

PRESS RELEASE

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***FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE: VISUAL CULTURE AND THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS* ANCHORS ADDISON GALLERY'S SPRING SEASON**

Andover, Massachusetts (April 5, 2013) – The Addison Gallery of American Art, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, will open its spring exhibition season later this month with a series of new exhibitions, including *For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, which will be on view at the Addison from April 13 to July 31, 2013.

Comprised of more than 250 objects, including posters, photographs, magazines, newspapers, books, pamphlets, political buttons, comic books, toys, postcards, and clips from film and television, *For All the World to See* explores the historical role played by visual images in shaping, influencing, and transforming the fight for civil rights in the United States from the late 1940s to the mid-1970s. With the advent of television and the popularity of picture magazines and other forms of visual mass media, images of the civil rights era were ever-present and diverse. The war against racism and segregation was waged by capitalizing on the power of visual culture to alter prevailing attitudes toward race in America. By including a range of iconic objects, motion pictures, and intimate portraits of black life, *For All the World to See* offers important insights into the way these images forever changed the cultural and social landscape of the country.

For All the World to See was curated by Maurice Berger, Ph.D., and organized by the Center for Art, Design and Visual Culture, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) in partnership with the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. This project has been funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Trellis Fund, National Endowment for the Arts, St. Paul Travelers Corporation, Communities Foundation of Texas, and Maryland State Arts Council. Additional support has come from CBS News Archives, Ed Sullivan/SOFA Entertainment, Sullmark Corporation, and Sony Pictures Entertainment. Generous support for the Addison's presentation of the exhibition was provided by the David Older Fund.

Eye on the Collection will be on view from April 27 through July 31 and will draw from the Addison's collection, which now numbers more than 17,000 works of art in all media. Curated by Brian T. Allen, the Addison's Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director, *Eye on the Collection* celebrates the wide range of paintings in the Addison's holdings. The exhibition combines masterpieces of the 19th and 20th centuries by artists like Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins, and Edward Hopper with a selection of works by artists whose work is less well known, including Gifford Beal, Jerome Myers, and Guy Pène du Bois. Also included are recent acquisitions by contemporary artists such as John Moore and Rackstraw Downes, whose styles and subjects converse easily with the Addison's earlier masterpieces. The result is a dynamic mix of the familiar and the much-loved with the new and surprising.

Also on view from April 27 through July 31, *Secrets, Loss, Memory, and Courage: Works by Gay Male Artists* considers issues such as the marginalization of gay men and the emergence of a new cultural acceptance of gay people in many circles. The show brings together a range of works from the Addison's collection, including a number of recent gifts made in memory of Paul Monette (1945–1995), a writer and gay activist who graduated from Phillips Academy in 1963, on the occasion of the 50th reunion of his class. Through paintings, photographs, and video, the show explores a variety of themes, including secrecy, the male body as a focus of desire, AIDS, outsider communities, loving relationships between men, and the quest for tolerance and acceptance. Artists represented in the show include Robert Mapplethorpe, George Platt Lynes, John O'Reilly, Paul Cadmus, David Wojnarowicz, Martin Wong, and Duane Michals. Among the works shown at the Addison for the first time is Wojnarowicz's video, *Fire in My Belly*, controversially removed from a National Portrait Gallery exhibition in 2010.

In addition, this spring the Addison will exhibit Richard Avedon's renowned portrait series *The Family*, a portfolio of 69 photographs taken in early 1976 during the first post-Watergate presidential primaries and the nation's bicentennial. During this period, Avedon traveled across the United States from migrant grape fields in California to corporate headquarters in New York to political offices in Washington to photograph union leaders, government workers, business executives, political activists, and heads of media. Described by the photographer as "a composite portrait of the power elite," the portfolio was published in its entirety in the October 21, 1976 issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine, shortly before the November elections. The photographs are in Avedon's signature style: capturing subjects close up and facing front against a white paper backdrop framed only by the black edges of the negative. Together these images create a vivid and insightful narrative about American politics and culture at a specific point in time.

The Addison will celebrate the opening of these exhibitions with a reception on Friday, April 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Additional events this season include:

Panel Discussion: Voices of a Generation: The View from Andover Hill

Inspired by the exhibition *For All the World to See: Visual Culture and the Struggle for Civil Rights*, Phillips Academy faculty and alumni discuss their personal experiences as part of the Andover community during this critical period in American history and reflect on the power that visual images have to shape history and contemporary society.

Sunday May 5, 2:00 p.m.

Kemper Auditorium at Phillips Academy

Gallery Talk for *Eye on the Collection* with Brian T. Allen, the Addison's Director, to learn about the decisions that go into curating and installing an exhibition, from selecting objects among the 17,000 in the Addison's collection, to choosing the gallery wall colors and graphics.

Sunday June 30, 2:00 p.m.

The Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Massachusetts, is open to the public from Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00–5:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on Mondays, national holidays, December 24, and the month of August. Admission to all exhibitions and events is free. The Addison Gallery also offers free education programs for teachers and groups. For more information, call 978-749-4015, or visit the website at www.addisongallery.org

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About the Addison Gallery of American Art

Devoted exclusively to American art, the mission of the Addison Gallery of American Art is to acquire, preserve, interpret, and exhibit works of art for the education and enjoyment of all. Opened in 1931, the Gallery has one of the most important collections of American art in the country that includes more than 17,000 works by prominent American artists such as George Bellows, John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Georgia O'Keeffe, and Jackson Pollock, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, and many more. The Addison Gallery, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-749-4015, or visit the website at www.addisongallery.org.