

Exhibition Exchange Signed Between NMAI & Shanghai Art Museum

NEWPORT, R.I. — On the eve of its sixth anniversary (July 4) the National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI) announced that the museum has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Shanghai Art Museum to mount exhibitions in Shanghai, and other venues, and to bring exhibitions to the NMAI from China.

Following their recent trip to China and Taiwan, museum co-founders Judy and Laurence Cutler have forged the first agreement ever between an American art museum and a People's Republic of China (PRC) art museum intended to foster broad cultural exchange between the two countries. The agreement plans for a traveling exhibition of American illustration art organized by the NMAI to be hosted at the Shanghai Art Museum in 2007. Conversely, an exhibition of the major Chinese illustrator Zhang Le Ping is to be hosted at the NMAI in 2008.

"We received the most wonderful reception in our travels through China, with incredible interest everywhere in American illustration art, as historical artifacts of our American culture, our civilization illustrated," said Laurence Cutler, who is also the museum chairman. "We are most honored to be chosen by the Shanghai Art Museum as their partner in this major cultural exchange."

A "Letter of Agreement" was signed between the two institutions at a ceremony held in

Shanghai on April 26. The NMAI has begun organizing a traveling exhibit titled "The Great American Imagists," which will feature the works of Norman Rockwell, Maxfield Parrish, N.C. Wyeth, as well as other artists from the "Golden Age of American Illustration."

The NMAI is in discussions with the National Art Museum of China (PRC), the Capital Museum in Beijing and the Taipei Fine Arts Museum in Taiwan (ROC) as other anticipated venues for this exhibit. This will be the first American art exhibit to travel to both the People's Republic of China and Taiwan. Zhang Le Ping (1910-1992), the most famous Chinese cartoonist, is best known for his character "Sanmao," who influenced three generations of Chinese children. The artist has said that the works of Norman Rockwell greatly influenced his career, a fact that has increased the public interest in Rockwell's work in China. The 2008 exhibition at the NMAI will be the first exhibition of works by Zhang to be held in the United States.

Opened to the public on July 4, 2000, the National Museum of American Illustration, 492 Bellevue Avenue, is exhibiting "Highlights of the Collection," in addition to its special exhibit of Maxfield Parrish's masterpiece "Daybreak," on display through August 25.

For more information, 401-851-8949 or www.americanillustration.org.