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**DELAWARE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
ILLUSTRATING HER WORLD: ELLEN B. T. PYLE**

Wilmington, DE (July 15, 2009)—The Delaware Art Museum presents *Illustrating Her World: Ellen B. T. Pyle*, featuring approximately 50 works in the first overview of Ellen Pyle’s career, on view August 1, 2009 – January 3, 2010. A student and sister-in-law of master illustrator Howard Pyle, Ellen Pyle drew acclaim from around the country for her covers for *The Saturday Evening Post* and other publications.

Ellen Bernard Thompson Pyle (1876-1936) was born in Germantown, Pennsylvania, and studied art at the Drexel Institute, where she was a student of illustrator Howard Pyle. She was one of the few women students invited to study illustration at Pyle’s Chadds Ford summer school. In 1904, she married Howard Pyle’s brother Walter. When he died in 1919, Ellen Pyle decided to return to illustration to support her four children. She worked up sample illustrations and planned to go to New York City seeking commissions. But before she was able to make the trip, her sister-in-law, the artist Katharine Pyle, took three of Ellen’s samples to *The Saturday Evening Post* offices in Philadelphia. Greatly impressed, the editor bought two of the three.

A prolific illustrator during the 1920s, Ellen Pyle created covers for *Parents’ Magazine*, *Pictorial Review*, and *Everybody’s Magazine*. But she was most famous for her 40 covers for *The Saturday Evening Post*. Along with Norman Rockwell and J. C. Leyendecker, Ellen Pyle was one of the select regular cover artists for *The Saturday Evening Post* from 1922 until her death in 1936. She was one of relatively few women illustrators of the time who did covers for general interest—rather than women’s—magazines. Pyle’s models for the most part were her children and people in her community of Wilmington, Delaware, and the surrounding region.

Press Preview

- **Thursday, July 30 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Dr. Mary F. Holahan, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Delaware Art Museum, and Lisa Smith, great-granddaughter of Ellen Pyle and organizer of the exhibition, will lead a tour and answer questions. Please RSVP to Dennis Lawson by Monday, July 27.

Special Event

- **Ellen Pyle Gallery Chats**

Friday, August 7 | 6:00 p.m. | Free

Friday, October 2 | 6:00 p.m. | Free

Lisa Smith, great-granddaughter of Ellen Pyle and organizer of *Illustrating Her World: Ellen B. T. Pyle*, will lead a tour of the exhibition and discuss the artist's life.

- **Ellen Pyle Saturday Tours**

First Saturdays from September 2009 through January 2010

(September 5, October 3, November 7, December 5, January 2)

11:30 a.m. | Free with admission

Lisa Smith, great-granddaughter of Ellen Pyle and organizer of *Illustrating Her World: Ellen B. T. Pyle*, will lead a tour of the exhibition and discuss the artist's life.

Catalog

The exhibition *Illustrating Her World: Ellen B. T. Pyle* has a companion book by the same title. The authors are Joyce K. Schiller, previously Curator of American Art at the Delaware Art Museum and now Inaugural Curator of the Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies at the Norman Rockwell Museum, and Lisa Smith, great-granddaughter of Ellen Pyle. Published by the Delaware Art Museum and available for purchase at the Museum Store beginning August 1, *Illustrating Her World* features an illustrated biography of the artist as well as a checklist of the works in the exhibition.

Organizer and Sponsors

Illustrating Her World: Ellen B. T. Pyle was organized by Lisa Smith and the Delaware Art Museum.

Support is provided by Family & Friends of Ellen B. T. Pyle, Curtis Publishing, and Wilmington Trust.

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.

About the Delaware Art Museum

The Delaware Art Museum, located at 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806, is open Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday noon – 4:00 p.m. Admission fees are charged as follows: Adults (19 – 59) \$12, Seniors (60+) \$10, Students (with valid ID) \$6, Youth (7 – 18) \$6, and Children (6 and under) 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 is best known for its large collection of British Pre-Raphaelite art, works by Wilmington-native Howard Pyle and fellow American illustrators, and urban landscapes by John Sloan and his circle. Visitors can also enjoy the outdoor Copeland Sculpture Garden and a number of major traveling exhibitions throughout the year.

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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