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DAYTON ART INSTITUTE SPECIAL EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS
THE WORK OF FOLK ARTIST GRANDMA MOSES

“American Sampler: Grandma Moses and the Handicraft Tradition” opens November 21

(DAYTON, OHIO) – November 5, 2015 – The Dayton Art Institute’s upcoming special exhibition will offer a unique perspective on the work of the popular folk artist Grandma Moses.

American Sampler: Grandma Moses and the Handicraft Tradition is the first exhibition of its kind to focus on the formal relationships between the handicraft produced by Anna Mary Robertson Moses (1860–1961), better known as Grandma Moses, and her paintings, and to explore the concept of “sampling” from other sources that she employed in her work. Organized by The Dayton Art Institute and curated by Dr. Aimee Marcereau DeGalan, Chief Curator, Curator of European Art, American Sampler will be on view November 21, 2015 – February 21, 2016.

Featuring approximately 50 works by Grandma Moses, including her paintings, embroideries, a quilt and other handmade ephemera, along with examples of embroidery from the 17th through 19th centuries, this exhibition presents a new frame through which to view one of America’s most beloved and iconic artists.

Grandma Moses was an accomplished seamstress who did not begin painting until age 78, after arthritis made it difficult for her to embroider. In the remaining 23 years of her life, Grandma Moses became one of America’s most recognized and successful folk artists, drawing on the rich tradition of handiwork that played a major role in her life.
Moses also “sampled” from a variety of other media, including popular culture prints, such as Currier & Ives, as well as topographical and birds-eye-view landscapes, all of which served to inform her visual vocabulary.

The exhibition explores the relationship between Moses’ works and early examples of crewel work, crazy quilts, and samplers to establish the tradition of handiwork and how its sense of pattern, form, and space influenced Grandma Moses, as well as illustrating her innovative style. It also examines the impact her own embroidery had upon her painting.

“There was an amazing fluidity between her approach to the mediums of embroidery and painting, most visibly represented in a shared working style on her lap that compressed the perspective in her landscapes, and also in the mark-making—in stitch, and in paint—that she employed on both surfaces,” notes Marcereau DeGalan.

*American Sampler* includes works on loan from the Galerie St. Etienne in New York City, the Bennington Museum in Bennington, Vermont, and private collectors, as well as a re-creation of her studio by Luken Interiors of Dayton. The exhibition is sure to be of interest to all ages as The Dayton Art Institute’s final exhibition in its “Year of American Art.”

“We’re excited to be able to close out our ‘Year of American Art’ with an exhibition organized by our own curatorial team,” says The Dayton Art Institute’s Director and CEO Michael R. Roediger. “This is a one-of-a-kind exhibition that you won’t see anywhere else in the United States. The homespun art of Grandma Moses is perfect for the holiday season, and we encourage you to ‘make your holidays a masterpiece’ at The Dayton Art Institute.”

A number of related programs will also be held in conjunction with *American Sampler*, including:

- A Super Saturday Family Day on November 28
- The Fifth Third Bank Arts Night Out presentation of the stage play *Grandma Moses: An American Primitive*, December 3–6
- The lecture *Grandma Moses: Life and Art* by Jane Kallir, Director of Galerie St. Etienne, on December 10
- A Curatorial Conversations gallery talk about the Janet Fish painting, *Embroidery from Uzbekistan* (2008) on December 17
- The workshop *Draw from the Collection: Rockwell Kent and Grandma Moses* on January 23

For more about the exhibition and related programs, visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org/grandmamoses](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/grandmamoses) or call 937-223-4ART (4278).

*American Sampler* is presented with support from **Benefactor Sponsors** The Berry Family Foundation, Charles D. Berry, and the Rose Family Philanthropic Fund of the Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton Foundation; **Patron Sponsors** DP&L Foundation, Emerson Climate Technologies and Kettering Health Network; **Supporting Sponsors** Carolyn and Robert Brethen, Chase, The Dayton Daily News (Media Sponsor), Nancy and Craig Mullenbrock, and St. Leonard Franciscan Living Community; **with additional support from** Jackie and Bill Lockwood Family Foundation, Luken Interiors, The Perfection Group,
School of Advertising Art, Violet Sharpe and University of Dayton. **Jefferson Patterson Society Preview Sponsor** is Jessup Wealth Management.

A companion focus exhibition, *Visions and Dreams: Threaded Works by Mary Borkowski*, showcases examples of handiwork by nationally recognized folk artist Mary Borkowski (1916–2008), who was born in Sulphur Lick Springs, Ohio, and spent much of her life in Dayton. *Visions and Dreams* opened in October and is on view in the South Gallery of the museum’s lower level through February 28.

Admission to **American Sampler** is free for museum members; $14 adults; $11 seniors (60+), students (18+ w/ID), active military and groups (10 or more); $6 youth (ages 7-17); and free for children (ages 6 & under). Prices include admission to the special exhibition and the museum’s permanent collection.

Tickets for the exhibitions 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 Events & Group Sales Coordinator, at 937-512-0152 or dyoun@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, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest for additional information, behind-the-scenes photos and videos, 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. – 2 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 2 p.m. Leo Bistro also serves dinner on Thursday evenings, 4:30 – 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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