



The National Museum of American Illustration
Vernon Court ★ 492 Bellevue Avenue ★ Newport RI 02840

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NEW EXHIBITION ‘THE AMERICAN MUSE’ DEBUTS AT THE NMAI

NEWPORT, RI- Friday, May 24, the NMAI officially debuts its new exhibition, *The American Muse*. The exhibition is in homage to American women of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and the illustrators who accurately portrayed the quintessential yet distinctly American feminine beauty that these women embodied. The American illustrators highlighted include Charles Dana Gibson, Harrison Fisher, and others of the greatest illustrators of the period, such as: Philip Boileau, MacClelland Barclay, Howard Chandler Christy, James Montgomery Flagg, Henry Hutt, Walter Granville Smith, Paul Stahr, and Albert Beck Wenzell.

Each of these illustrators created their own prototypical image of ‘The American Woman.’ The public gave these illustrators’ artworks generic names as part of their respective oeuvre; *The Gibson Girl* and *The Fisher Girl* stand out as the most popular of all. These renditions of the illustrators’ ideal woman captured the increasingly independent spirit of American women. The illustrations both shaped and reflected American society and its notions of female beauty. Compared to women of previous eras, these women relished more freedoms, enjoyed greater opportunities in sports and education, and were at the vanguard of a time when women effected change through social and political movements on an unprecedented scale in Western culture.

Also showing at the NMAI are *Maxfield Parrish: The Retrospective*, which has been extended due to popular demand through Fall 2013, and *Howard Pyle & His Brandywine Students*, showcasing the works of Howard Pyle, N.C. Wyeth, Frank Schoonover and others of the Brandywine School. Additionally, highlights from the NMAI’s American Imagist Collection, featuring works by Norman Rockwell, J.C. Leyendecker, John Falter, Dean Cornwell, and other Golden Age illustrators are on display.

The exhibitions are currently on view at Vernon Court in Newport, during the NMAI’s Spring hours: Fridays 11am to 5pm with a guided tour at 3pm, group tours by advance reservation. The NMAI’s Summer hours commence Friday, May 24 and last until September 1. During this time, the Museum is open Memorial Day, and every Thursday through Sunday, 11am to 5pm, with a guided tour Fridays at 3pm.

For more information and images, contact the NMAI at 401.851.8949 ext. 18, email art@americanillustration.org, or visit our website at www.americanillustration.org.

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The National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI) was founded in 1998 by Judy Goffman Cutler and Laurence S. Cutler to house their art collection from the ‘Golden Age of American Illustration.’ The NMAI, a private, nonprofit organization, is an independent, educational, and aesthetic organization with the goal to present the best venue for the public to appreciate the greatest collection of illustration art.