



## FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

**Dawn K. Roberts**  
Interim Secretary of State

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### **James Hutchinson and Johnny Tillotson to be inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame**

TALLAHASSEE, FL – Interim Secretary of State Dawn K. Roberts is pleased to announce the selection of painter James Hutchinson and singer/songwriter Johnny Tillotson for induction into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. Both artists will be inducted during Florida Heritage Month, March 2011.

#### James Hutchinson

A cultural landscape and historical narrative painter born in 1932 and raised in Stuart, James F. Hutchinson's award-winning images of Florida's back country and native wildlife are held by national collectors, museums, libraries, and universities. One of Florida's finest master artists, he is particularly renowned for his early documentation of Indian culture funded by the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation. Mr. Hutchinson's years living among the Seminole and Miccosukee in the 1960s produced the first paintings of tribal elders and their families in the Everglades at a time when Florida's native people had not yet fully engaged mainstream society. This historically accurate work is now included in the permanent collections of HistoryMIAMI and the Elliott Museum in Stuart. Commemorative prints of these were published in Florida's Official Bicentennial Book, and gifted to international heads of state. His artwork has contributed to six Florida books and countless publications.

“James Hutchinson is an artist whose work evokes the native soul of Florida,” said Secretary Roberts. “His long years of bringing our natural and historical landscapes to his easel, has forever placed these images in a context where our descendents will be able to appreciate the state’s many wonders.”

Mr. Hutchinson’s later paintings and sculpture have been collected internationally, and he continues to receive commissions to depict the natural wonders of this state and of the State of Hawaii, where he also has an art studio.

### Johnny Tillotson

Johnny Tillotson of Punta Gorda and Los Angeles, California, was born in Jacksonville in 1938. An internationally-known entertainer and recording artist, he represents the bedrock of early Pop Music and had many charted hits. His hit songs have been recorded by more than 100 popular artists, including: Elvis Presley, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, Billy Joe Royal, Hank Locklin, and others. In his long career as a recording artist, he received many entertainment industry achievement awards for his influence in the world of music. Mr. Tillotson’s career has taken him to worldwide fame.

“Johnny Tillotson’s career spans decades of writing and recording hit songs of American Popular Music that provide a well-remembered soundtrack to the lives of many Floridians,” said Secretary Roberts. “His lifetime commitment as a sponsor and performer at benefit concerts and charity events has helped an untold number of people in this state and throughout the U.S.”

He released a long list of albums and sold millions of records worldwide. His standing on the Billboard Pop Charts of the Fifties and Sixties is legendary. An early star of the *American Bandstand* show, his music has often been used in film and television, and he performed with all the major artists. He wrote and/or recorded many of that era’s top hits, and was one of the very first crossover artists of the Pop/Country field—also appearing on the stage at the Grand Ol’ Opry with the most popular Country Music artists. Mr. Tillotson still tours internationally and appears in many charity benefit concerts and telethons across the country. He is the recipient of the 2006 Alumni of Distinction Award from the University of Florida, his alma mater.

Established by the Florida Legislature in 1986, the Florida Artists Hall of Fame recognizes persons, living or deceased, who have made significant contributions to the arts in Florida either as performing or practicing artists in their disciplines. These individuals contribute to Florida's national or international reputation as a state with a sustained commitment to the development of cultural excellence. The Florida Artists Hall of Fame currently consists of over 30 inductees, including musician and performer Ray Charles, actor and director Burt Reynolds, writers Zora Neale Hurston, Tennessee Williams and Ernest Hemingway, filmmaker Victor Nunez, and visual artists Duane Hanson, Robert Rauschenberg and James Rosenquist.

For more information about the Florida Artists Hall of Fame, contact Ken Crawford at 850.245.6395, email [kcrawford@dos.state.fl.us](mailto:kcrawford@dos.state.fl.us), or visit <http://www.florida-arts.org/programs/halloffame/index.cfm>.

The Division of Cultural Affairs is Florida's legislatively designated state arts agency. The Division promotes the arts and culture as essential to quality of life for all Floridians. To achieve its mission, the Division funds and supports cultural programs that provide artistic excellence, diversity, education, access and economic vitality for Florida's communities. To learn more about the Division and its programs, visit [www.florida-arts.org](http://www.florida-arts.org).

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