



Works by 36 Contemporary Artists Selected by Distinguished Jury for Inclusion in Major Traveling Exhibition

Artists Called Upon to Reimagine the Four Freedoms and Provide Contemporary Interpretation for

Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms

Organized by Norman Rockwell Museum

(STOCKBRIDGE, MA – **April 19, 2018**)—In early 2017, the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, sent out a call to artists to create works that would reimagine President Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms—Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Want, and Freedom from Fear—or explore the meaning of freedom today, for possible inclusion in the major touring exhibition ***Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms***. A distinguished jury of curators, scholars, artists, and historians reviewed approximately 1,000 submissions from artists across the United States and in other countries, and selected 37 works by 36 artists to be featured in the contemporary section of the exhibition, titled “Reimagining the Four Freedoms.”

Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms opens at the **New-York Historical Society**, in New York City, on May 25, 2018, and the companion section “Reimagining the Four Freedoms” will be on view simultaneously across Central Park at **Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College**.

Support for the juried exhibition has been provided by the Ford Foundation.

Overview of Exhibition

The first comprehensive exhibition devoted to Norman Rockwell’s iconic depictions of Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Four Freedoms, ***Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms*** explores how the 1943 paintings came to be embraced by millions of Americans, providing crucial aid to the War effort as they brought the public together in defense of universal human rights. In addition to Rockwell’s celebrated paintings, the exhibition includes numerous other examples of painting, illustration, photography, and more, by both Rockwell and a broad range of his contemporaries—from J.C. Leyendecker and Mead Schaeffer, to Ben Shahn, Dorothea Lange, and Gordon Parks, among others—as well as historical documents, videos, and artifacts; interactive digital displays; and immersive settings. While exploring the response of an earlier

generation to the paintings and what they stood for, the exhibition, especially with the juried selection of contemporary works, also resonates with our own time.

Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms and its seven-city tour are organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum. The exhibition has been co-curated by Stephanie Haboush Plunkett, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Norman Rockwell Museum, and James J. Kimble, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Communication & the Arts, Seton Hall University. Additionally, a National Advisory Board comprising scholars, artists, and museum professionals has provided guidance and expertise for the exhibition.

Reimagining the Four Freedoms

For this section of the exhibition, artists were asked to consider what freedom means today and to provide a contemporary interpretation of the notions of freedom enunciated by Roosevelt in 1941 and painted by Rockwell in 1943. The selected artworks include painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, video, and mixed media.

Ms. Plunkett says, “The story of Rockwell’s images of the Four Freedoms and their success in uniting the American public continues to resonate, perhaps rarely more powerfully than today. We are thrilled at the enthusiastic response to our call to artists, many of whom have expanded our brief to include ideas about freedom in general. The diversity of ideas, styles, and mediums in the works that will be shown in the exhibition is a testament to the breadth and power of the very idea of freedom.”

Additionally, the selected works will be featured on the exhibition website; and will join a global discussion of art and ideas about the expression and meaning of freedom in today’s world, using #FourFreedomsToday.

A full list of the 36 artists is attached.

Exhibition Jury

The jury reviewed over approximately 1000 submissions from around the world and included:

- **Liza Donnelly**, cartoonist and writer for *The New Yorker*, which has featured her cartoons about culture and politics for over 30 years.
- **Wendy Tarlow Kaplan**, independent curator and art historian.
- **Anita Kunz**, award-winning illustrator, who has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada, Canada’s highest civilian honor, by her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.
- **Robyn Phillips-Pendleton**, Associate Professor of Visual Communications, Department of Art and Design, University of Delaware, Newark.
- **Maurice "Pops" Peterson**, visual artist, author, and Artist in Residence, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

- **Stephanie Haboush Plunkett**, Deputy Director/Chief Curator, Norman Rockwell Museum, and co-curator of the exhibition.
- **Chuck Pyle**, Director of the Illustration Program, Academy of Art University, San Francisco.
- **Melanie Reim**, Professor of Art, MFA and BFA Illustration Program, Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), New York City.
- **John Wetenhall**, Director, The George Washington University Museum and the Textile Museum; Associate Professor of Museum Studies, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- **Setsuko Sato**, artist and former National Public Radio Producer, whose *Freedom from Fear/Yellow Bowl Project* aims to raise awareness about the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Exhibition Tour

Following its inaugural presentation in New York City at the New-York Historical Society and Roosevelt House, *Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms* travels to The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI, October 13, 2018 – January 13, 2019; The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum, Washington, D.C., February 9 – May 6, 2019; Mémorial de Caen, Normandy, France, June 4 – October 27, 2019; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX, December 15, 2019 – March 22, 2020; Venue to be Announced, July 4 – September 20, 2020; Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA, Fall 2020. “Reimagining the Four Freedoms” will travel to select cities.

Exhibition Sponsorship

Major support for *Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms* has been generously provided by Jay Alix | The Alix Foundation and George Lucas Family Foundation, and by national presenting sponsor The Travelers Companies, Inc. Additional support is provided by an anonymous donor, Michael Bakwin, Helen Bing, Elephant Rock Foundation, Ford Foundation, Heritage Auctions, Annie and Ned Lamont, National Endowment for the Arts, and Ted Slavin.

