

# Biggs Museum of American Art

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## Blue Water/Still Water: American Society of Marine Artists

March 5, 2010 – June 20, 2010

**Dover, DE** – The Biggs Museum of American Art will open the spring 2010 exhibition: *Blue Water/Still Water* on Friday, March 5, 2010 with a *First Look pARTy!* from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Museum. The public is invited to attend this free program to enjoy soup of the sea and celebrate the artistic talents of the American Society of Marine.

*Blue Water/Still Water* is a must see for anyone who loves the sea. Celebrating America's rich maritime history as a seafaring nation, this dynamic exhibition brings together over one hundred of the most talented contemporary artists in the marine art field, recognized both nationally and internationally. Quiet shorelines, harbor views, and seascapes featuring tumultuous, roaring seas are presented with luminous light and emotion. A wide array of mediums – oils, water colors, pastels, scratchboard, pencil, sculpture and scrimshaw make this a most rewarding experience for viewers and collectors alike.

Founded in 1978, the American Society of Marine Artists' purpose is to promote marine art and maritime history and to encourage cooperation among artists, historians, marine enthusiasts and others engaged in activities related to marine art and maritime history. With over 500 members nationwide, regional ASMA exhibitions are presented every 3-4 years. Fifty works, both two- and three-dimensional, submitted by over 40 artists are chosen by a panel of three jurors, Ray Massey, William Davis and Austin Dwyer, two of whom are ASMA fellows.

"Artists have always found inspiration in the aquatic: from the vastness of the open ocean, where clear water rolls on in deep cobalt waves, to the stillness of shallow watersheds lit by

the song of bullfrogs and Painted Buntings. As members of the American Society of Marine Artists, we are some of the most ardent of these creative spirits who have followed our hearts and vision, creating beauty as we have seen it in an Aquarian world. It's not only the mission of the Society to educate the public to the inherent value of the marine world that surrounds us, but it is also our greatest pleasure to share these, our most treasured gifts, with you." - Michael Killelea, Chairman of ASMA Regional Exhibitions

For more information about the *Blue Water/Still Water* exhibition, please visit the Museum web-site at [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org). Following its tenure at the Biggs Museum, *Blue Water/Still Water* will be on display until June 20, 2010. *Blue Water/Still Water* will travel to The Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, MD and the Buffalo Naval Park Museum in Buffalo, NY.

### Exhibition-related Educational Programming

The Biggs Museum is pleased to present a full schedule of exhibition-related programming to accompany the *Blue Water/Still Water* exhibition. To celebrate the opening of *Blue Water/Still Water*, the Biggs Museum invites the public to a **First Look pARTy** on Friday, March 5, 2010 from 4:00 to 7: 00 p.m. The **First Look Party**, a downtown Dover *First Friday* program, is a family-friendly reception and free for all ages. Enjoy soups of the sea and mingle with some of the ASMA artists. Pre-registration is not required for the **First Look pARTY**.

During the tenure of *Blue Water/Still Water*, the Biggs Museum will host two **Art at Lunch** programs, providing participants to enjoy lunch in the galleries and learn more about marine life and history in Delaware. On Wednesday, April 7, DE Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs archaeologist Charles Fithian will discuss his research, conservation efforts and discoveries about the HMS deBraak, which capsized and sunk in 1798 in the Delaware Bay and remained until 1984 when it was rediscovered. On Wednesday, May 5, learn about the region's historic association with food and the personal heritage and regional influences associated with what we eat with author and storyteller, Ed Okonowicz.

Seafood lovers will enjoy **An Evening of Artful Dining: Fish and Ships** on Friday, March 5. A three-course sea-themed meal will be served and lecture on marine life sustainability will be presented during the meal by Doris Hicks of the University of Delaware.

Participants will step out of the Biggs Museum and travel to Bowers Beach to experience plein air oil painting at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> **Marine Art Paint Out**. Steve Rogers, member of the American Society of Marine Artists, hopes to promote marine art and history, and to encourage cooperation among artists, historians and marine enthusiasts with this plein air oil painting workshop. An exhibition of the artwork created in the class will be celebrated the June 2010 **First Friday** program.

A majority of the *Blue Water/Still Water* exhibition-related programs is partially funded by a grant from the Delaware Humanities Forum, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Event Quick-Stats

### March 2010

**Event:** First Friday: First Look pARTy!: Blue Water/Still Water: American Society of Marine Artists opening reception

**Date:** Friday, March 5

**Time:** 4:00-7:00 p.m.

**Price:** Free, All Ages

**Description:** Enjoy festive fare and be one of the first to see the featured works of the American Society of Marine Artists. Light refreshments.

