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AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM FEATURED IN UPCOMING DAYTON ART INSTITUTE SPECIAL EXHIBITION

American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists’ Colony will be on view March 7 – May 31

(DAYTON, OHIO) – February 27, 2015 – The Dayton Art Institute will help usher in spring with the lush, impressionist paintings of the special exhibition American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists’ Colony, on view March 7 – May 31 at the museum.

The DAI’s “year of American art” begins with a comprehensive look at more than 100 works by American impressionists from the 1880s through the 1940s, including John Singer Sargent, Mary Cassatt, William Merritt Chase, Childe Hassam, John Twachtman, and many others.

The story of American impressionism is told, in part, by artists’ colonies that emerged at the end of the nineteenth century. From the east to the west coast, artists assembled to escape the rigors of their city studios, share and exchange ideas, take on students, exhibit, and attract new clientele. This exhibition sheds light on the influences of these rich artistic communities and helps tell the multifaceted story of impressionism in the United States, which flourished through the first decades of the twentieth century.

“American impressionists did not seek to replicate their French predecessors, but rather to combine some of the French impressionists’ techniques and approach to form and figure with their own academic background, creating a distinctly American style all their own,” says Dr. Aimee Marcereau DeGalan, Chief Curator and Curator of European Art at The Dayton Art Institute.
Arranged according to these artists’ colonies, *American Impressionism* examines artistic communities at Cos Cob and Old Lyme in Connecticut; Cape Cod, Cape Anne, and Rockport, in Massachusetts; New Hope and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; Taos, New Mexico; and throughout California. Often located in scenic locations within striking distance of major cities, artists’ colonies served up steady doses of natural beauty and provided ample subject matter for the practitioners.

The resulting selection of lyrical landscapes, ranging from snow-covered hills to sun-filled harbors and seascapes, as well as penetrating portraits and remarkable still-life paintings, documents an important moment in the history of American art that draws on the strengths of The DAI’s own collection of American impressionist works. It will be sure to delight visitors of all ages.

“We are extremely excited to launch our year of American art with this major exhibition of American impressionist works,” says Michael R. Roediger, Director and CEO at The Dayton Art Institute. “Impressionism continues to be one of the most popular art movements among museum visitors, and the recent 2010 exhibition of California impressionist works was very well received. *American Impressionism* provides a rare opportunity to see such a wide variety of approaches to impressionism in America.”

The DAI’s presentation of *American Impressionism* is made possible by the support of *Patron Sponsors* Macy’s and Premier Health, and *Supporting Sponsors* Abbott Nutrition, DP&L Foundation, Freund, Freeze & Arnold, Miller-Valentine Group, and Synchrony Financial, with *additional support from* Bruce and Debbie Feldman, Frank and Kathy Hollingsworth, Karen and Dale Medford, University of Dayton, and Toni and Bill Winger.

The exhibition has been organized by the Reading Public Museum, located in Reading, Pennsylvania.

A number of programs will be held in conjunction with the exhibition, including:

- A *Curatorial Conversations* gallery talk on **March 19** that will look at an American impressionist painting from The DAI’s collection, Arthur Wesley Dow’s *Lavender and Green*.  
- The *Super Saturday Family Day* program *Impressionist Landscapes* on **April 11**.  
- Illustrated Lecture: *American Impressionism: The View from the Artists’ Colonies*, given by Scott Schweigert, Curator of Art and Civilization at the Reading Public Museum, on **April 16**.  
- Illustrated Lecture: *Transatlantic Impressions: Where Americans Met the French Impressionists*, given by Dr. Susan Martis, Curator of Education at The Dayton Art Institute, on **May 21**.

A companion exhibition, *In the Garden: Works on Paper from the Permanent Collection*, will be on view March 21 – May 31 in the North Gallery of the museum’s lower level. Drawn from The DAI’s permanent collection, the works suggest the myriad uses of outdoor spaces in various countries and eras, and where artists have chosen to focus within them. Admission to *In the Garden* is included in the museum’s suggested general admission.

For more information about *American Impressionism* and its related programs, visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org/impressionism](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/impressionism) or call 937-223-4ART (4278).
**American Impressionism** will be on view at The Dayton Art Institute from March 7 – May 31. Exhibition admission is free for museum members; $14 adults; $11 seniors (60+), students (18+ w/ID), active military and groups (10 or more); and $6 youth (ages 7-17). Children (6 & under) are free. Prices include admission to the exhibition and the museum’s permanent collection.

Tickets for the exhibition and related programs may be purchased at the Museum’s Guest Services Desk, by phone at 937-223-4ART (4278), or online at [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org).

**Docent-led tours** of the special exhibition are available for individuals, groups and schools. Contact The DAI’s Group Sales and Tour Coordinator, at 937-512-0152 or dyoung@daytonart.org, for more information or to book a tour.

For more information about The Dayton Art Institute, please visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org) or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Tickets for most Dayton Art Institute events, exhibitions and programs may also be purchased online at [www.etix.com](http://www.etix.com). Be sure to connect with The Dayton Art Institute on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com) and [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com) for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and exclusive offers.

**ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE**
As one of the Miami Valley’s premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m., with extended hours until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Suggested admission to the museum’s permanent collection is $8 adults, $5 seniors, active military and groups. Admission is free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID) and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum’s permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The DAI’s Museum Store is open during regular museum hours. Leo Bistro serves lunch Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. Leo Bistro also serves dinner on Thursday evenings, 4 – 8 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org). The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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