

**THE ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART TO JOIN IN
ASSOCIATION OF ART MUSEUM DIRECTORS'
FIFTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF ART MUSEUM DAY ON MAY 18
WITH INTERACTIVE PROGRAMS FOR FAMILY AUDIENCES**

Andover, MA, May 5, 2014—The **Addison Gallery of American Art**, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, announced that it will host a free Drop-In Family Day, during which visitors of all ages are invited to tour the museum's spring exhibitions and make their own unique works of art, as part of the Association of Art Museum Directors' (AAMD) Art Museum Day, coinciding with International Museum Day on Sunday, May 18, 2014. Visitors may come by the Addison Gallery any time between 2:00 and 4:00 pm on that day to participate in the activities. General admission to the Addison Gallery is also free, as always.

Art Museum Day emphasizes the essential role that art museums play in their communities, highlights the value of the visual arts in society, and provides new opportunities for audiences to participate in the wide-ranging programs offered by AAMD member museums. At the Addison Gallery's Drop-In Family Day, families will have an opportunity to explore the exhibitions *Street Talk: Chris Daze Ellis in Dialogue with the Collection* and *Pop! Selections from the Collection* to discover the sources of artists' inspiration and experiment with art materials to create their own masterpieces. Children must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. The program is supported in part by a grant from the Andover Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The Addison Gallery of American Art also invites visitors to share their experiences on Art Museum Day via social media with the hashtag #ArtMuseumDay.

"The Addison's Drop-In Family Day activities offer children and adults a chance to explore and interact with each other and the museum in a variety of ways," said Susan Faxon, Interim Director of the Addison Gallery. "We are proud to join with AAMD in celebrating Art Museum Day with this event, and we look forward an exciting day as we share the treasures of the Addison Gallery with the community."

"Art museums play a powerful role as community gathering places, bringing together people from all walks of life to experience the best of human creativity," said Chris Anagnos, Executive Director of AAMD. "AAMD is so pleased that the Addison Gallery of American Art is joining us in this celebration by inviting everyone in the Merrimack Valley and greater Boston area to participate in Art Museum Day."

AAMD represents 240 art museums across the United States, Canada, and Mexico—from regional museums to large museums in major urban centers. International Museum Day is organized annually around the world by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). AAMD's Art Museum Day is an opportunity to focus attention on the role of art museums in North America, as part of ICOM's global celebration.

A comprehensive list of participating AAMD member art museums will be available on the AAMD website (<http://www.aamd.org/>). Note that while AAMD's Art Museum Day and ICOM's International Museum Day are formally held each year on May 18, some institutions shift their celebrations to adjacent dates.

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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.

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