



Media only: Mandy Young (202) 633-8529

Dec. 2, 2009

Media Web Site: <http://americanart.si.edu/pr>

Fact Sheet

Holiday Tree

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is displaying a decorated holiday tree at its Renwick Gallery, the museum's branch for contemporary craft and decorative arts. The tree is a 15-foot, 1,000-pound, bulbed Douglas fir provided by the Smithsonian's Horticulture Services Division. It is adorned with more than 500 handcrafted ornaments made specifically for the tree by members of the Society of Decorative Painters, who range in experience from beginners to Certified and Master Decorative Artists and range in age from 6 to more than 80 years old. The ornaments, each inspired by one of the paintings currently on display in the Renwick Gallery's Grand Salon, have been donated by the Society. The ornaments will not be formally acquired by the museum or accepted into its collection. The tree will be on display through Jan. 3, 2010.

Free Public Program

A holiday festival featuring the tree and seasonal art-making activities assisted by members of the Society will be held Saturday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Renwick Gallery. The Smithsonian Encore Chorale will provide live music, and hot cider and cookies will be available. For more information, visit the museum's Web site: Americanart.si.edu.

Photos of the holiday tree and festival will be available Dec. 7 on the museum's Facebook page at facebook.com/americanart.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery, located on Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W., is open daily 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Recorded museum information: (202) 633-7970. Web site: americanart.si.edu.

###