

## **Norman Rockwell Museum: Highlights of the 40th Anniversary Year**

In 2009, Norman Rockwell Museum celebrates its 40th anniversary. Since its founding in 1969, Norman Rockwell Museum has become the preeminent museum of American illustration art through research, publications, exhibitions, and educational programming. During its anniversary, the Museum will be announcing initiatives central to the study and understanding of the art of illustration in American visual culture. In 2009, exhibitions curated by the Museum will be seen in 10 states across the nation, and the Museum's Stockbridge campus will present its 100th exhibition and welcome its five millionth visitor.

### **February**

#### **40th Anniversary Season Announcement and Norman Rockwell's Birthday**

February 3, 2009

Join us as we present our exciting 40th anniversary line-up, and announce important news relevant to the Museum's future. Earlier in the day, the Museum will be celebrating Norman Rockwell's 115th birthday with cake, readings, and other festivities.

#### ***Artists in Their Studios***

February 7, 2009 through May 25, 2009

The interplay between artists and their studios will be the subject of a major exhibition opening this winter at Norman Rockwell Museum. *Artists in Their Studios* will present a behind-the-scenes view into the lives of over 75 noted American artists through hundreds of rarely exhibited photographs and primary source materials from the Smithsonian Archives of American Art, as well as an intimate selection of photographs of the studios where Rockwell worked during the long span of his career.

### **May**

#### ***A Day in the Life: Norman Rockwell's Stockbridge Studio***

Opening on May 2, 2009

The studio that Norman Rockwell used during the last 21 years of his life and the site where he created some of his most enduring paintings will be reinstalled for the first time since the artist passed away in 1978. The studio reopens with *A Day in the Life: Norman Rockwell's Stockbridge Studio*, an installation that recreates the interior as it was in 1961 when the artist was working on his iconic painting, *Golden Rule*.

## **Community Day**

May 3, 2009

Friends from the Berkshires and beyond are invited to the Museum for a free Community Day, featuring food and festivities. Timed with the opening of Norman Rockwell's reinstated studio, Community Day offers all friends and neighbors a first-glimpse of the studio as it looked in 1960.

## **July**

### ***American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell***

July 4, 2009 through September 7, 2009

Norman Rockwell Museum's first retrospective of the artist, *American Chronicles*, explores Rockwell's unparalleled role as an American icon-maker and storyteller. This special exhibition from the collection of Norman Rockwell Museum traces the evolution of Rockwell's art throughout his career—from carefully choreographed reflections on childhood innocence in paintings such as *No Swimming* (1921) to powerful, consciousness-raising images like *The Problem We All Live With* (1964), which documented the traumatic realities of desegregation in the South. *American Chronicles* will come home to Stockbridge for the summer before returning on nationwide tour through 2013.

### **All-American Independence Day Festival**

July 4, 2009

Join us for a family celebration of the Fourth.

### **40th Anniversary Celebration**

July 9, 2009

Join us for a special 40th anniversary celebration honoring the founders of the Old Corner House, the Museum's first home. Founding families, including Peter Rockwell, youngest son of Norman Rockwell, and his family will be in attendance.

### ***Stone's Throw: Peter Rockwell, Sculptor***

July 9, 2009 through October 25, 2009

The works of noted sculptor and art historian Peter Rockwell will be exhibited on Norman Rockwell Museum's grounds. As a young man, Peter had no interest in pursuing a career as an artist because art was "too much in the family." Today, Peter Rockwell's vibrant, animated works, inspired by circus acrobats, animals in motion, gargoyles, and monsters are featured in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery, The Bridgeport Museum of American Art, and Norman Rockwell Museum.

## **November**

### ***Norman Rockwell: Behind the Camera***

November 7, 2009 through May 24, 2010

The development and evolution of Rockwell's iconic images are depicted—frame by frame—in multiple series of the artist's photographs, which he took as he planned his paintings. *Norman Rockwell: Behind the Camera* will reveal the processes Rockwell used in developing the compositions of his paintings and the people who posed for the characters that inhabit them. Organized by curator and author Ron Schick, *Norman Rockwell: Behind the Camera* is the first exhibition and publication to undertake an in-depth study of Norman Rockwell Museum's newly digitized photography archive.

### **Launch of ProjectNORMAN**

November 2009

The Norman Rockwell Archives go online! This vast archival trove contains over 200,000 images, objects, and documents that have been available to scholars through on-site research since 1993. In 2001, the Museum initiated ProjectNORMAN, a comprehensive cataloging and digitization project that has resulted in digital preservation of 40,000 archival objects to-date. This “first wave” of images and associated information will go online in November 2009, and be available to scholars, researchers, students, and the public worldwide via a dedicated portion of the Museum's Web site.

### **Traveling Exhibitions During 2009 and Beyond**

#### ***American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell***

Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, VA, November 8, 2008 through February 1, 2009

Detroit Institute of Arts, MI, March 8, 2009 through May 31, 2009

Museum of Art, Fort Lauderdale, FL, November 14, 2009 through February 7, 2010

Wichita Art Museum, KS, March 6, 2010 through May 30, 2010

North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh, November 6, 2010 through January 30, 2011

Tacoma Art Museum, Washington, February 26, 2011 through May 30, 2011

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas  
March 2012 through May 2012

Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA, November 10, 2012 through February 2, 2013

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH, March 2, 2013 through May 26, 2013

***LitGraphic: The World of the Graphic Novel***

Toledo Museum of Art, OH, October 2, 2009 through January 3, 2010

Huntington Museum of Art, WV, February 20, 2010 through

May 23, 2010

James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown, PA, November 13, 2010  
through February 13, 2011

***Picturing Health: Norman Rockwell and the Art of Illustration***

Mobile Museum of Art, AL, March 6, 2009 through May 24, 2009

Gari Melchers Home and Studio, Fredericksburg, VA,

October 31, 2009 through January 31, 2010

The Paine Art Center and Gardens, Oshkosh, WI, February 20, 2010  
through May 30, 2010

***Norman Rockwell in the 1940s: A View of the American Homefront***

National Museum of the Marine Corps, Quantico, VA,

September 28, 2009 through January 9, 2010

***Building Books: The Art of David Macaulay***

The Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence,

September 24, 2008 through February 1, 2009

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH, March 7, 2009 through  
June 14, 2009

***Tasha Tudor's Spirit of the Holidays***

City of Lake Charles, Louisiana

November 7, 2008 through January 31, 2009

***Norman Rockwell's Home for the Holidays***

Atlanta History Center Atlanta Historical Society, GA,

November 22, 2008 through February 15, 2009

Stauth Memorial Museum, Montezuma, KS, December 11, 2011  
through February 4, 2012

***Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney***

Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, February 4, 2010 through

May 16, 2010

## **About Norman Rockwell Museum**

Founded in 1969 with the help of Norman and Molly Rockwell, Norman Rockwell Museum is dedicated to education and art appreciation inspired by the enduring legacy of one of America's greatest artists. The Museum houses the world's largest and most significant collection of original Rockwell art, and presents the works of contemporary and past masters of illustration. The Norman Rockwell archive contains more than 200,000 photographs, letters, and other rare mementos. The Museum is the recipient of the National Humanities Medal, which honors individuals or institutions whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities.

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