

MUSE LETTER

fall 2013 biggsmuseum.org

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Biggs Museum
of American **Art**

FALL 2013



The Biggs Museum's new entrance is now complete! Be sure to stop by soon and see the transformation.



COLLECTION CONNECTION

Biggs Museum visitors are often struck by two remarkable tall clocks located on the second floor created by colonial craftsman Duncan Beard (d. 1797) of Cantwell's Bridge (now known as Odessa). Beard clocks are considered among the most desirable of all timepieces made in 18th-century America and are a prized part of the museum's furniture and regional clock collection.

While Duncan Beard is prominently remembered for his inspiring tall clocks, he described himself as a silversmith in 18th-century tax records. In the past several decades, only a few examples of silver marked by Duncan Beard have been located. Known examples of his silver are located at the New Castle Historical Society and Winterthur Museum. Blue Hen Auction also sold one of his designs in 2011. Additionally, in 2008, for an exhibition on Delaware Silversmiths, the Biggs Museum borrowed a soup ladle with a version of the "DB" mark used by Duncan Beard from a private collection. While this list is not exhaustive, there are extremely few other known examples of Beard silver. The Trustees of the Biggs Museum have agreed to purchase a recently discovered set of four tablespoons, each marked twice by Duncan Beard. The spoons were purchased from a private collection on the Eastern Shore. The four spoons were reportedly purchased to commemorate the couple's four children. The spoons will be on view beginning in November in the Delaware Silver Study Center.

With the addition of the Beard tablespoons, the museum's Delaware silver collection has made a giant step closer to encyclopedic- featuring

examples by all but six known Delaware marks! The museum is still looking for marks by the following makers:

- Isaac Gregg (life dates unknown)** – "I:GREGG" in a rectangle
- William M. Holt (1839-1920)** – "Wm. M. Holt COIN" incuse
- James Clayton Massey (life dates unknown)** – "J.C. MASSEY STERLING" incuse
- Joseph C. Noblit (life dates unknown)** – "J.C. NOBLIT COIN" incuse
- Johannis Nys (1671-1734)** – Four known marks in variations of "I N" in a heart, a circle or a rectangle
- Francis Richardson, Jr. (1706-1782)** – "F R" in rectangle

Let us know if you can help us to complete the collection! Contact Biggs Museum curator, Ryan Grover, at rgrover@biggsmuseum.org or 302.674.2111 x 108.





(left to right) Buckley's Tavern, Smith Bridge, VanBuren Street Bridge, all paintings oil on canvas

Refining the Region

the Landscapes of Bayard T. Berndt November 1, 2013 – February 23, 2014

Bayard Taylor Berndt was a 20th century Brandywine Valley owner of the iconic Hardcastle Gallery, and artist who studied under such recognizable figures as Frank Schoonover, N.C. Wyeth and Gayle Hoskins. *Refining the Region: the Landscapes of Bayard T. Berndt* is an exhibition of paintings produced over the course of the artist's sixty-year career. Berndt was especially enamored with the beauty and heritage of the Brandywine Valley and often focused on his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. *Refining the Region* includes over 70 paintings featuring local points of beauty. Scenes from Brandywine Park, the Wilmington Riverfront, Buckley's Tavern, and historic Odessa will warm the hearts of all viewers, but especially those familiar with the area.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

A Point of Comparison: Paintings and Photographs as Evidence of Change in Industrial and Cultural Landscape

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. | Free

As a Wilmington native, Berndt was well versed in local history. It is assumed that Berndt utilized photographs as well as, paintings, and drawings to make his images historically accurate. The Zebley-Hoffecker digital collection may also have been an invaluable resource to Bayard Berndt. Sarah Denison, Processing Archivist at

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Frame Making: A Wilmington Tradition

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. | Free

Francis A. Coll was a frame maker who worked at Hardcastle from the mid 1920s through the 1960s. Today, Coll's distinctive frames enhance paintings in the collections of the Brandywine River Museum, Delaware Art Museum, Historical Society of Delaware, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and Biggs Museum of American Art. This lecture will focus on the historic profession of frame making in the Mid-Atlantic,

who trained with Frank Coll in his studio at Hardcastle, will discuss his experiences along with his personal frame making technique. Mike Podmaniczky, Furniture Conservator, will discuss frame conservation and gilding.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

America's Covered Bridges: From Vital Mode of Transportation to Nostalgic Symbol of the Past

1:00-2:00 p.m. | Free

With the availability of iron in 1830s, wooden bridges quickly became obsolete. Bayard Berndt captured the essence of many of the historic wooden covered bridges located in the Brandywine Valley in his paintings. Though many covered bridges have vanished, storyteller and folklorist Ed Okonowicz will discuss how the surviving structures evoke feelings of nostalgia and have become sources of community pride, stimulate tourism and encourage a deeper understanding of our local history.

