

Press Release
For Immediate Release
Contact: Diane E. Forsberg, Chief Curator dforsberg@arkellmuseum.org
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FAMOUS AND FABULOUS PORTRAITS

*From George Washington
to the Golden Girl*

(Canajoharie, NY) Over two centuries of portrait painting is represented in the exhibition *Famous and Fabulous: From George Washington to the Golden Girl* which opens to the public at **The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie on January 20th, 2008 and remains on display until July 20, 2008.** Chief Curator, Diane Forsberg, has selected works from the permanent collection for this exhibition which features portraits by some of America's best known artists including Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Eakins and John Singer

Sargent. Visitors to the exhibition will see one of Stuart's portraits of George Washington. This portrait of the nation's first president was painted many times by Gilbert Stuart and appears today on the one dollar bill. Other subjects in this exhibition include artists, beautiful women, and studies of people from foreign lands who appeared exotic or pitiable to contemporary viewers. George Bellows' portrait of his daughter *Anne* (1924) and Robert Henri's portrait of a young Irish girl *Moirra* (1924) demonstrate the active and dynamic painting style of a group of artists called The

Eight. George de Forest Brush's portrait of the *Golden Girl* presents a 1920s beauty looking out directly at the viewer with a smile as enigmatic Leonardo da Vinci's more famous portrait *Mona Lisa*.



George de Forest Brush, *Golden Girl*, 1925

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John Trumbull's important portrait of his friend *Sir John Temple* is included in the exhibition. This portrait just returned to the Arkell Museum after undergoing conservation at the Williamstown Art Conservation Center. Funding for the conservation of the Trumbull portrait was provided by a Lower Hudson Conservation Treatment Grant.

The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie completed a major addition in September 2007 which included new galleries, classroom and program spaces. The exhibitions include paintings by Winslow Homer, American Impressionists, and The Eight. Mohawk Valley history and Beech-Nut Packaging Company advertising are also featured in exhibitions. The museum presents temporary and permanent exhibitions, concerts, films, family activities, and school programs. The museum is open Monday-Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Saturday –Sunday 12:30 -5:00 pm. The Arkell Museum is located half way between Albany and Utica — just three blocks from exit 29 on the New York State Thruway (I-90). For information call 518-673-2314 or visit www.arkellmuseum.org .

Please contact the museum at 518-673-2314 ext. 112 or ext 113 for images listed below or others that might be available to the press. Images available to the media include:

George de Forest Brush ((1855-1941), *Golden Girl*, 1925 oil on canvas

Thomas Eakins (1844-1916) *Portrait of Mrs. Stokes*, 1904, oil on canvas

Robert Henri (1865–1929), *Moira*, 1924, Oil on canvas

John Singer Sargent (1856-1925), *Head of an Italian Woman*, c. 1881, oil on canvas

Gilbert Stuart (1755-1828), *Portrait of George Washington*, c. 1820 oil on panel

John Trumbull (1756-1843) *Sir John Temple, 8th Baronet*, 1784, oil on canvas