

Media Contact: Dennis Lawson • Manager of Public Relations
302-571-9590 ext. 515 • dlawson@delart.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DELAWARE ART MUSEUM
ADVANCE EXHIBITION SCHEDULE THROUGH 2009**

Garry Knox Bennett: Call Me Chairmaker

Through September 21, 2008

This exhibition features 52 one-of-a-kind sculptural chairs created by Garry Knox Bennett, one of the foremost contemporary studio furniture makers in America. Inspired by well-known furniture designers and architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Charles Rennie Mackintosh, George Nakashima, and Gerrit Rietveld, Bennett's wit and imagination come to life with such chairs as *Wiggle Wright* and *Great Granny Rietveld*.

Gifted: Recent Additions to the Permanent Collection

Through November 9, 2008

Like most art museums, the Delaware Art Museum has acquired the majority of its permanent collection through gifts. This exhibition features more than 30 works of art given to the Delaware Art Museum since its reopening in June 2005. Paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture, and ceramics—including works from the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection—will be featured. *Gifted* gives visitors a glimpse into how the Museum's collection grows through the generosity of collectors.

Bare Witness: Photographs by Gordon Parks

October 11, 2008 – January 4, 2009

This retrospective exhibition features 73 works selected by Gordon Parks (1912 – 2006) as examples of his most potent imagery. After rising as a portrait and fashion photographer, Parks also began documenting social ills as part of the Farm Security Administration. In 1948, he became the first African American staff photographer for *Life* magazine and established an international reputation for his photo essays chronicling the lives of the poor and the Civil Rights movement. He was also an author (*The Learning Tree*), filmmaker (*Shaft*), poet, and musician, a renaissance man whose career embodies the American ideal of equality.

Masterpieces in Miniature

November 1, 2008 – January 11, 2009

The Delaware Art Museum is pleased to announce the return of its family-friendly attraction for the holidays. The Museum has again invited premier miniature artists from the region to produce miniatures based on an existing masterpiece. Each of the imaginative installations will be inspired by a masterpiece of art, many from the Museum's own collections.

Frank E. Schoonover: An Artist for All Seasons

November 22, 2008 – February 1, 2009

Frank E. Schoonover was a prolific American illustrator during the "Golden Age of Illustration," the early 20th century. This overview of his extensive career is mounted to celebrate the publication of a catalogue raisonné of the illustrator's work, written and published by The Frank E. Schoonover Fund, Inc. The exhibition features works from private collections and the Schoonover Fund Collection.

Paintings from the Reign of Victoria: The Royal Holloway Collection

January 31, 2009 – April 12, 2009

This exhibition includes 60 of the most important paintings of the Victorian period, encompassing the full range of subject matter and style. The paintings were acquired by Thomas Holloway and installed in the women's college he founded in 1879, still in operation today. The collection includes scenes of contemporary life, historical events, landscapes, animal studies, and marine subjects. Holloway believed art could be a teaching tool, equating beauty with morality. He bought only the best (and most expensive) pieces exhibited at the annual exhibitions of the Royal Academy in London. Artists represented include, among others, Sir Edwin Landseer, William Powell Frith, and Pre-Raphaelite painter Sir John Everett Millais.

John Sloan in Philadelphia and New York

February 21, 2009 – May 17, 2009

John Sloan made his hometown, Philadelphia, the subject of his works before moving to New York in 1904. His images of pedestrians and public places helped define New York City in the popular imagination. In etchings, paintings, and newspaper illustrations, Sloan developed his unique approach to picturing the city. *John Sloan in Philadelphia and New York* examines works created between 1892 and 1928, allowing visitors to see the evolution of Sloan's vision of city life. This focused exhibition celebrates the return of works from *Seeing the City: Sloan's New York* and the conservation of Sloan's painting *Night, Washington Square, Philadelphia*, made possible by a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation.

Ancestry and Innovation: African American Art from the American Folk Art Museum

May 2, 2009 – July 12, 2009

This exhibition features textiles, paintings, works on paper, and sculpture by contemporary African American artists. From vibrant quilts and weathervanes to provocative assemblages and paintings, this wide-ranging exhibition explores the artistic expressions of self-taught African American artists from the rural South and the urban North. *Ancestry and Innovation* includes works of art by an elder generation of creators, such as David Butler, Sam Doyle, Bessie Harvey, and Clementine Hunter; by contemporary masters such as Thornton Dial, Sr. and Thornton Dial, Jr.; and by emerging artists such as Kevin Sampson and Willie LeRoy Elliot.

Illustrating Her World: Ellen Bernard Thompson Pyle

August 1, 2009 – January 3, 2010

Ellen Bernard Thompson Pyle (1876 – 1936) receives the first overview of her career ever gathered in this exhibition of approximately 50 works. Ellen Pyle was one of only a small number of female illustrators who created covers for the *Saturday Evening Post*, and within that group, only two other women sold more covers to the magazine. While her earliest *SEP* covers were of the standard “pretty woman type,” she made her mark with vignettes of daily family life.

Fifty Works for the First State: The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection

August 15, 2009 – October 4, 2009

This exhibition of Minimal and Conceptual art is comprised of 50 works of art that the Delaware Art Museum received as a gift from the renowned collection of Dorothy and Herbert Vogel. The Museum was given these works as part of a joint initiative called *Fifty Works for Fifty States* that was launched by the Vogels and the National Gallery of Art, with support the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This program is distributing 2,500 works from the Vogels’ collection of contemporary art throughout the nation, with 50 works going to a selected institution in each of the 50 states. The Delaware Art Museum’s exhibition includes works by 23 artists, including Will Barnet, Robert Mangold, Edda Renouf, and Lynda Benglis.

Maxfield Parrish: Illustrated Letters

October 17, 2009 – January 17, 2010

In 1884 – 85, the teenage Maxfield Parrish travelled to England and Europe with his parents. In his letters home to a cousin and his grandmother, Parrish chronicled and illustrated his experiences. The illustrations reveal Parrish’s absorption and interpretation of popular culture. These youthful illustrated letters provide a peek at life in England and Europe in the mid-1880s and a link to Parrish’s amazing adult talent and humor.

Fantasies and Fairy-Tales: Maxfield Parrish and the Art of the Print

October 31, 2009 – January 10, 2010

Though recent scholarship has paid increased attention to Maxfield Parrish's career as a fine artist, the immense popularity of his work during the early 20th century rested on his appeal as a commercial artist. In many cases, Parrish's original paintings were a direct result of his commercial enterprises. Before abandoning figurative work in the 1950s, Parrish undertook hundreds of commissions for book illustrations, magazine covers, advertisements, and lithographs that reveal both his sense of humor and his eye for graphic design. This exhibition presents a comprehensive sampling of Parrish's printed works, offering insight into the multifaceted relationship between the worlds of commercial and fine art.

ABOUT THE 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.

###