

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHILADELPHIA (December 1, 2015): La Salle University Art Museum is pleased to present the exhibitions *American Originals: Works on Paper from the Permanent Collection* and *Wilfred Jones: A Great American Illustrator*, on view December 16, 2015 through March 4, 2016. Opening Reception, Wednesday, January 20, 5–7 p.m., preceded by Curatorial Talk at 4 p.m.

American Originals: Works on Paper from the Permanent Collection

The winter exhibition in La Salle University Art Museum's Special Exhibition Gallery features 27 original drawings, watercolors, and pastels by a range of American artists from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Highlights include works by Henrietta Johnston (1674-1729), Cecilia Beaux (1855-1942), Mary Jane Peale (1826-1902), School of Thomas Eakins (1844-1916), Violet Oakley (1874-1961), Edith Emerson (1888-1981), Julius Bloch (1888-1966), William Sylvester Carter (1909-1996), Wilfred J. Jones (1888-1968), Dean Cornwell (1892-1960), Fritz Eichenberg (1901-1990), and Benton Murdoch Spruance (1904-1967).

American Originals showcases the leadership and excellence of American artists against a backdrop of social change. The exhibition draws upon the strengths of La Salle University Art Museum's collection, with holdings that illuminate the rich art history of the Philadelphia region and the role of prominent art schools such as the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and the Philadelphia Museum School of Art (now the University of the Arts). The exhibition highlights the historical importance of life drawing in the 19th century, the evolving opportunities for women and minority artists, and the role of American art within transatlantic artistic currents of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Also addressed are issues of identity and difference across time, the importance of artistic imagination, and the interest in defining American qualities of American art.

The exhibition is co-curated with La Salle University Associate Professor of Art History Dr. Catherine Holochwost, a specialist in 19th century American art.

Wilfred Jones: A Great American Illustrator

A complementary exhibition in the 20th Century Hallway Gallery features 15 works by American illustrator Wilfred Jones (1888-1968), many of which are on loan from the artist's family. Jones was born in Philadelphia, moved to New York City at age 16, and became involved with the art department of William Randolph Hearst's *New York American*. He went on to have a successful career creating illustrations for various books and journals, including *Scribner's Magazine* (1916-1920s), *Survey Graphic* (1920s), *The Rotarian* (1920s), and *The New York Times Magazine* (1920s). Jones' work was previously exhibited at La Salle University in 1977.

Public Programs

In conjunction with these exhibitions, La Salle University Art Museum is presenting the following public programs:

Wednesday, January 20, 4-5 pm, Curatorial Talk

Wednesday, January 20, 5-7 pm, Opening Reception

Thursday, February 11, 1 pm, "Violet Oakley and the Spirit of the Renaissance" a public lecture by
Dr. Patricia Ricci, Associate Professor of the History of Art & Director of the Fine Arts Division,
Elizabethtown College

Supporters of the exhibitions and related programs include the Philadelphia Cultural Fund; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; the Brother Daniel Burke Endowment Fund; the Art Angels; and La Salle University's Departments of Fine Arts, American Studies, the Concert and Lecture Series, the Multicultural and International Center, the Greater Philadelphia Initiative, and the Explorer Connection.

The La Salle University Art Museum is located on the lower level of Olney Hall on the campus of La Salle University at 19th Street and Olney Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Closed during the holidays and winter break, 12/24/2015 to 1/4/2016. Admission is free, though donations are accepted. Please call to schedule group visits. Special tours can be arranged. For further information call 215.951.1221 or visit the website at <http://www.lasalle.edu/museum/>. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.