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 reinstalled 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
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

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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