



Media only: Laura Baptiste (202) 633-8494
Mandy Young (202) 633-8529

Nov. 2, 2011

Media website: americanart.si.edu/pr

2011-2013 Advance Exhibition Schedule

Exhibitions are in galleries at the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s main building, located at Eighth and F streets N.W., unless otherwise noted. Exhibitions of craft and decorative arts are at the museum’s branch, the Renwick Gallery, located on Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W.; brief descriptions of Renwick exhibitions begin on p. 4. Continuing exhibitions are listed on p. 5 and nationally touring exhibitions are listed on p. 6. Rotating installations of artwork from the museum’s permanent collection are listed on p. 6. Dates and exhibitions are all subject to change and must be confirmed prior to publication.

Note to editors: Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from americanart.si.edu/pr. Email AmericanArtInfo@si.edu for the password.

EXHIBITIONS

- Now through Jan. 8, 2012 The Great American Hall of Wonders
- Now through May 6, 2012 “Something of Splendor”: Decorative Arts from the White House
(Renwick Gallery)
- Nov. 11 – March 11, 2012 Multiplicity
- Nov. 11 – Nov. 3, 2013 Inventing a Better Mousetrap: Patent Models from the Rothschild Collection
- Jan. 20, 2012 – May 20, 2012 Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage
- March 16, 2012 – Sept. 30, 2012 The Art of Video Games
- April 27, 2012 – Sept. 3, 2012 African American Art in the Twentieth Century
- July 20, 2012 – Feb. 3, 2013 40 under 40: Craft Futures **(Renwick Gallery)**
- Nov. 16, 2012 – April 28, 2013 The Civil War and American Art
- Dec. 13, 2012 – Aug. 11, 2013 Nam June Paik: Art and Process
- Oct. 25, 2013 – March 2, 2014 Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art

PERMANENT COLLECTION INSTALLATIONS

- Now through Jan. 2, 2012 Made in Chicago: The Koffler Collection
- Permanent Watch This! New Directions in the Art of the Moving Image
- Permanent Grand Salon Installation:
Paintings from the Smithsonian American Art Museum **(Renwick Gallery)**

Upcoming Exhibitions at the Smithsonian American Art Museum

Multiplicity

Nov. 11, 2011 – March 11, 2012

“Multiplicity” brings together a selection of prints by artists for whom the idea of multiplicity in its many forms provides a touchstone for their artistic expression. Many of the artists in this exhibition have expanded the idea of multiplicity beyond editions of identical impressions by creating series, sequences and images that comprise numerous parts. They explore repetition, pairing and variations on a theme as artistic strategies. Implicit in their exploration of multiplicity is a challenge to rarity and uniqueness as determinants of value. The exhibition features 83 works, created between 1972 and 2009, by contemporary artists such as John Baldessari, John Cage, Vija Celmins, Chuck Close, R. Luke DuBois, David Hockney, Sol LeWitt, Brice Marden, Julie Mehretu, Martin Puryear, Tim Rollins and K.O.S., Susan Rothenberg, Kiki Smith and Kara Walker. Nearly half of the prints included in the exhibition are recent acquisitions, and 38 were acquired by the museum in the past five years. The exhibition is the first time the museum has shown the majority of these artworks. These prints are the result of collaboration between the artist and professional printers who help realize the artist’s vision. They question the authority of the unique masterpiece and alter the stereotype of the artist working alone in the studio. Joann Moser, senior curator, selected the works in the exhibition.

Media preview: Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Inventing a Better Mousetrap: Patent Models from the Rothschild Collection

Nov. 11, 2011 – Nov. 3, 2013

The exhibition “Inventing a Better Mousetrap” features 32 models illustrating the wide variety of 19th-century patented inventions submitted by inventors from across the United States. All of the models on display are from the collection of Alan Rothschild, whose holdings of 4,000 patent models is the largest private assemblage of American patent models anywhere. The models in the exhibition are grouped by category, including domestic life, leisure and machinery. Charles Robertson, deputy director emeritus of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and specialist in American decorative arts, is the curator of the exhibition.

“Inventing a Better Mousetrap: Patent Models from the Rothschild Collection” is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Reda R. and Allan J. Riley, Niro, Haller & Niro, and Harness, Dickey & Pierce generously support the exhibition.

Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage

Jan. 20, 2012 – May 20, 2012

“Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage” charts a new direction for one of America’s best-known living photographers. Unlike her staged and carefully lit portraits made on assignment for magazines and advertising clients, the photographs in this exhibition were taken simply because Leibovitz was moved by the subject. The pictures are, in a certain sense, portraits of subjects that have shaped Leibovitz’s distinctly American view of her cultural inheritance. Visiting the homes of iconic figures, including Thomas Jefferson, Emily Dickinson, Georgia O’Keeffe, Pete Seeger and Elvis Presley, as well as places such as Niagara Falls, Walden Pond, Old Faithful and the Yosemite Valley, she let her instincts and intuitions guide her to related subjects—hence the title “Pilgrimage.” Some of the pictures focus on the remaining traces of photographers and artists she admires, such as Julia Margaret Cameron, Ansel Adams and Robert Smithson. Together the pictures show Leibovitz at the height of her powers, unfettered by the demands of her commercial career. “Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage” is organized by guest curator Andy Grundberg, former *New York Times* photography critic. The exhibition will travel. It is presented in conjunction with a new book by Annie Leibovitz, *Pilgrimage*, published by Random House. A set of photographs from *Pilgrimage* will be acquired by the museum for its permanent collection.

Media preview: Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012, at 10:30 a.m.

“Annie Leibovitz: Pilgrimage” is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The Bernie Stadiem Endowment Fund provided support for the exhibition.

The Art of Video Games

March 16, 2012 – Sept. 30, 2012

“The Art of Video Games” is one of the first exhibitions to explore the 40-year evolution of video games as an artistic medium, with a focus on striking graphics, creative storytelling and player interactivity. The exhibition will feature some of the most influential artists and designers during five eras of game technology, from early pioneers to contemporary designers. It also will explore the many influences on game designers, and the pervasive presence video games have in the broader popular culture, with new relationships to video art, film and television, educational practices and professional skill training. New technologies have allowed designers to create increasingly interactive and sophisticated game environments. The exhibition will feature 80 games through still images and multimedia elements. In addition, the galleries will include video interviews with developers and artists, large prints of in-game screen shots, historic game consoles and a selection of playable games. Chris Melissinos, founder of Past Pixels and collector of video games and gaming systems, is the curator of the exhibition. A publication will accompany the exhibition.

The exhibition will travel to the Boca Raton Museum of Art (Oct. 24, 2012–Jan. 20, 2013). Additional venues will be listed online as they are confirmed.

Media preview: Thursday, March 15, 2012, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“The Art of Video Games” is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum with generous support from Sheila Duignan and Mike Wilkins. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum’s traveling exhibition program, “Treasures to Go.”

African American Art in the 20th Century

April 27, 2012 – Sept. 3, 2012

“African American Art in the 20th Century” presents a selection of paintings, sculpture, prints and photographs by 43 black artists who explored the African American experience from the Harlem Renaissance through the Civil Rights era and the decades beyond, which saw tremendous social and political changes. In response, these artists created an image of America that recognizes individuals and community and acknowledges the role of art in celebrating the multivalent nature of American society. The artworks in the exhibition lay out a vision of America from an African American viewpoint. All 100 artworks in the exhibition are drawn entirely from the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s rich collection of African American art. More than half of the featured works are being exhibited and circulated by the museum for the first time, and ten works are recent acquisitions. The exhibition is organized by Virginia Mecklenburg, senior curator. A publication will accompany the exhibition. The exhibition will travel to the Muscarelle Museum of Art in Williamsburg, Va. (Sept. 28, 2012–Jan. 6, 2013). Additional venues will be listed online as they are confirmed.

Media preview: Thursday, April 26 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“African American Art in the 20th Century” is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum with generous support from Alston & Bird and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum’s traveling exhibition program, “Treasures to Go.”

The Civil War and American Art

Nov. 16, 2012 – April 28, 2013

This exhibition will explore the impact of the Civil War and its aftermath on the visual arts in America using some of the finest artworks made during this period by leading figures such as Albert Bierstadt, Frederic Church, Winslow Homer and Eastman Johnson. Although the exhibition will include photographs by Alexander Gardner and Timothy H. O’Sullivan, the focus will be on how artists addressed the metaphorical war, dealing allegorically or elliptically with the issues of internal warfare, the future of the union, abolition and race relations, and the post-war search for a new American identity. These artists’ solutions resulted in some of the most compelling landscapes and genre paintings of the mid-19th century, often containing layers of meaning beyond their war-related allusions. Eleanor Jones Harvey, chief curator, is organizing the exhibition and will author the accompanying catalog. The exhibition will travel to The Metropolitan Museum of Art (May 21, 2013–Sept. 2, 2013).

