in beloved paintings that evoke a timeless quality. America's heir to Ansel Adams, Clyde Butcher (b. 1941) has perfected the large-format black and white explorations of an earlier era, using his practiced and expert eye to capture the exquisite splendor in the wilds that still surround us.

The Backus Museum is working directly with the photographer to assemble thirteen of his greatest Florida images to complement the masterpieces of Backus, many on loan from private collections. All are breathtaking, and will be on display through the spring and Earth Day.

While these artists traveled two distinct creative paths, they shared one abiding passion: an admiring love for the rich variety of landscapes of the state they call home. ***Backus & Butcher and the Florida Landscape*** is sponsored by Dean, Mead, Minton & Zwemer Attorneys at Law and Misty & Michael Minton. The exhibition is organized by the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery.

About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery

With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery houses the nation's largest public presentation of artwork by Florida's preeminent painter, A.E. "Bean" Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state's only permanent multimedia exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, Backus was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the

businesses and the private collections of many of Florida's most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the Florida Highwaymen. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim. It was voted "Best Museum 2018" in Indian River Magazine's annual "Best of the Treasure Coast," where it was described as "a fabulous place to visit."

Regular Hours are: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 PM (closed Monday-Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day. The Museum is closed on Easter Sunday.

IMAGES:

1. A.E. Backus (American, 1906-1990). *Everglades Island*, c. 1970. Oil on canvas. Collection of the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery, 2008.B2.OC.3
2. Clyde Butcher (American, b.1941). *Crystal River*, 1994. Analog - Archival Silver Gelatin Print. Courtesy of the artist.
3. Clyde Butcher signing (photo by Rick Cruz)

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