



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

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TOM WOLFE, AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR, EXHIBITION AT THE NMAI

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND – After an outstanding reception by visitors at the National Museum of American Illustration's (NMAI) 10th Anniversary Gala, Tom Wolfe's illustrations from his 1980 book *In Our Time* returns in an expanded format for the 2011 Summer season-continuing **the first ever exhibition of Tom Wolfe's illustrations**. Widely known for his satirical accounts of modern life, Wolfe is far less known for his brilliantly humorous and engaging pen and ink illustrations. Now on exhibit in conjunction with the widely acclaimed exhibition, **Norman Rockwell: American Imagist**, viewers have the unique opportunity to see two very different interpretations of American life; Rockwell's quintessential Americana, and Wolfe's New Journalistic social commentary and cultural observations, concurrently exhibited at the NMAI's venue, Vernon Court, a 19th century Gilded Age mansion in Newport.

The leading figure in the New Journalism movement of the 1960s and 70s, Wolfe is widely renowned for his unconventional writings on American society and culture, such as his near manifesto *The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby* and later *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, as well as fictional works including *The Bonfire of the Vanities* and *A Man in Full*.

In Our Time, is a compilation of essays originally printed in *Harper's Magazine* reflecting changes which occurred throughout American society during the 1970's. George Christian, of the *Houston Chronicle*, remarked when viewing Wolfe's illustrations for *In Our Time*: "The sometimes exaggerated yet always vivid, colorful style that makes Wolfe the master of the printed word also marks his art...mere words cannot adequately describe the sly humor, biting sarcasm or sharp insights of these drawings, but he assured that they make the same dramatic impact as the incredible sentences."

In a speech given at the NMAI's 10th Anniversary Gala, Wolfe reflected on the evolution of modern and contemporary art: "I feel very comfortable predicting that art historians 50 years from now, assuming we are in a world kind enough to indulge art historians, will look back upon illustrators as the great American artists of the second half of the 20th century."

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.