

Biggs Museum of American Art

For Immediate Release
April 12, 2010
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The Sixth Annual Biggs Museum Gala: *An Affair with the Arts* Tickets Now On Sale



Dover, DE (April 12, 2010) – Tickets are now on sale for the Sixth Annual Biggs Museum Gala: *An Affair with the Arts*, to be held Saturday, May 15, 2010. The 2010 Biggs Museum Gala is presented by WSFS Bank and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware. *An Affair with the Arts* 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: American Society of Marine Artists*. The Museum also increased the number of free, family-friendly educational programming it offers by introducing *The Free Three*. *The Free Three* consists of Biggs Kids, Mini-Masters and First Friday: all of which are free art educational programs offered every month of the year. Proceeds from the 2010 Gala will directly benefit the further development of the *The Free Three*, art educational programs and the summer 2010 *ArtVentures* day-camp program. The 2010 Gala will also support upcoming temporary exhibitions and related programming in 2009-2010. Upcoming exhibitions include *Award Winners X*, an exhibition featuring the Rehoboth Art League's Permanent Collection, and the 2nd *Biggs Picture* landscape art competition and exhibition.

January 2010 marked the most important and dynamic milestone in the Museum's history. The Museum was granted full use of the building it has resided in at 406 Federal Street in Dover for the past 17 years. This invaluable opportunity presented by the State of Delaware created a long-lasting and promising future for the Biggs Museum and arts and culture in the community. The 2010 Gala will take place in a new location this year, in tents directly in front of the Museum, to commemorate this important milestone.

Over 400 friends of the Biggs Museum are expected to attend the 2010 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. Signature “B” sweet treats will be sold as raffle tickets for a chance to win a Delaware Beach package. Tribeca Grand of Philadelphia will provide the live entertainment this year. 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 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.



The 2010 Gala Committee: The Museum welcomes the 2010 Gala Committee led by this year’s Honorary Chairs, Dr. Mike and Mrs. Jane Mattern of Dover, DE.

Members of the 2010 Gala Committee include: David Affholder, Regina and Kenneth Brown, Jessica Cook, Fern Gnesin, Dolly and Vernon Ingram, Karen Janus, Nisha

Lodhavia, Jan Mercer, Don Parks, Richard Pryor, Charles Rodriguez, Donna & L.D. Shank, Julie Schmucker-Trust and Josh Trust, Donna Stone, Gretchen Tillman, Georgeanna Windley, Mary Jane and Bill Willis, and Heidi Wuller.



2009 Gala Sponsors: The Biggs Museum is thrilled with the overwhelming support of its sponsors. As of Monday, April 12, 2010, the Biggs Museum acknowledges the following sponsors.

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Sponsorship opportunities are still available. Please visit the Museum web-site at www.biggsmuseum.org or contact Sarah DiMondi by phone (302.674.2111 Ext. 105) or e-mail sdimondi@biggsmuseum.org for more information.

Gala on the Web: Learn anything and everything there is to know about the Gala on the Biggs Museum's web-site at www.biggsmuseum.org. View the full dinner menu, a full

list of current sponsors, a frequently updated guest list, and the silent auction inventory of items. Sponsorships and tickets can be purchased in the on-line gift shop.



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

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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Top Images: *2009 Biggs Museum Gala*