

Biggs Museum of American Art

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Biggs Museum Announces Celebrated 25th Anniversary Honorary Committee

Includes All Former Governors, Secretaries of State Since Museum's Creation in 1993

Dover, DE (March 19, 2018) – Today leadership of the Biggs Museum of American Art announced the esteemed individuals who will serve on its 25th Anniversary Honorary Committee.

The 25th Anniversary Honorary Committee has been created to honor and recognize those leaders who helped create the Biggs Museum and supported its growth over the past 25 years. These leaders have come from all sectors: national and state government; elected officials; foundations; individuals; and the corporate sector. Initially a small group of seven individuals joined with Sewell Biggs in the creation of the museum. Over the years they have been joined by many more to enable the museum to become a major collector and presenter of American art from the mid-Atlantic region.

Founding board member, former Delaware state senator, and Biggs Museum Silver Anniversary Co-Chair, Nancy Cook reflects on her work with Mr. Biggs during the founding of the museum. "Sewell would be amazed at the growth and vibrancy of the museum today. There is simply no better way to honor his legacy as a collector than to share the museum's history, art and culture with so many in the community. Each of the individuals on this committee had an important role to play in the museum's formation, and we are taking this opportunity to re-unite and celebrate their accomplishments."

The 25th Anniversary Honorary Committee is led by the Silver Anniversary Co-Chairs, the Honorable Nancy W. Cook, The Honorable Henry duPont Ridgely, and Kathy Dwyer Southern, and is comprised of over 45 Biggs supporters, including all former Governors and Secretaries of State, listed below, since the Museum's formation. To see a full list of the committee, visit www.BiggsMuseum.org/25thanniversary.

Governors/Formers Governors

The Honorable John C. Carney
The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
The Honorable Michael N. Castle

The Honorable Jack A. Markell
The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner
The Honorable Dale E. Wolf

Secretaries of State/Former Secretaries of State

The Honorable Jeffrey W. Bullock
The Honorable Edward J. Freel
The Honorable Glenn Kenton
The Honorable Michael Ratchford
The Honorable Harriet Smith Windsor
The Honorable Michael Eugene Harkins

The committee's charge will be to serve as ambassadors for the Biggs Museum of American Art during its 25th Anniversary Year; to participate in anniversary activities whenever possible; and to be recognized for their leadership at the Silver Gala and Leadership Reunion on May 12th, 2018.

During the Biggs Museum's 25th Anniversary year, the museum will also host a schedule of highly significant exhibitions and programs to publically celebrate this milestone, several of which are listed below.

Monumental: Michael Izrael Galmer, Silversmith

April 6 – May 20, 2018

Opening Reception on Friday, April 6th from 5-7 p.m.

Based in New York, the silversmith Michael Galmer has succeeded in becoming one of the country's leading craftsmen having designed for Tiffany and Co., Lenox, Gorham and Kirk Stieff. With a unique technique, the artist has developed a wide variety of repousse-decorated jewelry and vessels as well as the renowned Preakness trophy, commemorative silver forms and contemporary sculptures for such distinguished collections as the Jewish Museum of New York.

Rembrandt Etchings: States, Fakes and Restrikes

May 12 - July 8, 2018

Opening at the Biggs Museum 25th Anniversary Silver Gala

Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 6-11 p.m.

Rembrandt Harmensz van Rijn (1606-69) was one of the most influential printmakers in the history of art. But how can one be sure that a Rembrandt is truly or wholly by THE Rembrandt? This exhibition examines the problem of authenticating this artist' etchings. The exhibition includes numerous original etchings, from the University of Wisconsin and Arizona's collections, made during the artist's lifetime as well as restrike prints made after his death and well into the 20th century.

Delaware Discoveries: Girlhood Embroidery, 1750-1850

May 19 – July 22, 2018

The Biggs Museum will honor the upcoming publication of Delaware Discoveries: Girlhood Embroidery, 1750-1850, the definitive study of Delaware girlhood samplers of

the 18th and 19th centuries, with an exhibition of historic needlework. The exhibition will feature approximately 80 antique samplers and other forms of embroidery from all three counties of the state with a special emphasis on debuting the work of little-known schools of needlework instruction. It will also be accompanied by a national symposium, public workshops and a book signing.

John James Audubon and His Influence Today

August 4, 2018 – November 26, 2018

In 1826 at the age of 41, encouraged by his wife, Audubon took his portfolio of 300+ works to England. Today, more than ever his work endures and examples of his work are right here at the Biggs in Dover. This exhibition examines the importance of the artist and naturalist, John James Audubon, through a large exhibition of his earliest works from both the *Birds of America* and *Viviparous Quadropeds* publications. This historical analysis will be coupled with the works of contemporary artists influenced by early naturalists and recorded in an exhibition catalog with color reproductions and essays by leading scholars.

About the Biggs Museum

Established in 1993, the Sewell C. Biggs Museum of American Art houses one of the finest collections of American fine and decorative arts.

Special features of the permanent collection include the only comprehensive representational American paintings collection on the Delmarva Peninsula with highlights by the Peale family, Albert Bierstadt, Gilbert Stuart, and Childe Hassam. Experience a variety of art forms such as sculptures by Hiram Powers and images by Brandywine School illustrator, Frank E. Schoonover. View examples of furniture by early-American cabinetmakers such as, the Javier family of Odessa, and William Savery of Philadelphia. The Museum also houses one of the finest collections of regional silver in the country.

The Biggs offers changing exhibitions throughout the year relating to historical and contemporary art topics. Intimate galleries offer guests an unexpected and personal experience with the collection. The museum supports the public education of art through educational programming for adults and children and special events designed to bring art to everyone. Whether it's the first visit to the Biggs Museum or the hundredth, there is always something new to delight, surprise, enlighten, excite, and inspire.

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