**Event:** An Evening of Artful Dining: Fish and Ships

**Date:** Friday, March 12

**Time:** Dinner begins promptly at 6 p.m.

**Price:** \$70 Members/\$75 Not-yet Members

**Description:** Enjoy a unique opportunity to dine in the Biggs Museum galleries and participate in an art education program, such as a lecture, film, or performance. A lecture on marine life sustainability will be presented during the meal by Doris Hicks of the University of Delaware.

### April 2010

**Event:** Biggs Kids: Sailors Knots

**Date:** Saturday, April 3

**Time:** 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**Price:** Free, Children Ages 5-10

**Description:** Make your own rope bracelet! Learn why these woven rope bracelets have been made and worn by mariners for ages.

**Event:** *Art at Lunch: DeBraak*

**Date:** Wednesday, April 7

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Price:** \$20 not-yet members /\$18 members

**Description:** The HMS DeBraak capsized and sunk in 1798 in the Delaware Bay where she remained until her discovery in 1984. Charles Fithian, Archeologist with the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs was director of the DeBraak research and conservation efforts and will discuss many of his discoveries. Ticket price includes lunch.

### May 2010

**Event:** *Art at Lunch: Food Lore-Scrapple, Muskrat and More*

**Date:** Wednesday, May 5

**Time:** 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Price:** \$20 not-yet members /\$18 members

**Description:** Learn about the region's historic association with food and the personal heritage and regional influences associated with what we eat with author and storyteller, Ed Okonowicz. From the catches of the Delaware Bay and Chesapeake Bay watermen and duck hunters to the Smith Island Layer Cake, what we consume reflects on who we are, where we came from, and where we live and work. In this informative and entertaining program, learn about and discuss America's regional foods and, in particular, the cuisine most identified with the immediate Delmarva region. Ticket price includes lunch.

**Event:** First Friday: Sunken Treasures-Pewter Toys and Other Objects Found on the Roosevelt Inlet Shipwreck

**Date:** Friday, May 7

**Time:** 5:00-6:00 p.m.

**Price:** Free, All Ages

**Description:** In the fall of 2004, during a beach replenishment project at Lewes Beach, sand dredging in the lower Delaware Bay struck a portion of an archaeological site resulting in thousands of artifacts being pumped onto Lewes Beach. Archaeologists from the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs recovered nearly 56,000 artifacts. The vessel, thought to be the remains of the British commercial ship Severn which was lost in a storm in May, 1774 is the oldest-known shipwreck discovered in Delaware waters. Craig Lukezic, Archeologist with the Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will discuss some of the findings. Light refreshments will be served.

**Event:** Marine Art Paint Out

**Date:** Saturday, May 22 and Sunday, May 23

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** South Bowers Beach

**Price:** \$100 members/\$90 members for both days

**Description:** Marine artists are often also plein air artists or artists that paint outdoors. Steve Rogers, member of the American Society of Marine Artists, hopes to promote marine art and history, and to encourage cooperation among artists, historians and marine enthusiasts with this plein air oil painting workshop. The first day will be dedicated to picking a marine subject, preliminary drawings and review of oil painting techniques. The second day will be used to complete the painting. An exhibition of artwork created in the class is scheduled for Friday, June 4. All skill levels welcome. Please bring lunch.

## June 2010

**Event:** First Friday: Marine Art Paint Out Exhibition

**Date:** Friday, May 7

**Time:** 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**Price:** Free, All Ages

**Description:** Come view the artwork created by Steve Rogers, member of the American Society of Marine Artists and the students from his Marine Art Paint Out in Bowers Beach. Those looking to decorate their homes with local scenes will have the opportunity to support emerging artists in the process. Light refreshments will be served.

## Registration Information

**Program Location:** All events and programs are held at the Biggs Museum; located at 406 Federal Street, Dover, DE. Directions to the Biggs Museum can be found on-line at [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org).

**Registration:** Pre-registration and pre-payment (where applicable) are required for all programs and events (including Biggs Kids and Mini-Masters). Pre-registration can be completed by:

- **Phone:** (302)674-2111, Monday – Friday: 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.
- **On-Line:** Visit [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org)

**Cancellation Policy:** The museum reserves the right to cancel classes due to insufficient enrollment or weather. In the event of a cancellation, registered participants will be notified and full tuition will be refunded.

**Publicity Policy:** The Biggs Museum reserves the right to use photos taken during classes and other programs. Registration in a class gives the Biggs Museum permission to use that image without further consent.

**Withdrawals/Refund Policy:** The Biggs Museum requires a 5 business-day advance notice of withdrawal from any event or program (paid and free programs).

## 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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