

Biggs Museum of American Art

For Immediate Release
April 23, 2014
302.674.2111 ext. 105

Media Contact
Stephanie Adams
sadams@biggsmuseum.org

Old Dover Days at the Biggs Museum Biggs Museum Hosts Events to Celebrate Dover Days

Dover, DE (April 23, 2014) – From May 2-4, 2014, the Biggs Museum of American Art will host several events during the Old Dover Days celebrations. The events include a special lecture series – one focused on the history of costume and fashion and other on Baseball-Hall-of-Fame Legend William "Judy" Johnson. There will also be a special Biggs Kids on Saturday, May 3rd in which children will learn about colonial heritage and the many uses of lavender will be explored. Please see below for full lecture and event descriptions.

In addition, the Museum will be free and open to the public visitors during its regular business hours throughout the weekend.

Biggs Museum Dover Days Events

First Friday: History of Costume and Fashion Tour

Date: Friday, May 2

Time: 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Fee: Free

Description: The portraits contained within the Biggs Museum's permanent collection were commissioned by wealthy individuals to depict both their social status and their wealth. The clothing and accessories that they chose to wear provide us with invaluable insight into the culture and styles of the time. A self-guided tour will enable visitors to learn about the history of costume and fashion from the 18th century through the period portrayed in the popular TV program, *Downton Abbey*, the Gilded Age of the early 20th century.

Dover Days Lecture Series: The Way We Wore

Date: Friday, May 2

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Fee: Free

Description: Karen Jessee's presentation uses history and humor to reveal the many influences that changed women's silhouettes from 1780-1980. She will explain how women went from bustles to bell bottoms and why the flapper in between was the modern women. As there is no fashion without foundation, she also peeks underneath to show the many ways women are padded, pinched, "poufed" and cinched into the latest style. Pieces of vintage and historic clothing from her personal collection and fashion study in England will

be displayed. Program funding has generously been provided by Delaware Humanities Forum.

Biggs Kids: Lovely Lavender

Date: Saturday, May 3

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (drop in anytime)

Price: Free, Children Ages 5-10

Description: In celebration of our colonial heritage the many uses of lavender will be explored. Lavender was used for medicinal purposes, its soothing fragrance, and to keep moths away. Participants will also create a beautiful painting of lavender.

Dover Days Lecture Series: Baseball-Hall-of-Famer William "Judy" Johnson

Date: Sunday, May 4

Time: 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Fee: Free

Description: Ron Whittington's first-person interpretation of Baseball-Hall-of-Famer William "Judy" Johnson will provide a look into the history of the Negro Baseball Leagues prior to Jackie Robinson's participation in the major leagues of American baseball. "Judy" Johnson was from Wilmington, DE and his hey-day was in the 1920s. A Vintage Baseball Tournament will be held on Legislative Mall immediately following this presentation. Program funding has generously been provided by Delaware Humanities Forum.

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: Stephanie Adams, 302.674.2111 ext.105, sadams@biggsmuseum.org

###