

Press Release

For Immediate Release February/March 2012

Contact: Diane Forsberg

518-673-2314 ext. 113 dforsberg@arkellmuseum.org

American Impressionism: Masterworks in Watercolor and Pastel

May 28, 2012 –October 21, 2012

At the Arkell Museum at Canajoharie

This summer American Impressionist art from the Arkell collections will be on view in two museums in upstate New York. The Arkell's watercolors and pastels will be on display at the Arkell Museum at Canajoharie, NY while the oil paintings will be on view at the Fenimore Art Museum in Cooperstown, NY.

The **Arkell Museum at Canajoharie, NY** will be showing ***American Impressionism: Masterworks in Watercolor and Pastel***. Works by Mary Cassatt, Childe Hassam, Theodore Robinson, John Singer Sargent and Maurice Prendergast are featured in this exhibition. A watercolor by Winslow Homer (active during the same time period) will also be shown alongside the American Impressionists' works on paper. Prior to 1875, pastels and watercolors were primarily viewed as studies or preparatory works for oil paintings. Winslow Homer and John Singer Sargent were among the first artists to exhibit, win critical praise and sell their watercolors in commercial galleries. Pastel drawings became popular with the public when Impressionist artists began to exhibit them at the end of the 19th century. The works on paper in this exhibition form an important part of the Arkell American Impressionist collection— but they are rarely on view due to their fragile nature and sensitivity to light.

The American Impressionist works in both exhibitions are featured in the catalogue ***American Impressionism: Paintings of Light and Life*** that is published in conjunction with the Fenimore Art Museum exhibition with the same title.

Diane Forsberg, Deputy Director and Chief Curator at the Arkell Museum will present the talk **American Impressionist Watercolors and Pastels** on **Sunday June 3rd at 2:00 pm** followed by a reception in the Great Hall. The catalogue *American Impressionism: Paintings of Light and Life* (a Fenimore Art Museum publication that contains Forsberg's essay "Arkell's Most Revealing Light: American Impressionist Paintings from Macbeth Gallery to Canajoharie" will be available for purchase. The talk is free for members and open to everyone with the price of regular museum admission.

Museum Hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Saturday –Sunday 1:00 -5:00 pm. Permanent exhibitions at the Arkell Museum include paintings by Winslow Homer, George Inness, Thomas Hart Benton, American Impressionists, and The Eight. Mohawk Valley history and the marketing of Beech-Nut are also featured in museum exhibitions. The Arkell presents concerts, films, family activities, and school programs year round.