

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

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**DELAWARE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
2008 FALL FUNDRAISER**

Wilmington, DE (August 28, 2008)—The Delaware Art Museum presents the “Take a Seat” 2008 Fall Fundraiser on Saturday, September 20, from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. This party is inspired by the current exhibition *Garry Knox Bennett: Call Me Chairmaker*, on view through September 21. There will be a live auction of finely crafted chairs and a silent auction of “seats” to restaurants, theaters, and sporting events. The Museum will also present fireworks over the Copeland Sculpture Garden, live music, cocktails, and delicious cuisine. Proceeds will help support the Museum’s educational programs.

Tickets are \$80 for individuals and \$150 for couples. Museum Members receive a discount and will pay \$65 for individuals and \$125 for couples. Couples can also elect to purchase a set of Master Craftperson tickets for \$500, which includes two tickets, full bar service, and names in the evening’s program. (Other prices include complimentary beer and wine, with a cash bar for other drinks.)

Garry Knox Bennett’s one-of-a-kind sculptural chairs are a key part of the evening. During the live auction, some of Bennett’s chairs (including *Modified Nakashima*, inspired by the region’s own George Nakashima, and *Upholstered Chair*) will be available, straight from the *Chairmaker* exhibition.

In addition, Bennett recently stated in an interview with the *News Journal* that he would like to see visitors have a chance to sit on his latest piece, which he created for the Museum. This new chair, titled *Was Madox Brown Here?*, was inspired by *The Arming of a Knight*, a chair in the Museum’s Pre-Raphaelite collection that was produced by Dante Gabriel Rossetti and William Morris. So, partygoers will have the opportunity to be photographed in Bennett’s *Madox Brown* chair (for a fee of \$25), and take their photographs home that night.

Finely crafted chairs from around the region will also be up for auction, including one from Calico Corners and several surprises. At the silent auction of “seats” to restaurants, theaters, and sporting events, attendees will have the chance to bid on a number of great offerings, including season passes to the Delaware Theatre Company; an overnight stay at the Hotel du Pont; and dinner for six on the Museum’s Chihuly Bridge courtesy of Sodexo, the Museum’s award-winning exclusive caterer.

For more information or to RSVP, call Kathy Freney Smith at 302.351.8506, e-mail kfreney@delart.org, or visit www.delart.org.

About the Exhibition

Garry Knox Bennett: Call Me Chairmaker 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*. Also on view is Bennett’s latest creation, titled *Was Madox Brown Here?*, which is an interpretation of one of the Delaware Art Museum’s famous Morris/Rossetti chairs in the Pre-Raphaelite collection.

This exhibition has been organized by Bellevue Arts Museum and has been made possible through the generosity of the Microsoft Corporation.

In Delaware, this exhibition is made possible, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by the Delaware Art Museum Council.

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.

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