Media preview: Thursday, Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“The Civil War and American Art” is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum with generous support from the Anschutz Foundation, Ludmila and Conrad Cafritz, Sheila Duignan and Mike

Wilkins, Tania and Tom Evans, the Raymond J. and Margaret Horowitz Endowment, Thelma and Melvin Lenkin and Holly and Nick Ruffin. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum's traveling exhibition program, "Treasures to Go."

Nam June Paik: Art and Process

Dec. 13, 2012 – Aug. 11, 2013

"Nam June Paik: Art and Process" is the first in a series of exhibitions to be drawn from the Nam June Paik Estate Archive, which was acquired by the museum in 2009. It will offer an unprecedented view into the artist's creative method. The exhibition will present artworks and documentary materials from the archive to examine Paik's creative process and tell the story of his groundbreaking ideas. The exhibition also will feature key artworks in the museum's collection including "Zen for TV" (1963/1976) and "Technology" (1991) as well as loans from public and private collections. John G. Hanhardt, senior curator for media arts and the leading expert on Paik and his global influence, is organizing the exhibition. A publication will accompany the exhibition.

Media preview: Wednesday, Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Nam June Paik: Art and Process" is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum with generous support from Marilou and Ken Hakuta and Sheila Duignan and Mike Wilkins.

Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art

Oct. 25, 2013 – March 2, 2014

"Our America: The Latino Presence in American Art" explores a key cornerstone in our national narrative—that we are "a nation of immigrants"—by considering the varied contributions of Latino artists to American art and culture from the mid-20th century to the present. Featuring more than 70 works across all media by some of the leading contemporary artists working in the United States, the exhibition will examine how their works express an unfolding and particular American experience. The artworks in this exhibition will be drawn entirely from the Smithsonian American Art Museum's pioneering collection of Latino art, including works by Amalia Mesa-Bains, Raphael Montañez Ortiz, Carmen Herrera, Luis Jiménez, John Valadez, Pepón Osorio, Ana Mendieta, Freddy Rodríguez, Sophie Rivera, Enrique Chagoya, and Vik Muniz, among many others. The exhibition will introduce more than 20 newly-acquired artworks from the museum's permanent collection. "Our America" is organized by E. Carmen Ramos, curator for Latino art. The exhibition will travel. A catalog will accompany the exhibition.

Media preview: Thursday, Oct. 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Upcoming Exhibitions at the Renwick Gallery

40 under 40: Craft Futures

July 20, 2012 – Feb. 3, 2013

"40 under 40: Craft Futures" features 40 artists born since 1972, the year the museum's contemporary craft and decorative arts program was established at its branch museum, the Renwick Gallery. The exhibition investigates evolving notions of craft within traditional media such as ceramics and metalwork, as well as in fields as varied as sculpture, industrial design, installation art, fashion design, sustainable manufacturing and mathematics. The range of disciplines represented illustrates new avenues for the handmade in contemporary culture. "40 under 40: Craft Futures" is presented in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Renwick Gallery. Nicholas R. Bell, curator at the museum's Renwick Gallery, selected the artists and is organizing the exhibition. The museum intends to acquire works by every artist in the exhibition for the permanent collection to mark the anniversary. The artists included in the exhibition originate from every region of the United States and five countries. The exhibition will travel. A catalog will accompany the exhibition.

Media preview: Thursday, July 19 from 10 a.m. to noon

"40 under 40: Craft Futures" is organized by the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Fleur Bresler, the Ryna and Melvin Cohen Family Foundation Endowment, the James Renwick Alliance and the Windgate Charitable Foundation generously support the exhibition in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Renwick Gallery. The publication is made possible by the

James Renwick Alliance Dale Chihuly Publication Fund. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum's traveling exhibition program, "Treasures to Go."

