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Wyeth Family Paintings: *From the Farnsworth Art Museum*

On exhibition at the Arkell Museum June 27, 2008-September 21, 2008

Canajoharie, N.Y. – **The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie** presents *Wyeth Family Paintings: From the Farnsworth Art Museum from June 27, 2008-September 21, 2008.*

This exhibition features paintings of the people and places of Maine created by three generations of men from America's most famous family of painters –The Wyeth family. Newell Wyeth, known as N. C. Wyeth, was a muralist, and an illustrator who created narrative images for books enjoyed by both children and adults. He came to Maine with his family each summer, and in this northern New England setting he found the time and inspiration to paint personal landscapes.

N.C. and Carolyn Wyeth had five children. Their eldest daughters, Henrietta and Carolyn, became accomplished painters, but it was their youngest child, Andrew, who became one of America's best known artists. Andrew Wyeth followed the tradition of realism he learned from his father during a time when Abstract Art and Abstract Expressionism were being explored by artists such as Jackson Pollock. Andrew first gained recognition as a painter of watercolors and later won acclaim for his work in egg tempera.

Andrew Wyeth's second child, James, also became a painter and he is the third generation represented in the exhibition at the Arkell Museum. Andrew encouraged his son to study the drawings of Renaissance masters, but James's first formal art instruction was with his

Aunt Carolyn Wyeth who taught him the art of draftsmanship. James followed a tradition of realism in painting, and like his father and grandfather before him, developed his own distinctive style of painting Maine's people and places.

The Arkell Museum is borrowing the Wyeth Family paintings from the Farnsworth Art Museum as part of a reciprocal lending agreement between the two museums. Back in June 2006, the Farnsworth Art Museum borrowed Winslow Homer paintings from The Arkell Museum for an exhibition at their museum titled *Winslow Homer a Collector's Passion: Works from the Arkell Museum at Canajoharie*. As the second part of this reciprocal agreement, the Arkell Museum is bringing the Wyeth paintings to Canajoharie, New York. The Wyeth family always admired and was inspired by the work of Winslow Homer. Visitors to the Arkell Museum this summer will now have an opportunity to see the Farnsworth Museum's Wyeth paintings and then view the Arkell Museum's Winslow Homer paintings that influenced three generations of Wyeth artists.

The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie reopened with a new building in September 2007. Visitors to the museum will discover paintings by American artists such as Winslow Homer, Childe Hassam, Robert Henri, Thomas Hart Benton, and John Singer Sargent on display in the galleries. Mohawk Valley history and Beech-Nut advertising are also featured in exhibitions. 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). The museum is open Monday-Friday 10:00 am-5:00 pm, Saturday –Sunday 12:30 -5:00 pm For more information call 518-673-2314 or visit www.arkellmuseum.org

Digital images of paintings in this exhibition are available to the media by contacting:

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