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DELAWARE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS WEBSITE FOR THE ART OF STORYTELLING

Wilmington, DE (May 21, 2008)—The Delaware Art Museum is pleased to announce *The Art of Storytelling* interactive website is now available online at www.artofstorytelling.org. This website allows users to experience creative stories inspired by works of art in the Museum's collection and submit their own stories for possible inclusion. Users can also create new works of art and submit stories about them as well. Lesson plans are available to help teachers utilize *The Art of Storytelling* in the classroom.

The Art of Storytelling offers three main features:

- **Experience a Story:** Read or listen to creative stories inspired by works in the Museum's collection or stories about newly created works. Twenty of the stories were originally recorded as part of a podcast tour of the Museum following a nationwide call for entries.
- **Tell a Story:** View 28 works of art from the Museum's collection and create a story about one of them. Stories can be typed or recorded through use of a computer microphone. Stories can then be e-mailed to family and friends, and even submitted to the Museum for possible inclusion on *The Art of Storytelling* website.
- **Picture a Story:** Create a new, unique masterpiece by choosing a genre and combining elements from different works of art, including backgrounds, characters, and props. A story can also be typed or recorded about this new work, and then e-mailed and/or submitted to the Museum.

Teachers can use *The Art of Storytelling* website as a fresh outlet for introducing various writing genres to their students. Lesson plans are available for upper Elementary School (Grades 3 – 5), Middle School (Grades 6 – 8), and High School (Grades 9 – 12). The Teacher's Idea Page allows educators to share thoughts and strategies for using *The Art of Storytelling* in the classroom.

The Art of Storytelling first began in 2006, when the Delaware Art Museum invited storytellers of all ages to create stories about works in the Museum's collection. Over 300 original tales were submitted, some by children, some by adults, and some by the artists themselves. The 20 winning stories were recorded and compiled into an audio podcast, and visitors can listen to this podcast by borrowing an iPod from the Museum's Front Desk. Two computer stations were added to the Museum to allow users to create works of art and write stories about them. Now, with the launch of *The Art of Storytelling* website, anyone with access to the Internet can enjoy the posted stories and create their own.

The Art of Storytelling, created in collaboration with Night Kitchen Interactive, Philadelphia, PA, was made possible by generous funding from the Wings Foundation with additional support from the Pollyanna Foundation.

About Night Kitchen Interactive

Night Kitchen Interactive is an award-winning interactive design firm with over 10 years of experience in the arts & cultural heritage. Through close collaboration with curators, marketers, and educators, Night Kitchen creates unique online experiences that inform, engage, and inspire. Clients include The Pew Charitable Trusts, The National Constitution Center, and The Smithsonian Institution. Night Kitchen Interactive was founded in 1997 and is located in historic Society Hill in Center City Philadelphia. For more information, visit www.whatscookin.com.

About the Delaware Art Museum

The Delaware Art Museum, located at 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806, is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday noon – 4:00 p.m. Admission fees are charged as follows: adults (18 – 59) \$10, seniors (60+) \$8, college students \$5, and youth (7 – 17) \$3, with children 6 and under entering for free. Admission fees are waived every Sunday thanks to support from AstraZeneca. For more information, call 302-571-9590 or 866-232-3714 (toll free), or visit the website at www.delart.org.

Founded in 1912, the Delaware Art Museum holds a world-renowned collection that focuses on American art and illustration from the 19th century to the present as well as the British Pre-Raphaelite movement. The Museum offers the outdoor Copeland Sculpture Garden, the Helen Farr Sloan Library & Archives, studio art classes, the interactive Kids' Corner learning area, the delART Café featuring free Wi-Fi access, and the Museum Store with distinctive books and gifts.