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For Immediate Release

Contemporary art exhibition on the life and work of the Rev. Dr. John Roberts among Native Americans by noted Irish artist Brian Whelan to tour US, Wales and England

Casper, WY – June 4, 2023: A new contemporary art exhibition titled *WHITE ROBE: The Story of the Sacred Journey of the Rev. John Roberts among Native Americans*, is on a multi-year tour, featuring the work of the celebrated Irish artist Brian Whelan.

The US Federal Indian boarding schools of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were established to enculturate and assimilate Native Americans into white American culture, resulting in the suppression of Indigenous culture and languages. As the tragedies of these schools are coming to light, the life and work of the Rev. Dr. John Roberts stands out as an exemplary model of doing the opposite, as he honored indigenous Native American spirituality and embraced their culture and languages.

The acclaimed Irish artist Brian Whelan was commissioned by *ArtSpirit*, the arts initiative of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming, and CARAVAN, an international arts non-profit, to produce 13 paintings about the remarkable life and work of the Rev. John Roberts, the renowned Welsh Anglican priest who served among Native Americans on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming for 66 years (1883–1949). The exhibition is curated by The Rt. Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming and Founder of CARAVAN Arts.

WHITE ROBE premiered at the John Roberts Festival in Ft. Washakie, Wyoming on June 3, 2023, the 140th anniversary of the Rev. John Roberts' arrival on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming, in 1883, where he served among the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes. Beyond commemorating the extraordinary life, work and example of the Rev. John Roberts, the exhibition also draws attention to the importance of learning from the spirituality, culture and traditions of our Native American sisters and brothers.

Following the premiere in Ft. Washakie, Wyoming, WHITE ROBE embarked on an international exhibition tour, beginning at the Pioneer Museum in Lander, Wyoming, and then followed by other venues in Wyoming and throughout the United States, and ending in Wales and England. Following the multi-year tour, the paintings will be on permanent display in Wyoming.

For more information and a virtual gallery, see: oncaravan.org/whiterobe

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CURATOR

The Rt. Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler

Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming and Founder of CARAVAN Arts

Bishop Paul-Gordon Chandler grew up in Senegal, West Africa, and has lived and worked extensively around the world in senior leadership roles within publishing, the arts, relief and development and The Episcopal Church. An author, art curator, and social entrepreneur, he is passionate about using the arts to further our global quest for a more harmonious future, both with each other and with the earth.

He is the Founder of CARAVAN, an international arts non-profit/NGO, recognized as a leader in using the arts to transform our world. He has organized and curated major art exhibitions around the world, in sacred spaces such as St. Paul's Cathedral in London and National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. and at notable art venues like the National Gallery of Fine Arts in Amman, Jordan, the American University Museum in Washington, D.C., Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery, Museum of Modern Art in Cairo, Egypt, as well as at reverential memorial sites like Ground Zero in New York. For more information see: paulgordonchandler.com

ORGANIZERS

ArtSpirit is the arts initiative of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming, which explores and nurtures the relationship between spirituality and the arts, by developing, curating, coordinating and hosting artistic initiatives to stimulate discussion, dialogue and education, as well as spiritual exploration, toward enhancing our experience and understanding of both the Transcendent and of each other. For more information, see: episcopalwy.org/artspirit

CARAVAN, an international arts NGO/non-profit, is recognized as a global leader in using the arts to further our global quest for a more harmonious future, both with each other and with the earth. CARAVAN's mission is based on the belief that the arts can be one of the most effective mediums to heal our world and to creatively foster peace, harmony, wholeness and health in all its forms. For more information on CARAVAN see: oncaravan.org

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