DAYTON ART INSTITUTE FEATURES CONTEMPORARY STILL-LIFE PAINTINGS OF ISABELLA KIRKLAND

Special exhibition Isabella Kirkland: Stilled Life on view February 22 – May 18

(DAYTON, OHIO) – February 13, 2014 – The Dayton Art Institute’s first special exhibition of 2014 will feature the contemporary still-life paintings of Isabella Kirkland.

Rendered in the crystalline clarity of 17th-century Dutch still-life paintings, Kirkland’s portraits of flora and fauna present a dazzling array of detail that straddles art history, scientific illustration and natural history. Isabella Kirkland: Stilled Life will be on view February 22 – May 18 at the museum.

“Shown together for the first time, the works in Isabella Kirkland: Stilled Life are sure to be of interest to lovers of art as well as scientific study,” says The DAI’s Director and CEO Michael R. Roediger. “We’re excited to have the opportunity to bring this timely exhibition to Dayton.”

The special exhibition is made possible by support from Patron Sponsor DP&L Foundation, and Supporting Sponsors Energy Optimizers, USA, The Miami Valley School, Miller-Valentine Group, Perfection Group, Square One Salon and Spa, and Tridec Technologies, LLC.

Still-life painting first flourished in the Netherlands during the early 1600s, although German and French painters were also early participants in the development, and less continuous traditions of Italian and Spanish still-life painting date from the same period. Many of the objects depicted in these early works remind the viewer of an edifying concept, such as worldly vanity or temperance. Moralizing meanings were also common in still-life paintings of the 17th century.

Floral still lifes were especially prominent in the early 1600s, and their highly refined execution, subjects and symbolism were addressed to a cultivated audience. Painters from this period, such as Jan Fyt and Roelandt Savery, often referred to herbals and other botanical texts when composing “bouquets,” which typically combined flowers from different countries, and even different continents, in one vase and at one moment of blooming. For many courtly collectors and wealthy merchants, a flower picture was part of a private domain that included a garden with rare specimens, colored drawings or watercolors of rare tulips and other unusual flowers, and a small library of botanical books and prints.
“Building on this tradition, contemporary artist Isabella Kirkland composes her own unique 21st-century ‘bouquets’ that deliver an arresting and timely narrative about the degradation and homogenization of our own environment,” says The Dayton Art Institute’s Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, Dr. Aimee Marcereau DeGalan, who organized and curated the exhibition. 

*Isabella Kirkland: Stilled Life* brings together more than 50 of Kirkland’s works, as well as a host of preparatory drawings and studies in a variety of media. With their luscious colors and high-gloss finishes, some of which took more than a year to create, these elaborate paintings provide a bridge between science and the humanities in brilliant color.

In conjunction with *Isabella Kirkland: Stilled Life*, The Dayton Art Institute will present *In Bloom: Selections from the Collection of The Dayton Art Institute*. The exhibition includes nearly 20 works from The DAI’s permanent collection, ranging from the 17th through the 21st centuries. From floral still lifes to garden delights, it will present some of the museum’s finest examples, as well as some lesser-known works, to highlight and explore this popular genre.

A companion [Lecture Series](#) will examine the fascinating overlap of science, history and art. The speakers will discuss and consider evolving ideas about art and nature, in response to Isabella Kirkland’s remarkable paintings that document and comment on species loss and environmental change.

Scheduled talks include an [Artist Lecture](#) by Isabella Kirkland on February 20 at 6:30 p.m., [Dutch Still-Life Painting of the Golden Age](#) on March 1 at 3 p.m., *Isabella Kirkland: Transforming Perception* on March 15 at 3 p.m., *Gathering Nature in a Time of Extinction: Isabella Kirkland’s Ecological Art* on April 12 at 3 p.m., and [Bio-Diversity and Isabella Kirkland](#) on April 26 at 3 p.m.

The *Isabella Kirkland: Stilled Life* Lecture Series is free to students and museum members, and included in museum or special exhibition admission for non-members. All lectures will be held in the museum’s NCR Renaissance Auditorium, with the exception of [Bio-Diversity and Isabella Kirkland](#) on April 26, which will be held at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. The *Stilled Life* Lecture Series is supported by a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council.

Other related events and programs include: [Super Saturday Family Days](#) on February 22 and March 8, a [Kinetic Sculpture Workshop](#) on March 4, [Gallery Talks](#) on March 6 and May 21, [Pub Science Night at Leo Bistro](#) on March 11, [Behind the Scenes at the Boonshoft](#) on April 5, a [Still-Life Painting Master Class](#) on April 12, and [Poetry & The Stilled Life](#) on May 6.

Visit [www.daytonartinstitute.org/stilledlife](http://www.daytonartinstitute.org/stilledlife) to learn more about the exhibitions, the *Isabella Kirkland: Stilled Life* Lecture Series, and related events and programs.

Admission to the exhibitions is free for [museum members](#); $12 adults; $9 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 both special exhibitions and the museum’s permanent collection. A $1 per transaction Historic Preservation Fee will be added to all ticket sales.

[Docent-led tours](#) of the special exhibition are available for individuals, groups and schools. Contact Group Sales and Tour Coordinator Donna Young, at 937-512-0152 or [dyoung@daytonart.org](mailto:dyoung@daytonart.org), for more information or to book a tour.
For more information about exhibitions, events and programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-4ART (4278). Be sure to also connect with The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram 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. Galleries hours are Tuesday – Friday, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. 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 and Leo Bistro are open during regular museum hours. For more information, please call 937-223-4ART (4278) or visit 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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