Berndt was especially enamored with the beauty and heritage of the Brandywine Valley and often focused on his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware.

Delaware Public Archives will discuss some of the photographs that Berndt may have been referencing.

especially Delaware, from around 1750 to the present. Biggs Museum Curator, Ryan Grover, will discuss the variety of historic frames contained within the Museum's permanent collection. Delaware artist, Charles Allmond,

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

Panel Discussion: Bayard Berndt as Artist, Instructor and Mentor

1:00 to 2:30 p.m. | Free

This program brings together three individuals who will address the impact of Berndt's diverse involvement in the Wilmington art community. Participants include: David Berndt, son of Berndt and author of *Bayard Taylor Berndt: Brandywine Valley Artist*; E. Jean Lanyon, Berndt protégé and former Hardcastle employee; Charles Allmond, Delaware artist and longtime Hardcastle customer. Ryan Grover, Biggs Museum Curator, will moderate.



Chesapeake City Canal Scene ca. 1880, oil on canvas



The **Free 3** at the **Biggs**

The Biggs Museum offers three, family-friendly monthly programs to the public year-round and free of charge. These programs include *First Friday*, *Biggs Kids & Mini Masters*, and *Family Movie Nights*.

Biggs Kids & Mini-Masters

are free drop-in programs open to the public and are held at the Biggs Museum in the *Child HELP Studio*. Biggs Kids and Mini-Masters offer children another approach to experience education in a safe, positive and creative atmosphere. Pre-registration is no longer required. Please note the time change for these programs.

Biggs Kids: Handprint Wreath Saturday, December 7

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Drop-in anytime!
Each child's handprint is unique, and each wreath created during this program will be too! The wreath will serve as a treasured reminder of your child for years to come. Free for children ages 5-10.

Mini-Masters: Handprint Wreath Wednesday, December 11

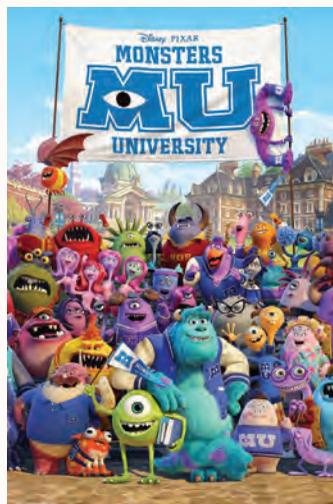
10:00 – 4:00 a.m. – Drop-in anytime!
Each child's handprint is unique, and each wreath created during this program will be too! The wreath will serve as a treasured reminder of your child for years to come. Free for children ages 3-5.

Biggs Kids: Painting Snow with Marshmallows Saturday, January 4

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Drop-in anytime!
Let your children explore painting with something other than the typical paintbrush. We will create snow scenes using marshmallows, white paint and colored paper. Free for children ages 5-10.

Mini-Masters: Painting Snow with Marshmallows Wednesday, January 8

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - Drop-in anytime!
Let your children explore painting with something other than the typical paintbrush. We will create snow scenes using marshmallows, white paint and colored paper. Free for children ages 3-5.



Free! FAMILY MOVIE NIGHTS!

Family Movie Nights at the Biggs Museum, starting in January will feature three family-friendly films on the first Saturdays of January, February and March. Enjoy a **FREE** showing of a family-friendly movie and flashlight tour of the permanent collection specifically geared towards families.

Pre-registration is not required for this program.

Featured Movie:

WRECK IT RALPH Saturday, January 4

Wreck-It Ralph longs to be as beloved as his game's perfect Good Guy, Fix-It Felix. Problem is, nobody loves a Bad Guy. Ralph comes up with a plan but soon wrecks everything, and accidentally unleashes a deadly enemy that threatens every game in the arcade. Ralph's only hope is a young troublemaking "glitch" from a candy-coated cart racing game who might just be the one to teach Ralph what it means to be a Good Guy. Rated PG. This program is free for all ages. 6:30-8 P.M.

