

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Contact:  
Susannah Abbott  
Addison Gallery of American Art  
978.749.4027

[sabbott@andover.edu](mailto:sabbott@andover.edu)

### **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE JAMES PROSEK EXPLORES *THE SPACES IN BETWEEN* AT THE ADDISON GALLERY THIS FALL**

Andover, Massachusetts (July 10, 2013) – This fall, the Addison Gallery of American Art, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, will present *James Prosek: The Spaces in Between*. The exhibition, which will be on view from September 1, 2013–January 5, 2014, takes its inspiration from the long tradition of natural history painting, from animal depictions on cave walls to the works of Albrecht Durer, William Blake, and John James Audubon, as well as contemporary influences as diverse as Lee Bontecou, Mark Dion, Martin Puryear, and Eero Saarinen. Questioning accepted notions of how we understand and interpret the natural world, James Prosek’s work examines the ways in which we name and order nature, the systems we use to try to harness nature, our classifications and taxonomies, and the limitations of language in describing biological diversity, inviting us to reflect on what these systems say about our culture, our priorities, and our values. In conjunction with the exhibition at the Addison, Prosek will be the Addison’s Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence for the fall.

Ranging from the compellingly realistic to the inventively fanciful, the exhibition includes meticulously rendered paintings, monumental watercolors, and taxidermied specimens, many of them referencing the artist’s extensive travel, collecting trips, and biological expeditions to places as distant and diverse as Suriname and Kyrgyzstan. The exhibition also includes wall murals created especially for this installation. Exquisitely crafted, frequently witty, and always thought-provoking, Prosek’s art invites viewers to engage with realms that science cannot quantify or solve—those spaces in between fact and folklore, science and myth, real and imagined.

Allison Kemmerer, the Addison’s Mead Curator of Photography and Curator of Contemporary Art, states “This exhibition and artist’s residency are part of a long tradition at the Addison of working closely with contemporary artists and embracing work that pushes boundaries and engages with the world beyond the walls of the museum. A unique marriage of art and nature, James Prosek’s work

acknowledges the provocative interactions that can result when the world is examined through the artist's eye and with the scientist's scrutiny."

As an Edward E. Elson Artist in Residence, Prosek will participate in public programs in the community, work with school groups from Phillips Academy and neighboring schools in Andover and Lawrence, as well as interact with families through a collaborative program between the Addison Gallery and Andover's Memorial Hall Library. Rebecca Hayes, the Addison's Curator of Education, states "We are thrilled and feel fortunate to work with an artist who draws inspiration for his work across a range of disciplines including science, art, nature, and literature, and that he will spend time on campus and in the local communities intermittently from September through December, sharing his work with students, teachers, and families."

The Addison's Artist-in-Residence program, which plays an important role in the museum's exhibition and education programming, began in 1946 with Charles Sheeler. Subsequent participating artists have included Frank Stella, Robert Frank, Alison Saar, Joel Shapiro, Robert Hudson, Richard Shaw, Kerry James Marshall, Dawoud Bey, Glen Seator, Tony Feher, Jose Bedia, James Casebere, Anna Gaskell, Andrea Zittel, Jessica Stockholder, Lee Mingwei, Trisha Brown, Fred Wilson, Wendy Ewald, Jim Hodges, Sue Williams, Terry Winters, Alexis Rockman, Type A, William Wegman, Angela Lorenz, Tristan Perich and Lorna Bieber.

This exhibition has been generously supported by a gift from Edward P. Bass, Phillips Academy Class of 1963, on the occasion of his 50th reunion.

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](http://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](http://www.addisongallery.org).