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Public gets one last look at a Parrish masterpiece

BY BILL VAN SICLEN
JOURNAL ARTS WRITER

Daybreak one of the most beloved and iconic images in American art, but it may not be exhibited in public again for quite some time. The private collection it's going to is not acces-

Two months ago, it sold for a record-setting \$7.6 million. Now, *Daybreak*, the famous Maxfield Parrish painting of two youths outlined against a background of lavender-hued mountains, is taking a victory lap of sorts before disappearing into a private collection.

One of the most widely reproduced paintings in history, *Daybreak* will be shown at Newport's National Museum of American Illustration from July 10 to Aug. 25.

The museum, on Bellevue Avenue, also owns several other Parrish paintings, including the artist's largest work — a playfully panoramic composition known as *The Florentine Fete*.

The result: a must-see homage to one of the masters of American illustration. "We're extremely excited," said museum director Judy Goffman Cutler. "Not only is



COURTESY OF THE ARCHIVES OF AMERICAN ILLUSTRATORS GALLERY, NYC

Painted in 1922, *Daybreak* is one of the most widely reproduced paintings in history.

sible to the general public." The buyer's identity is confidential.

Cutler, who cofounded the National Museum of American Illustration with her husband,

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Daybreak on public view before heading to private collection

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Laurence S. Cutler, said that viewers who've seen only older copies of *Daybreak* will be particularly impressed.

"In older reproductions, the colors are almost always washed out," she said. "When people finally see the painting in person, they can hardly believe their eyes. The colors are so much more electric."

Painted in 1922, *Daybreak* was an instant success, appearing on everything from prints and posters to calendars and greeting cards. At one time, it was estimated that one in four Americans owned a copy of the work, which shows two youths drowsily greeting the dawn at hilltop temple or villa.

Even today, Cutler said that printed versions of the painting remain popular. "It's sold more copies than the *Last Supper*," she said.

Though admission to the museum is usually by advance reservation only, Cutler said the policy will be waived for the

weekends of July 22-23 and Aug. 19-20, when the museum will open its doors to all comers.

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JUDY GOFFMAN CUTLER
museum director

"It's such a special event," she said. "We want everyone who wants to see the painting to be able to see it before it disappears."

The National Museum of American Illustration is at 492 Bellevue Ave. in Newport. Tickets are \$25, \$22 for ages 60 and older

and military personnel with I.D. Children 12 and under are not permitted. For more information, call (401) 851-8949 or visit www.americanillustration.org.