Featured Movie:

MONSTERS UNIVERSITY Saturday, February 1

Take a trip back in time to when star Monsters, Inc. employees Mike Wazowski and James P. "Sulley" Sullivan were just two promising young students at Monsters University in this frightfully fun prequel. Long before they were lurking in closets for a living, Mike and Sulley were just two Scaring majors at Monsters University, dreaming of the day they would make children shriek in terror. Rated G. This program is free for all ages. 6:30-8 P.M.

Featured Movie:

PLANES Saturday, March 1

From above the world of "Cars" comes "Disney's Planes," an action-packed animated comedy adventure featuring Dusty, a plane with dreams of competing as a high-flying air racer. Rated PG. This program is free for all ages. 6:30-8 P.M.



DON'T MISS
FLASHLIGHT TOURS
BEFORE THE MOVIES!
6:00-6:30 P.M.



mark your calendars!
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

DECEMBER EVENTS

SUN
JAN 26
 11:30 a.m.

Member's Event:



**Conserving Our Past-
 The Lookerman Chairs**

Sunday, January 26, 2014, 11:30 a.m.

The mid-18th century walnut side chairs, and armchair, gifts from the Lookerman/Bradford house in Dover, DE, are some of the rarest treasures in the Biggs Museum's collection. They are considered among the earliest-known examples of any furniture created in the State of Delaware and are an extremely important cultural representation of the colonial-period house. We invite and welcome our members to a demonstration of the recent conservation of these culturally significant chairs.

Biggs Museum Curator, Ryan Grover, and Furniture Conservator, Walt Mullin, will retrace the research and implementation of the Lookerman Conservation Project. The presentation will take place on Sunday, January 26, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Becky Cooper at bcooper@biggsmuseum.org or 302.674.2111 x 101.

SUN
MAR 22
 all day

**"Wrought with Careful Hand"
 Ties of Kinship on Delaware Samplers Symposium**

March 22, 2014
 Biggs Museum of American Art

A full day of lectures and multimedia presentations focused on Delaware samplers featuring historians within this field of study.

**First Friday:
 Opening Reception
 Friday, December 6
 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

Get in the holiday spirit with a performance by the Delaware Choral Society. Works by composers from the Renaissance to the present, as well as renditions of well-known holiday music will be performed.

On the first Friday of every month, the Biggs Museum, along with several other members of the Dover arts community, serves as one of the venues for downtown Dover's First Friday program to bring the public downtown on the First Friday of every month to enjoy local art venues and activities. The Biggs Museum provides a free, family-friendly programs. First Friday programs include lectures, curator-led tours, interactive activities, first look parties, and live performances.

**Cocoa, Cookies and
 Christmas Trees**

**Thursday, December 19
 5:30-6:30 p.m.
 Free, All Ages**

Listen to the story of A Charlie Brown Christmas Tree and then create unique Christmas trees to take home.



**4th Annual Biggs Museum
 Golf Tournament**
 Friday, April 25, 2014,
 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Wild Quail
 Golf & Country Club
 \$125 per person

Hit the greens in support
 of family-friendly Biggs
 Museum programming.
 The entry fee covers cart, greens fees,
 breakfast, beverages, pig roast and
 tournament prizes.

FRI
APR 25
 9:00 a.m.

*The 4th Annual Hair Affair **

SUN
APR 13
 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 13, 2014, 1:30-4:30 p.m.
 Schwartz Center, 226 S. State Street, Dover, DE
 \$30 in advance/\$35 at the door

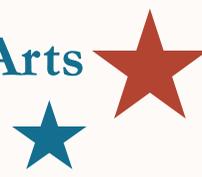
Delaware salons will take part in a competition as they show off their most original hair styles during an exciting runway show. Decadent desserts and champagne will be served.



**due to the popularity of The Hair Affair, this event has been moved to the Schwartz Center to accommodate our guests.*

**Biggs Museum Gala:
 An Affair with the Arts**

May 10, 2014, 6 p.m. – 11 p.m.
 Tickets: \$150 each



SAT
MAY 10
 6:00 p.m..

