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MEDIA CONTACT
Emily Kowalski | (919) 664-6795 | ekowalski@ncartmuseum.org

N.C. Museum of Art Announces Spring 2016 Exhibitions Featuring Impressionist Paintings by Childe Hassam and 100 Drawings from the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Raleigh, N.C.—The North Carolina Museum of Art (NCMA) will open two exhibitions on March 19, 2016: *American Impressionist: Childe Hassam and the Isles of Shoals* and *Marks of Genius: 100 Extraordinary Drawings from the Minneapolis Institute of Art*. [American Impressionist](#) features 39 oil and watercolor paintings created by Childe Hassam on the Isles of Shoals, while [Marks of Genius](#) includes drawings, watercolors, gouaches, and pastels dating from the Middle Ages to the present.

"This spring the NCMA will be illuminated by Childe Hassam's breathtaking impressionist landscape paintings and by the incredible skill and diversity showcased in 100 exquisite master drawings," said NCMA Director Lawrence J. Wheeler. "We are thrilled to present these two exhibitions side-by-side—one featuring bold, colorful paintings of one artist's singular place of inspiration, and the other highlighting diverse types of drawings by a variety of masters."



American Impressionist: Childe Hassam and the Isle of Shoals **March 19, 2016–June 19, 2016**

Childe Hassam is celebrated as the foremost American impressionist painter. Among his greatest achievements are the hundreds of paintings he created over nearly 30 summers on Appledore Island in the Isles of Shoals, a cluster of rocky islands off the coast of Maine and New Hampshire.

This exhibition, jointly organized with the Peabody Essex Museum of Salem, Massachusetts, will feature 39 of Hassam's finest Shoals paintings in oil and watercolor, borrowed from major public and private collections. The paintings in *American Impressionist* will be arranged as if one were walking around the island—emphasizing that the place is as interesting as the artist.

"Hassam's paintings possess a rapturous sense of place," said John Coffey, NCMA deputy director for art and curator of American and modern art. "In his pictures you not only see but feel the blue Atlantic breaking against rocky ledges and swirling in tidal pools, the dense thickets of laurel wedged in granite crags, a splendid island garden with its gem-like blossoms, and the whole island world suffused with a silvered northern light. In this exhibition we invite visitors to explore the island in Hassam's footsteps, and hope that they find the same enchantment that inspired one of America's great painters more than a century ago."

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue featuring a photo essay of Appledore by contemporary photographer Alexandra de Steiguer. A selection of de Steiguer's photographs will be on view adjacent to the Hassam exhibition.

Marks of Genius: 100 Extraordinary Drawings from the Minneapolis Institute of Art **March 19, 2016–June 19, 2016**

Marks of Genius features 100 of the most important drawings from the superlative collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Art. The selection of drawings, watercolors, gouaches, and pastels dating from the Middle Ages to the present includes examples by such masters as Guercino, Annibale Carracci, Romare Bearden, Edgar Degas, Egon Schiele, Emil Nolde, Henri Matisse, Roy Lichtenstein, Vincent Van Gogh, and Ed Ruscha.

This eye-opening exhibition illuminates the historical and ongoing role of drawing as a means of study, observation, and problem solving; as an outpouring of the artist's



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imagination; and as a method of realizing a finished work of art. Including such diverse drawings as illuminated manuscripts and modern preparatory sketches, *Marks of Genius* presents a glimpse into artists' minds.

"Whether in a preparatory sketch, documentary rendering, figure study, or fully realized work in its own right, the immediacy and vibrancy of a drawing make it a pleasure to behold," said Dennis Weller, NCMA curator of Northern European Art and curator in charge of this exhibition. "The works featured in *Marks of Genius* demonstrate not only these qualities but showcase the tremendous skill and discipline of the artists represented."



Also On View: *Island Boy: Original Illustrations for Barbara Cooney's Classic Children's Book*

This free exhibition presents the complete original artwork for *Island Boy*, a classic of children's literature by Barbara Cooney (1917–2000). Cooney is one of the most beloved American authors and illustrators of children's books. She once described *Island Boy* as her "hymn to Maine." Published in 1988 and loosely based on a 19th-century memoir, *Island Boy* tells the story of Matthias, who grows up on Tibbett's Island, sails the world, and finds love and family, only to return to the island in the end.

"*Island Boy* is the perfect companion show to the Childe Hassam exhibition. Both celebrate the joy and wonder of a small, special place," Coffey said.

American Impressionist: Childe Hassam and the Isle of Shoals

March 19, 2016–June 19, 2016

East Building, Level B, Gallery 2

Ticket prices (joint ticket with *Marks of Genius: 100 Extraordinary Drawings from the Minneapolis Institute of Art*):

\$12 Adults

\$9 Seniors (65+), military, groups of 10+, college students with current ID

\$6 Youth 7–18

Free: Members (first visit), children 6 and under, college students on Friday nights 5–9 pm (with current ID)

Tickets go on sale to members on February 5, 2016, and to the general public on February 25, 2016.

Marks of Genius: 100 Extraordinary Drawings from the Minneapolis Institute of Art

March 19, 2016–June 19, 2016

East Building, Level B, Meymandi Exhibition Gallery

See above for price and on-sale dates of joint ticket with *American Impressionist: Childe Hassam and the Isle of Shoals*.

Island Boy: Original Illustrations for Barbara Cooney's Classic Children's Book

March 19, 2016–June 19, 2016

East Building, Level B, Gallery 3

Free

About the Exhibitions

American Impressionist is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art and the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions. Research for this exhibition was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

Marks of Genius is organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Art. This exhibition is also made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions. Research for this exhibition was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

Island Boy is organized by the North Carolina Museum of Art in collaboration with the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, Maine. This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources; the North Carolina Museum of Art Foundation, Inc.; and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment for Educational Exhibitions. Research for this exhibition was made possible by Ann and Jim Goodnight/The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fund for Curatorial and Conservation Research and Travel.

Image Captions (top to bottom)

Childe Hassam, *Poppies, Isles of Shoals*, 1891, oil on canvas, 19 3/4 × 24 in., National Gallery of Art, Washington, Gift of Margaret and Raymond Horowitz, 1997.135, Image courtesy National Gallery of Art

Romare Howard Bearden, *Factory Workers*, 1942, gouache and casein on brown kraft paper mounted on board, 37 3/8 × 33 1/2 in., Minneapolis Institute of Art, Art © 2015 Romare Bearden Foundation/Licensed by VAGA, NY

Barbara Cooney, *Lobster Scene*, 1988, from *Island Boy* (Puffin Books, 1988), acrylic on gesso-coated Chinese silk, 8 1/4 in. × 10 1/8 in., Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, Maine, Bequest of Barbara Cooney, 2000.17.2.11, © 1998 Barbara Cooney Porter Royalty Trust

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About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making the institution one of the premier art museums in the South. The Museum's collection provides educational, aesthetic, intellectual, and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The 164-acre Museum Park showcases the connection between art and nature through site-specific works of environmental art. The Museum offers changing national touring exhibitions, classes, lectures, family activities, films, and concerts.

The Museum opened West Building, home to the permanent collection, in 2010. The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the art museum of the State of North Carolina, Pat McCrory, governor, and an agency of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, Susan Kluttz, secretary.