



For Immediate Release
February 18, 2009
302.674.2111 ext. 105

Media Contact
Sarah DiMondi
sdimondi@biggsmuseum.org

Biggs Museum Gala: An Affair with the Arts

Save the Date: Saturday, May 16, 2009



Dover, DE (February 18, 2009) – The Biggs Museum invites the public to save **Saturday, May 16, 2009** for the Fifth Annual Biggs Museum Gala: *An Affair with the Arts*. The Biggs Museum Gala is the Museum's largest annual fundraising event. Proceeds from the event directly benefit the continuance, growth and development of Museum temporary exhibitions and educational programming. Support of the 2008 event enabled the Museum to present three outstanding temporary exhibitions this past year: *Award Winners VIII*, *Forgotten Dreams: The Paintings of Edward Grant* and *Biggs Shot 2009*. The Museum also continued to offer the free monthly *Biggs Kids* program for children ages 5-10. An additional free educational program, *Mini-Masters*, was introduced in February 2009 to children ages 3-5. Proceeds from the 2009 Gala will directly benefit the further development of free, children's art educational programs and temporary exhibitions planned for 2009-2010. These temporary exhibitions include *Award Winners IX*, a children's art education exhibition, and an exhibition featuring Marine Artists.

Over 400 friends of the Biggs Museum are expected to attend the 2009 Biggs Museum Gala to celebrate the arts and their impact on our culture. The event boasts live entertainment, dinner and cocktails, a silent auction, a dance floor, raffle, and more. Back by popular demand, Trademark will return to provide live entertainment. The showmanship and talents of this dynamic group guarantees to yield the right blend of music to have all guests on the dance floor. Their music and style appeal to every generation and promises to highlight the evening's festivities. This year's cuisine will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, plus a buffet dinner offering highlights of the season.

Catering will be provided by The Granary of Georgetown, MD. An open bar, including specialty drinks, will also be offered. Tickets for this event range from \$100 per individual to \$1500 for a Benefactor Table for ten. Tickets can be purchased by mail, phone or on-line at www.biggsmuseum.org.



The Museum welcomes the 2009 Gala Committee led by this year's Honorary Chairs, Mr. and Mrs. William Willis of Smyrna, DE.

The 2009 Biggs Museum Gala is sponsored by WSFS Bank and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware. The 2009 Media Sponsors include Delaware Today, CAMP Rehoboth Community Center, The Dover Post and Delaware Beach Life Magazine. For information about event sponsorship

and other opportunities to *Give to the Gala*, please visit www.biggsmuseum.org or contact a Biggs Museum Staff or Gala Committee Member.

The 2009 Signature Image: Francis Luis Mora, *Fourth of July*, 1914, oil on canvas.

The Permanent Collection at the Biggs Museum holds a diverse array of art forms representing both historical and contemporary time periods. In an effort to parade the



diversity of time periods represented in the Museum, the staff of the Biggs Museum chose from its galleries an oil on canvas by Francis Luis Mora as the

signature image for the 2009 Biggs Museum Gala. *Fourth of July*, made in 1913 during the impressionist era, is an exceptional representation of the Biggs Museum's contemporary collection. Fresh outdoor scenes of sailing aficionados, *Fourth of July* is noteworthy for the joyful holiday spirit that is conveyed by the artist's integration of casually dressed figures of young men and women strolling and lounging on the pier railings. *Fourth of July* expresses a sense of celebration and community, just as the Biggs Museum Gala does each year.

If You Go: Gala Quick Facts

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2009

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Location: Legislative Mall, Dover, DE

Ticket Price: \$100/Individual to \$1,500/Table of 10

What: Dinner, Open Bar, Silent Auction, Live Entertainment, Raffle

Attire: Black Tie Optional/Cocktail Attire

Reservations: Tickets must be purchased in advance by

Mail: P.O. Box 711, Dover, DE 19903

Phone: (302) 674-2111

On-Line: www.biggsmuseum.org

About the Museum

The Biggs Museum seeks to serve a diverse public as a regional museum of fine and decorative arts, made from 1700 to present, representing the State of Delaware and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic region. The Biggs Museum engages audiences through a compelling program of temporary exhibitions and programming. The Biggs Museum encourages the development of creativity and an appreciation for art by offering a comprehensive slate of educational programming for all ages. The Biggs Museum of American Art is a private, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday through Saturday; 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Sunday; 1:30 p.m. until 4: 30 p.m.

Admission: Biggs Museum is free to the public year-round. Fees may apply to certain programs and special events.

The Biggs Museum of American Art

406 Federal Street

Dover, DE 19901

302.674.2111

www.biggsmuseum.org

Media Contact: Sarah DiMondi, 302.674.2111 ext.105, sdimondi@biggsmuseum.org

Top Images: *2008 Biggs Museum Gala*