Media sponsors include: Curtis Licensing, a division of *The Saturday Evening Post*, and Norman Rockwell Family Agency.

About Norman Rockwell Museum

The Museum’s recently established Rockwell Center for American Visual Studies supports sustained scholarship in American illustration. The first program of its kind in the nation, the Rockwell Center places the Museum in the vanguard of the preservation and interpretation of published imagery, a critically important but understudied aspect of American visual culture. The Norman Rockwell Museum advances social good through the civic values of learning, respect, and inclusion, and is committed to upholding the rights and dignity of all people through the universal messages of humanity and kindness portrayed by Norman Rockwell.

The Norman Rockwell Museum is dedicated to education and art appreciation inspired by the legacy of Norman Rockwell. The Museum holds the world's largest and most significant collection of art and archival materials relating to Rockwell's life and work, while also preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting a growing collection of art by other American illustrators throughout history. The Museum engages diverse audiences through onsite and traveling exhibitions, as well as publications, arts and humanities programs, and comprehensive online resources.

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Images are available upon request, as well as artists' statements about their selected works:

MEDIA CONTACTS

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**“Reimagining the Four Freedoms” section
of *Enduring Ideals: Rockwell, Roosevelt & the Four Freedoms*,
an internationally traveling exhibition organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum**

Artists and Works

Stephanie Angelo, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Four Freedoms (Marriage, Agent Orange, Lettuce Picker, Stalin), digital print on paper

Brandin Barón, San Francisco, California, USA

The Four Freedoms in the Style of Pontormo, digital print on paper

Curt Belshe, Peekskill, New York, USA

The Four Freedoms, photo-polymer etching

James Berson, West Hollywood, California, USA

Peaceful Demonstration Helmet (Water Protection), mixed media

James Billeaudeau, Lafayette, Louisiana, USA

Civil Discord, photograph

Benny Bing, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

United We Stand, acrylic on canvas

Gary Bist, Thornhill, Ontario, Canada

Refugee Families in Winter, sumi-e ink on rice paper

Barbara Brandel, Tucson, Arizona, USA

Thoughts of Home, recycled world postage stamps and acrylic and pencil on paper

Celine Browning, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA

Untitled III (Capture the Flag), flag, thread, and wood

Jarrett Christian, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Liberty Construct #1, ink on rice paper

Erin Currier, Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

Margarete, Helen, and Pablita, acrylic and mixed media on board

John Dempsey, Flint, Michigan, USA

Sunday Night/Monday Morning No. 2, acrylic on Masonite

Sara Dilliplane, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

We The People, digital animation

Candace Eaton, Sheffield, Massachusetts, and Northport, New York, USA

Why?, oil on canvas

Daniela Edstrom, Allentown, New Hampshire, USA
Freedom of Religion, Freedom to Believe, version six, digital print on paper

Jane Feldman, New York, N.Y., USA
Freedom of Religion Re-Imagined, digital print on paper

Sarah Fukami, Denver, Colorado, USA
Jiyu (Freedom), acrylic and laser cutting on Plexiglas

Marcia Haffmans, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
Breaking Free through Script, synesthetic fibers, Duralar, nuts, and bolts on board

Bri Hermanson, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA
To Have and To Hold, digital print on paper

Chris Hopkins, Everett, Washington, USA
An Uncertain Future and *Freedom from Want* (2 works), oil on panel

Sarah Hoskins, Libertyville, Illinois, USA
Jumping Jimtown, gelatin silver print

Felice House, Austin, Texas, USA
Olive Branch, oil on canvas

Esther Iverem, Washington, D.C., USA
Through Many Dangers, Toils, and Snares, quilt: fabric, ink, mixed media

Kenneth Laird, High Point, North Carolina, USA
Freedom of Speech—"Fake News," digital print on paper

Lisa Long, Dublin, California, USA
Religious Family Tree, cut-paper on board

Jonathan Monaghan, Washington, D.C., USA
The Friend of the Family, digital print on aluminum

Tim Needles, Sound Beach, New York, USA
Four Freedoms Today, digital video

Deborah Samia, Oakland, California, USA
Four Freedoms (A Tribute to Norman Rockwell) (4 works), Hydrocal plaster, reinforced with Fiberglass

Kathryn Scott, Chicago, Illinois, USA
Grassroots, digital print on paper

Robert Selby, Colton, New York, USA
Colored/White (diptych), oil on wooden door

Andréanna Seymore, New York, New York, USA
Mother and Daughter, Women's March 2017, digital print on paper

Sody Sharifi, Houston, Texas USA
The Game, digital print on paper

Leslie Sills, Brookline, Massachusetts, USA
Le Marché, oil on panel

Fazilat Soukhakian, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA
Iran, Women, Hijab, digital print on canvas

Amy Wike, Washington, D.C., USA
Refuge, yarn

Peter Zierlein, Northampton, Massachusetts, USA
Freedom of Speech, ink on paper, artist proof 1/2