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Oct. 24, 2008

Media Web site: americanart.si.edu/press

Fact Sheet

“Graphic Masters I: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum”

Exhibition

“Graphic Masters I: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum”

Nov. 27 – May 25, 2009

Location

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F streets N.W.
Graphic Arts galleries, second floor

Description

“Graphic Masters I: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum” is the first in a series of special installations that celebrate the extraordinary variety and accomplishment of American artists’ works on paper. These 40 exceptional watercolors, pastels and drawings from the early 19th century through the 1930s reveal the central importance of works on paper for American artists, both as studies for creations in other media and as finished works of art. Traditionally a more intimate form of expression than painting or sculpture, drawings often reveal greater spontaneity and experimentation. Even as works on paper become larger and more finished, competing in scale with easel paintings, they retain a sense of the artist’s hand, the immediacy of a thought made visible.

Rarely seen works from the museum’s permanent collection by masters such as John James Audubon, Romaine Brooks, Childe Hassam, Winslow Homer, John La Farge, Man Ray, John Marin, Georgia O’Keeffe and Max Weber are featured in the exhibition. Joann Moser, senior curator for graphic arts, selected the artworks in the exhibition.

Publication

A souvenir book, titled “Graphic Masters: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum” and published by the museum in 2003, includes many of the works in the exhibition with entries by Moser. It is available for \$19.95 in the museum’s store and online.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum, located above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station, is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Web site: americanart.si.edu.

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Note to editors: Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from <ftp://saam-press@ftp.si.edu>. Call (202) 633-8530 for the password. Additional information about the exhibition is available from the museum’s online press room at americanart.si.edu/press.