Continuing Exhibitions at the Smithsonian American Art Museum

The Great American Hall of Wonders

July 15, 2011 – Jan. 8, 2012

"The Great American Hall of Wonders" examines the 19th-century American belief that the people of the United States shared a special genius for innovation. It explores this belief through works of art, mechanical inventions and scientific discoveries, and captures the excitement of citizens who defined their nation as a "Great Experiment" sustained by the inventive energies of Americans in every walk of life. The exhibition featured 161 objects, including paintings and drawings by pre-eminent artists, including John James Audubon, Albert Bierstadt, George Catlin, Frederic Edwin Church, Winslow Homer, Thomas Moran and Charles Willson Peale, as well as sculptures, prints, survey photographs, zoological and botanical illustrations, patent models and engineering diagrams. The exhibition explores six subjects that helped shape America during the period—the buffalo, giant sequoia and Niagara Falls represent American beliefs about abundant natural resources for fueling the nation's progress, while inventions such as the clock, the gun and the railroad link improvements in technology with the purposeful use of time. "The Great American Hall of Wonders" investigates questions that are still critical today. It reveals both the successful experiments of the past, as well as the ones that went awry, and invites today's citizens to explore a valuable legacy left by the founding fathers: a belief in the transformative power of American inventiveness. Claire Perry, independent curator, organized the exhibition.

A book (\$65/\$45 softcover), written by Perry and co-published with D Giles Limited, accompanies the exhibition.

"The Great American Hall of Wonders" is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum in collaboration with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Battelle has provided important leadership support for the exhibition. Generous contributions also have been provided by Sheila Duignan and Mike Wilkins, the Raymond J. and Margaret Horowitz Endowment, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, Thelma and Melvin Lenkin, Betty and Whitney MacMillan, Jean Mahoney and Robin Martin.

Continuing Exhibitions at the Renwick Gallery

"Something of Splendor:" Decorative Arts from the White House

Oct. 1, 2011 – May 6, 2012

The White House has been the official residence of the President of the United States for more than 200 years. It embodies the story of how the presidents and their families live, work and entertain within its historic walls and among its historic furnishings. This exhibition, organized in honor of the 50th anniversary of the White House Historical Association, will allow visitors to explore the history of the decorative arts in the nation's foremost home. It includes 95 objects, including furniture, ceramics, metals, glass and textiles. Many of these objects were made by the most celebrated craftsmen of their time and some have never been seen outside of the White House. The exhibition and its related publication will include archival images of the interiors to help the visitor envision life in the President's official residence. William G. Allman, curator of the White House, and Melissa C. Naulin, assistant curator of the White House, selected the works included in the exhibition. *At Home in the White House*, a film in which first families offer their personal recollections and memories about living in America's most famous home, will be shown continuously in the galleries.

An illustrated catalog (\$14.95), published by the White House Historical Association, accompanies the exhibition.

“‘Something of Splendor’: Decorative Arts from the White House” is organized by the White House Office of the Curator, the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the White House Historical Association.

Permanent Collection Installations

Made in Chicago: The Koffler Collection

Aug. 12, 2011 – Jan. 2, 2012

“Made in Chicago: The Koffler Collection” features 25 paintings, sculpture and works on paper from 1960 to 1980, including works by Roger Brown, Leon Golub, Theodore Halkin, Vera Klement, Ellen Lanyon, Jim Nutt, Ed Paschke, Barry Tinsley and Ray Yoshida. The artworks are all by Chicago artists from the S.W. and B.M. Koffler Foundation collection, given to the Smithsonian American Art Museum in the late 1970s and early 1980s by Samuel and Blanche Koffler. The Kofflers, avid art collectors in Chicago, formed a foundation in 1971 to purchase art by local artists. A board of five administrators—a painter, a sculptor, a museum director, an art historian and a critic—all with Chicago connections, determined the acquisitions. Many of the artworks in the installation are typical of the well-known Chicago taste for figurative art. Guest curator Franz Schulze, a Chicago-based art critic, and acting chief curator George Gurney organized the exhibition.

Watch This! New Directions in the Art of the Moving Image

Permanent

“Watch This!” takes stock of the cutting-edge tools and materials used by video artists during the past 50 years. This permanent collection gallery, featuring changing selections from the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s collection of video and time-based artwork, examines the history as well as latest developments in the art of the moving image. John G. Hanhardt, senior curator for media arts, selected the works. The majority of the featured artworks are recent acquisitions. The James F. Dicke Family Endowment generously supported “Watch This!”

Grand Salon Installation: Paintings from the Smithsonian American Art Museum [Renwick Gallery]

Permanent

This installation of 70 paintings from the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s collection, on display in the Grand Salon, features landscapes, portraits and allegorical works by 51 American artists from the 1840s to the 1930s. Artists whose works are on view include Edward Mitchell Bannister, Romaine Brooks, Elliott Daingerfield, Daniel Garber, William Morris Hunt, George Inness, Homer Dodge Martin, Albert Pinkham Ryder, Abbott Handerson Thayer, John Henry Twachtman, and Irving R. Wiles. The room is installed salon style, with paintings hung one-atop-another and side by side.

