

# Biggs Museum of American Art

For Immediate Release  
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## The Sixth Annual Biggs Museum Gala: An Affair with the Arts Saturday, May 15, 2010



Dover, DE (February 23, 2010) –The Biggs Museum invites the public to save **Saturday, May 15, 2010** for the Sixth 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 2009 event enabled the Museum to present three outstanding temporary exhibitions this past year: *Award Winners IX*, *Arts Connect-ED* and *Blue Water/Still Water*. The Museum also continued to offer *The Three Free*: three free, family-friendly art programs presented each month that include, *Biggs Kids*, *Mini-Masters*, and *First Friday*. Proceeds from the 2010 Gala will directly benefit the further development of *The Free Three* and additional free educational programming and temporary exhibition in the 2010-11 Fiscal Year.

In celebration of the Museum's recent expansion to assume use of the entire building on 406 Federal Street, the 2010 Gala will be in a different location around Legislative Mall this year. The 'big, white tent' will be erected directly in front of the Museum building to enhance guests' accessibility to the cause they are there to support and celebrate. Over 400 friends of the Biggs Museum are expected to attend the 2010 Biggs Museum Gala. The event boasts live entertainment, dinner and cocktails, a silent auction, a dance floor, raffle, and more. **Tribeca Grand** of Philadelphia will 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 three main food stations for dinner offering highlights of the season. Catering will be provided by **Nage** of Rehoboth Beach, DE. 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](http://www.biggsmuseum.org).

### The 2010 Gala Committee

The Museum welcomes the 2010 Gala Committee led by this year's **Honorary Chairs, Dr. and Mrs. Michael Mattern** of Dover, DE.

Honorary Chairs, Michael and Jane Mattern

David Affholder

Kenneth and Regina Brown

Jessica Cook

Fern Gnesin

Dolly and Vernon Ingram

Karen Janus

Nisha Lodhavia

Thomas and Jan Mercer

Donald Parks

L.D. and Donna Shank, III

July Schmucker-Trust and Josh Trust

Donna Stone

Gretchen Tillman

Bill and Mary Jane Willis

Georgeanna Windley

Heidi Wuller



### Sponsors

The 2010 Biggs Museum Gala is presented by WSFS Bank and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware. The 2010 Media Sponsors include The Dover Post, The News Journal, Delaware State News and Public Radio Delmarva. For information about event sponsorship and other opportunities to *Give to the Gala*, please visit [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org) or contact a Biggs Museum Staff or Gala Committee Member.

The 2010 Signature Image: Looking glass, England or United States, 1830-1850, white pine, composition, mirrored glass.

The Permanent Collection at the Biggs Museum holds a diverse array of art forms, representing painting, illustration, drawing, furniture making, sculpture and more. The Biggs Museum staff chose from its galleries a looking glass mirror as the 2010 Gala Signature Object to represent the fine craftsmanship of the decorative art objects in the Museum's collection.



An eagle, with outswept wings and with a floral swag held in its beak, perches in a commanding pose atop this grand oval looking glass. The bird's feathers are sharply defined, and the flowers and fruit are uncommonly well modeled. The distinctive looking glass blends two precedents: neoclassical oval looking glasses with comparatively narrow gilded frames and classical revival circular looking glasses with convex mirrors. The latter, properly called "mirrors" in the 18th and early 19th centuries, distorted the reflected image, but were intended primarily to reflect light. Although the *Oxford English Dictionary* provides one historical definition of "mirror" that encompasses any reflective surface, more in keeping with current usage, English furniture designer Thomas Sheraton defines the term very specifically as a concave or convex surface in *Cabinet Dictionary*.

The Biggs Museum staff believes this selection to be reflective of the current positive and forward-thinking disposition at the organization. The Museum has recently embarked on its largest endeavor as it expands in not only physical space, but also in its offerings to the community. The 2010 Gala will be a celebration of its expansion and of what is to come in the future.

#### **If You Go: Gala Quick Facts**

Date: Saturday, May 15, 2010

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

Location: 406 Federal Street, 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](http://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.biggmuseum.org](http://www.biggmuseum.org)

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