



For Immediate Release
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Warm up to the Biggs Museum at First Night
Annual Crown Decorating to be offered New Year's Eve



Dover, DE – The Biggs Museum invites the public to *Warm Up to the Biggs Museum* at the 2009 First Night Dover celebration to be held New Year's Eve, December 31, 2008. In addition to staying open, free to the public, until 8 p.m. December 31st, the Biggs Museum will host the 8th Annual Crown Decorating program. All children are invited to participate in this First Night favorite activity from 3p.m. until 6p.m. in the Museum. All program materials will be supplied by the Museum. Crown Decorating is free to participants and registration is not required. Both of the current temporary exhibitions, *Forgotten Dreams: The Paintings of Edward Grant* and *On A Smaller Scale* will also be on view to the public at First Night Dover.

Below, please see a detailed listing of all *First Night Dover* exhibitions and programs. 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.

Crown Decorating at First Night

Date: Wednesday, December 31

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Price: Free, Children of all Ages

Description: A First Night favorite! Children are invited to participate in the 8th annual crown decorating activity. All materials will be supplied and staff and volunteers will be on hand to assist the children.

Exhibitions

Forgotten Dreams: The Paintings of Edward Grant

Open November 5, 2008 – February 22, 2009

Forgotten Dreams rediscovers the beauty of the Delmarva Peninsula and reintroducing the work of a local arts hero. This exhibition features never-before seen works by a forgotten master painter, Edward Grant. Born in 1913 in Wilmington's 40-Acre section, Edward Grant studied with some of the state's most significant painters including: N.C. Wyeth, Frank Schoonover and Henryette Stadelman Whiteside. His painting career spanned an astounding 70 years and a wide variety of artistic styles including illustration, murals, Social Realism, Photo Realism, and Abstraction. After a 20-year career with Hercules, Grant retired to the Eastern Shore of Maryland where he continued his life-long love of painting the Delmarva Scene and teaching art classes.

Forgotten Dreams features the artist's personal collection from his Maryland studio. Presented in a comprehensive format, the exhibition displays a diverse array of the varied techniques and styles Grant utilized. Edward Grant received very little direct attention in the local news; he exhibited infrequently and has never been extensively published. He was to the simplest extent passionate for painting.

On a Smaller Scale: Dollhouses

Open November 5, 2008 - February 22, 2009

On a Smaller Scale features the recent acquisition of three exceptional dollhouses from the now closed Delaware Toy and Miniature Museum (DTMM), created by Dover resident, Barbara Merrell. These homes were commended by DTMM for their high degree of naturalistic detail within the incredibly small scale of one-half inch to one foot. Ms. Merrell's homes are half the size of the industry standard for most doll houses at one inch to a foot but Ms. Merrell's works are literally half the size. In addition, nearly every object furnishing these mini homes: the furniture, the textiles, the household items, were all made from Ms. Merrell's hands.

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

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www.biggsmuseum.org

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Top Images:

Left: *Doll House*, Barbara Merrell (Dover, DE), (*From the On a Smaller Scale Exhibition*)

Center: First Night Dover Logo

Right: *Melting Snow*, n.d., Edward Grant, Watercolor on paper (From the 2008 *Forgotten Dreams: The Paintings of Edward Grant Exhibition*)