Nationally Touring Exhibitions Organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum

Alexis Rockman: A Fable for Tomorrow

Alexis Rockman (b. 1962) has been depicting the natural world with virtuosity and wit for more than two decades. His work expresses deep concerns about the world’s fragile ecosystems and the tension between nature and culture, which are communicated through vivid, even apocalyptic, imagery. Rockman achieves his vision through a synthesis of fantasy and empirical fact, using sources as varied as natural history, botanical illustrations, museum dioramas, science fiction films, realist art traditions dating back to the Renaissance and firsthand field study. The exhibition is the first major survey of the artist’s work and features paintings and works on paper from private and public collections. It traces Rockman’s artistic development from the mid-1980s to the present and is organized by Joanna Marsh, The James Dicke Curator of Contemporary Art.

A catalog (\$49.95/\$35 softcover), co-published with D Giles Limited, accompanies the exhibition.

Smithsonian American Art Museum (Nov. 19, 2010 – May 8, 2011)

Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio (Sept. 16, 2011 – Jan. 1, 2012)

“Alexis Rockman: A Fable for Tomorrow” is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum, with generous support from the Cowles Charitable Trust, Wayne Fingerman, Dorothy Tapper Goldman, Barbara and Jonathan Lee, Nion McEvoy, Pamela K. and William A. Royall Jr., Holly and Nick Ruffin, Betty A. and Lloyd G. Schermer, Sheila Duignan and Mike Wilkins, and an anonymous donor. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum's traveling exhibition program, “Treasures to Go.”

Modern Masters from the Smithsonian American Art Museum

“Modern Masters from the Smithsonian American Art Museum” features 43 key paintings and sculptures by 31 of the most celebrated artists who came to maturity in the 1950s. Through three broadly-conceived themes that span two decades of creative genius—“Significant Gestures,” “Optics and Order” and “New Images of Man”—“Modern Masters” examines the complex and heterogeneous nature of American abstract art in the mid-20th century. Featured artists include Jim Dine, David Driskell, Sam Francis, Philip Guston, Grace Hartigan, Hans Hofmann, Franz Kline, Louise Nevelson, Anne Truitt and Esteban Vicente.

A catalog (\$59.95/\$45 softcover), co-published with D Giles Limited, accompanies the exhibition.

The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University in Miami

(Nov. 29, 2008 – March 1, 2009)

Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg, Penn. (June 14, 2009 – Sept. 6, 2009)

Dayton Art Institute in Dayton, Ohio (July 23, 2010 – Oct. 10, 2010)

Telfair Museum of Art in Savannah, Ga. (Nov. 5, 2010 – Feb. 5, 2011)

Cheekwood Botanical Garden and Museum of Art in Nashville (March 19, 2011 – June 19, 2011)

Reynolda House Museum of American Art in Winston-Salem, N.C. (Oct. 7, 2011 – Dec. 31, 2011)

The Smithsonian American Art Museum is grateful to our generous contributors for their support of “Modern Masters from the Smithsonian American Art Museum.” The William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund provided support for the publication. The C. F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum’s traveling exhibition program “Treasures to Go.” Members of the Smithsonian Council for American Art contribute to the museum’s national programs.

1934: A New Deal for Artists

Against the backdrop of the Great Depression, the U.S. government created the Public Works of Art Project—the first federal government program to support the arts nationally. Artists from across the United States who participated in the program painted regional, recognizable subjects—ranging from portraits to cityscapes and images of city life to landscapes and depictions of rural life—that reminded the public of quintessential American values such as hard work, community and optimism. “1934: A New Deal for Artists” celebrates the 75th anniversary of the Public Works of Art Project by drawing on the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s unparalleled collection of paintings created for the program. The 56 paintings in the exhibition are a lasting visual record of America at a specific moment in time. George Gurney, acting chief curator, organized the exhibition with Ann Prentice Wagner, former curatorial associate.

A catalog (\$49.95/\$34 softcover), co-published with D Giles Limited, accompanies the exhibition.

