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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A.G. Edwards Brings Ten Women Printmakers To The Print Center

PHILADELPHIA (Nov. 26) – Vibrant and colorful prints by established and emerging American artists will be on display when the exhibit “Contemporary Abstraction by Ten Women Printmakers” opens at The Print Center on December 5. The collection will be on loan from the corporate headquarters of A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. in St. Louis.

“Contemporary Abstraction” includes a piece from painter and printmaker Helen Frankenthaler. At age 74, she is widely considered the country’s most prominent living female artist. As one of the most important and prolific printmakers of the late 20th century, she continues to find and explore new creative print methods, working in rough progression from lithographs to etchings, woodcuts, monotypes and—most recently—screen prints. Her print entitled “Eve,” which will be featured in the exhibit, is one in a series of prints Frankenthaler has done for the Lincoln Center print program, which commissions artists to create print editions commemorating Lincoln Center events and performances.

The prints used in the “Contemporary Abstraction” exhibit are part of the A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. corporate art collection. Established in 1967, the collection features more than 4,000 works by noted American and European artists, which span a period of over 200 years. In 1991, the firm created a traveling exhibit program to bring selections to local arts and cultural institutions throughout the country. The program has visited more than 35 institutions to date.

“We are excited to be able to exhibit these impressive prints,” said Walt Schwenk, vice president with A.G. Edwards and branch manager of the Cherry Hill office. “Philadelphia is rich in art tradition, and we hope this exhibit will be enjoyable to the people who have an opportunity

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to visit and see the prints. This is just one small way we can give something back to the community and support the mission of this fine institution.”

A concurrent exhibit at the Print Center will feature recipients of The Leeway Foundation's 2002 Awards to Emerging and Established Artists in Photography/Works on Paper. Leeway supports individual women artists, arts programs and arts organizations, focusing on the Greater Philadelphia region. Contemporary women printmakers were selected as the subject for the A.G. Edwards exhibit, as they complemented the Leeway award winners.

Showcasing artists with a wide range of artistic backgrounds, the display will include 11 prints created between 1991 and 2000. The works of this particular group, collectively, have been displayed in some of the most distinguished art museums in the country, ranging from the Guggenheim and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, to the Smithsonian and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Founded in 1915 as one of the first venues in this country dedicated to the appreciation of prints, The Print Club supported the "dissemination, study, production, and collection of works by printmakers, American and foreign." In 1942, The Print Center donated its collection of prints to the Philadelphia Museum of Art establishing the museum's print department. Today, The Print Center's mission is to support printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourage the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms.

“Contemporary Abstraction by Ten Women Printmakers” is free and open to the public, and will run from December 5, 2002 through February 15, 2003. The opening reception will be held on December 5, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The Print Center is located at 1614 Latimer Street (between Locust and Spruce) and is open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. In addition to Frankenthaler's prints, the exhibit will include works by Louise Bourgeois, Suzanne Caporael, Mary Heilmann, Melissa Meyer, Sabina Ott, Judy Pfaff, Janis Provisor, Joan Schulze, and Pat Steir.

For 115 years, individuals and businesses have turned to A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. to develop strong personal relationships with financial consultants who are dedicated to a client-first philosophy of providing sound investment advice and long-term financial solutions tailored to their clients' individual needs. A.G. Edwards and its affiliates encompass more than 7,300 financial consultants in over 700 offices nationwide. More information about A.G. Edwards can be found at www.agedwards.com.
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The Print Center supports printmaking and photography as vital contemporary arts and encourages the appreciation of the printed image in all its forms. The Print Center presents a variety of programs for the public including 13 exhibitions annually; The Print Center Gallery Store offering the largest and most diverse selection of contemporary prints in Philadelphia; the longest running annual international competition for prints and photographs in the country; an extensive series of continuing education programs; and special events.