

# ADDISON

Addison Gallery of American Art

## **Gordon Wilkins Appointed Associate Curator at the Addison Gallery of American Art**

**Andover, MA (October 12, 2018)** – The Addison Gallery of American Art today announced the appointment of **Gordon Wilkins** as its new **Robert M. Walker Associate Curator of American Art**. He will assume his post at the Addison on October 29, 2018. Wilkins joins the Addison from the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, where he served as Assistant Curator for Exhibitions and Research. In this role at the Peabody Essex Museum, Wilkins helped organize complex temporary and permanent exhibition and publication projects, including, most recently, *Sally Mann: A Thousand Crossings* (co-organized with the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.), *Japanomania!: Japanese Art Goes West*, *Samuel F. B. Morse's Gallery of the Louvre and the Art of Invention*, and the upcoming *A Lasting Memento: John Thomson's Photographs Along the River Min*. Wilkins has also served as an adjunct professor of American art at the University of New Hampshire.

Wilkins will work collaboratively alongside the Addison's Judith F. Dolkart, the Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director, and the curatorial department led by Allison Kemmerer, Mead Curator of Photography and Senior Curator of Contemporary Art, to conceive and develop exhibitions and public programming that expand on the museum's mission to catalyze new dialogues on American art and life.

"Gordon's wide-ranging curiosity, his commitment to interdisciplinary explorations, and his adventurous ideas for thought-provoking exhibitions make him a perfect fit for the Addison," said Judith Dolkart, the Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director of the Addison Gallery of American Art. "We are now presenting a series of exhibitions and programs that explore the essential question: *What is America?* We are excited that Gordon will bring his creativity, perspectives, and insights to this and future programming."

"The Addison combines one of the world's greatest collections of American art with truly innovative education initiatives and collaborations," said Gordon Wilkins, the newly appointed Associate Curator at the Addison Gallery of American Art. "I am honored to have the opportunity to work with the staff at the Addison and the faculty and students at Phillips Academy. It is an inspiring prospect to help advance the Addison's mission while critically re-examining our preconceived notions regarding American identity as expressed through art. The work that the Addison is doing to examine the forever unresolved question: *What is America?* is so crucial in our contemporary moment."

At the Peabody Essex Museum, Wilkins worked alongside Sarah Kennel, the Byrne Family Curator of Photography, to help develop and implement provenance and collections research initiatives and to refine the department's collecting mission. Wilkins has previously held curatorial and research roles with institutions including the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, ME; the Newberry Library, Chicago, IL; the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute Museum of Art, Utica, NY; and the Mona Bismarck American Center, Paris, France.

Wilkins earned an M.A. in Art History from the University of Chicago, where he completed his thesis on nativism, modernism, and the fascist aesthetic in the popular and fine arts of interwar Maine. He holds a B.A., *summa cum laude*, from Hamilton College, Clinton, NY.

### **About the Addison Gallery of American Art**

Devoted exclusively to American art, the Addison, which opened in 1931, holds one of the most important collections of American art in the country. Its holdings include more than 18,000 works by prominent artists such as John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, George Bellows, Georgia O’Keeffe, Jackson Pollock, Lorna Simpson, Kara Walker, and Mark Bradford, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank, Cindy Sherman, Dawoud Bey, and many more. The Addison Gallery, located in a stand-alone building on the campus of Phillips Academy—a residential school of grades nine through 12 in Andover, Massachusetts—offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public. Phillips Academy welcomes visitors to its beautiful, walkable campus year-round.

The Addison Gallery of American Art is open to the public from Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., and Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. The museum 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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