



March 2, 2006

Media only: Susan K. Battle (202) 275-1592
Media Web site: www.americanart.si.edu/press
Public only: (202) 633-1000

Media Preview: Tuesday, March 7, 3-5 p.m.

Grant Wood’s Iconic Painting “American Gothic” Travels to the Nation’s Capital On View at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum March 10–June 11



Grant Wood (American), *American Gothic*, 1930. The Art Institute of Chicago: Friends of American Art Collection, 1930.934. Photography © The Art Institute of Chicago.

“American Gothic”—one of the most recognizable American paintings—will be featured in the exhibition, “Grant Wood’s Studio: Birthplace of ‘American Gothic’” at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

The Art Institute of Chicago, which owns “American Gothic,” rarely lends the painting. The Art Institute estimates that the work has traveled only 30 times since the museum acquired the painting in 1930. This exhibition marks the first time the painting has traveled to Washington, D.C. in more than 40 years.

“American Gothic” returns to Chicago in mid-June. The exhibition continues at the Renwick Gallery through July 16.

“Grant Wood’s Studio: Birthplace of ‘American Gothic’” presents for the first time the artist’s decorative art and design work within the larger context of his paintings, drawings and prints. The exhibition features 158 works, including Wood’s early decorative artworks that led to iconic paintings, such as “Stone City, Iowa,” “Midnight Ride of Paul Revere” and “Daughters of Revolution,” that rarely travel. Also included in the exhibition are photographs of Wood’s studio/home and artifacts that served as props for his paintings. These help to recreate the studio in the exhibition and illustrate the importance of his studio

as a creative laboratory for his work. The exhibition is presented under the Honorary Patronage of Congressman Jim Leach and Deba Leach.

Credit: “Grant Wood’s Studio: Birthplace of American Gothic” was organized by the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art with major support from the Archer Daniels Midland Company, the Henry Luce Foundation, and Hometown Perry, Iowa. The presentation at the Renwick Gallery is made possible by Archer Daniels Midland Company with additional support from the Friends of Grant Wood and the James Renwick Alliance.

The Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum is dedicated to exhibiting American crafts and decorative arts from the 19th to the 21st century. It is located on Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W., near the Farragut North (Red line) and Farragut West (Blue and Orange lines) Metrorail stations. Museum hours are from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Admission is free. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 357-1729 (TTY). Recorded information: (202) 275-1500. Please visit the museum’s award-winning Web site at americanart.si.edu.

###

Note to Editors: Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from <ftp://saam-press@ftp.si.edu>. Call (202) 275-1594 for the password. Additional information about the exhibition will be available from the museum’s online press room.