



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2011

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NORMAN ROCKWELL RETURNS FOR NEWPORT'S 2011 SUMMER SEASON

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND – After a record-breaking exhibition at Dulwich Picture Gallery, England's oldest art museum renowned for their Old Master collection, on the occasion of their 200th anniversary, *Norman Rockwell's America* returns to the National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI) for Newport's 2011 Summer Season, opening Memorial Day weekend. The exhibition includes over 50 original works by Rockwell and gives viewers the unique opportunity to view his oeuvre alongside his mentors and peers from the Golden Age of American Illustration.

After the show's opening last December at London's Dulwich Picture Gallery, Ian Dejardin, Gallery Director, remarked: *"I am struck by just how excellent the show is – elegant in conception and perfect in balance and scale. I've said it before, and I say it again – You did us proud."* Heralded as 'pure genius' by *The Telegraph* and 'Completely Exceptional' by the London's *Saturday Review*, Rockwell captured the hearts and minds of the English as he did Americans each week on the covers of the country's most popular magazines.

Norman Rockwell was America's best-known and most beloved illustrator for over six decades of the 20th century. This exhibition allows viewers to see Rockwell's accomplished technique and craftsmanship while asserting his position as a great American artist/illustrator. He was a storyteller, a chronicler painting scenes that were folksy, often humorous and topical, and always compelling in their messages. These iconic images continue to resonate and find new audiences in the 21st century.

Also on display as part of the NMAI's American Imagist Collection are works by Rockwell's mentors, contemporaries, and competitors, including: Steven Dohanos, John Falter, JC Leyendecker, Maxfield Parrish, Howard Pyle, NC Wyeth, and many others. Visitors are able to view a particular illustrator/artist's works in the context of his contemporaries, a unique experience that is not available elsewhere on such a scale.

Judy Goffman Cutler, curator of the exhibition remarked: "Rockwell's images often served as a mirror of American life, reflecting not who we really were, so much as what we thought and felt – and what we subconsciously endeavored to become." Ms. Cutler is considered the "Doyenne of American Illustration," and a leading Rockwell expert; she is widely recognized for promoting his reputation internationally with her Rockwell exhibitions travelling throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

The NMAI is open every Friday for a guided tour at 3 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays for general admissions, 11am – 5pm, Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day Weekend, and at all other times by reservation. For more information, images, or to schedule an interview, phone Sara Bliss at 401.851.8949 ext. 29, or email sbliss@americanillustration.org.

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The National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI) is a nonprofit independent, educational, and aesthetic organization located in Vernon Court (1898), a Beaux-Arts adaptation of an 18th century French chateau on Newport's historic Bellevue Avenue. It is the first national museum devoted exclusively to illustration art, images created to be reproduced in books, periodicals, art prints, and advertisements. The NMAI's *American Imagist Collection* features paintings by Norman Rockwell, JC Leyendecker, Maxfield Parrish, NC Wyeth, and over 180 others –it is considered a national treasure of art and architecture.