Enjoy live music from Mike Hines, delicious food, an open bar, and a silent auction featuring the Delaware Valley's best products, services, furniture, and artwork. Interested in sponsoring the event? Call (302) 674-2111 ext. 105 or email sftzpatrick@biggsmuseum.org



Summer ArtVentures



Delaware Watercolor Society Opening



Delaware Watercolor Society Opening



Summer ArtVentures



Healthy in the HeART of Delaware



Delaware Watercolor Society Opening



Currier & Ives Lecture Series



Healthy in the HeART of Delaware



Healthy in Delaware



MiniMasters



Currier & Ives Lecture Series



Award Winners Reception



Award Winners Reception



Monoprint Workshop



Monoprinting Workshop



Want to see more photos from Biggs Museum programs and special events? 'Like' us on Facebook. Search 'Biggs Museum of American Art.'

Biggs Picture: *Landscapes by Local Artists*

The Biggs Museum of American Art presents **Biggs Picture**, the third juried landscape competition and exhibition featuring the work of professional and emerging artists, working and/or living in the Mid-Atlantic region. This juried exhibition will include art works from media including painting, video, drawing, sculpture, photography, and craft. Competition winners are those applicants who most successfully interpret the theme of "Landscape" with the finest examples of their media.

Showing
May 2 - July 20,
2014

Jurors:

Sharon Ewing, Director of the Gross McCleaf Gallery of Contemporary Realist Painting in Philadelphia

Mary Tobias Putman, Delaware painter and recipient of the Hassam, Speicher, Betts and Symons Purchase Fund Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters

\$1500 Purchase Prize

The deadline for submissions is March 16, 2014.

Notification of winners will be sent out March 31, 2014.



A Map of the World, Mary Tobias Putman



Miniature Marvels for the Holidays

The Biggs Museum is delighted to re-introduce the Barbara Merrell Collection of Handmade Doll Houses, just in time for the holiday season. This collection, which has been in storage during the construction, will be on display through the museum's newly renovated first floor from Tuesday, November 5 through December 29, 2013. Please join us for this special peek into half- and quarter-inch scale miniature toy shop, quaint bungalows, Christmas "room box", grade school and holiday craft shop.



ARTIST CORNER

Delaware by Hand and Milton Arts Guild member, **Mark V. Turner**,

received the first place award at the recent 50th Annual Havre de Grace Art Show held during the third weekend of August, 2013. This is Mark's third award in the past year. Previously, he received the Judges Choice Award for painting at the Ocean City Arts Alive event which was held in June 2013. In September, 2012, Mark was awarded 3rd Place at the 47th Annual Bel Air Festival of the Arts. Mark is a self-described Urban Outsider Painter, who works in traditional and contemporary painting styles. Mark, owner of River Road Candleworks, produces handmade soy candles which are currently for sale in the Delaware by hand Gift Shop at the Biggs Museum of American Art.



“Mark is a self-described Urban Outsider Painter, who works in traditional and contemporary painting styles.”



2013 © Leo Heppner

Biggs Museum of American Art

CONTACT & INFORMATION

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www.biggsmuseum.org

FREE General Admission for All Ages
Open Tuesday – Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Museum closed Mondays
Museum open on select Holidays

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #87
Dover, DE

Think of the Biggs for your Holiday Giving!

Looking for the perfect holiday gifts for your loved ones? Give the gift of art this year.

Tile – *Make a perfect gift for friends and family!*

Become a permanent part of Biggs Museum history with a customized wall tile: Starting at just \$50, tiles can be purchased in groups of up to four. Simply fill out an application and provide us with:

- your child's art
- digital copy of your own art
- a photograph
- a quote
- company logo

Your "artwork" will be digitally scanned onto a 4' x 4' acrylic tile which will be featured in the museum's new entrance! The first installation of tiles will take place by the end of the year. Secure your spot in the first installation by purchasing your tile by November 30th! Visit www.biggsmuseum.org for an application or call 302.674.2111 for more information. Special gift packaging is available upon request.

Membership – *Give the gift of membership*

The Museum depends upon members of all levels to sustain and strengthen its collection of art, to bring special exhibitions to Delaware throughout the year. Plus, the Biggs Museum is now a member of The North American Reciprocal Museums (NARM). Members who become a new member or renew at \$100 or more receive free/member admission, member discounts at museum shops, and discounts for concerts/lecture tickets at over 300 museums across North America. Participating museums include Winterthur Museum and Country Estate, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. To purchase a membership, or give the gift of membership visit www.biggsmuseum.org