Smithsonian American Art Museum (Feb. 27, 2009 – Jan. 3, 2010)

Frick Art & Historical Center in Pittsburgh, Pa. (Jan. 30, 2010 – April 25, 2010)

Fort Wayne Museum of Art in Fort Wayne, Ind. (May 21, 2010 – Aug. 22, 2010)

Whatcom Museum of History and Art in Bellingham, Wash. (Sept. 16, 2010 – Jan. 9, 2011)

The Mennello Museum of American Art in Orlando, Fla. (Feb. 11, 2011 – May 1, 2011)

Oklahoma City Museum of Art in Oklahoma City, Okla. (May 26, 2011 – Aug. 21, 2011)

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in Montgomery, Ala. (Sept. 24, 2011 – Jan. 15, 2012)

Muskegon Museum of Art in Muskegon, Mich. (Feb. 16, 2012 – May 6, 2012)

Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, Minn. (June 2, 2012 – Sept. 22, 2012)

New York State Museum in Albany, N.Y. (Oct. 19, 2012 – Jan. 20, 2013)

Chazen Museum of Art in Madison, Wis. (Feb. 16, 2013 – April 28, 2013)

Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa (Sept. 28, 2013 – Jan. 5, 2014)

Portland Museum of Art in Portland, Maine (Jan. 30, 2014 – May 11, 2014)

“1934: A New Deal for Artists” is organized and circulated by the Smithsonian American Art Museum

with support from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Endowment Fund and the Smithsonian Council for American Art. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum's traveling exhibition program, "Treasures to Go."

To Make a World: George Ault and 1940s America

March 11, 2011 – Sept. 5, 2011

During the turbulent 1940s, artist George Ault (1891-1948) created precise yet eerie pictures—works of art that have come to be seen, following his death, as some of the most original paintings made in America in those years. The beautiful geometries of Ault's paintings make personal worlds of clarity and composure to offset a real world he felt was in crisis. "To Make a World" captures a 1940s America that was rendered fragile by the Great Depression and made anxious by a global conflict. The exhibition centers on paintings Ault made between 1943 and 1948 depicting the crossroads of Russell's Corners in Woodstock, N.Y. The additional 22 artists represented in this exhibition include some as celebrated as Edward Hopper and Andrew Wyeth, while others such as Edward Biberman and Dede Plummer are scarcely known to today's art audiences. Taken together, their artworks reveal an aesthetic vein running through 1940s American art that previously has not been identified. Alexander Nemerov, the Vincent Scully Professor of the History of Art at Yale University, is the curator of the exhibition.

A catalog (\$45), co-published with Yale University Press, accompanies the exhibition.

Smithsonian American Art Museum (March 11, 2011 – Sept. 5, 2011)

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo. (Oct. 15, 2011 – Jan. 8, 2012)

Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia in Athens (Feb. 18, 2012 – April 16, 2012)

"To Make a World: George Ault and 1940s America" is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum with generous support from Dolores and John W. Beck, Joan and E. Bertram Berkley, Diane and Norman Bernstein Foundation, Janet and Jim Dicke, Sheila Duignan and Mike Wilkins, Barney A. Ebsworth, Tania and Tom Evans, Kara and Wayne Fingerman, Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, Wolf Kahn and Emily Mason Foundation, Joffa and Bill Kerr, Robert S. and Grayce B. Kerr Foundation, John and Gail Liebes Trust, Paula and Peter Lunder, Betty and Whitney MacMillan, Margery and Edgar Masinter, Oriana McKinnon, Susan Reed Moseley, and Betty and Lloyd Schermer. Additional funding is provided through the museum's William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund and Gene Davis Memorial Fund. The C.F. Foundation in Atlanta supports the museum's traveling exhibition program, "Treasures to Go."

About the Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery

The Smithsonian American Art Museum celebrates the vision and creativity of Americans with artworks in all media spanning more than three centuries. Its main building, a National Historic Landmark and major example of Greek Revival architecture, is located at Eighth and F streets N.W. in the heart of a revitalized downtown arts district. It is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Metrorail station: Gallery Place/Chinatown (Red, Yellow and Green lines). Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Follow the museum on Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, ArtBabble, iTunes and YouTube. The Smithsonian American Art Museum's traveling exhibition program has circulated hundreds of exhibitions since it was established in 1951. Website: americanart.si.edu.

The museum's branch for craft and decorative arts, the Renwick Gallery, is steps from the White House in the heart of historic federal Washington. Its Second Empire-style building, also a National Historic Landmark, was designed by architect James Renwick Jr. in 1859 and completed in 1874. Located at Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street N.W., it is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Metrorail station: Farragut North (Red line) and Farragut West (Blue and Orange lines).

###