

Press Release

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Two New Exhibitions at the Arkell Museum feature American Paintings from the Permanent Collection. Reception Friday, March 5, 2010

(Canajoharie, NY) A Reception for two new exhibitions at the Arkell Museum will be held on Friday, March 5, 2010 from 7:00 -10:00 pm. ***American Tonalism: Paintings of Poetry and Soul*** and ***Picturing Women: American Artists' Images of Women 1780s - 1940*** feature some of the Arkell Museum's best known works by George Inness, Ralph Blakelock, Albert P. Ryder, Mary Cassatt, Gilbert Stuart and Thomas Eakins. The Tonalism exhibition also includes remarkable landscapes by less well known painters such as Murphy, Wyant, and Tryon that have never been displayed together. The March 5th reception includes music by the Musicians of Ma'alwyck, docent talks and a curator talk by Diane Forsberg. The reception is free for all museum members and \$12 for museum guests. Membership can always be purchased at the door.

American Tonalism: Paintings of Poetry and Soul

February 27, 2010-June 6, 2010

Tonalism was concurrent with American Impressionism. While some Americans were creating works inspired by Monet and the French Impressionists, there were other artists exploring a distinctly different style. Two European styles that influenced the development of American Tonalism were Aestheticism—as it was practiced by the American expatriate James Abbot McNeill Whistler, and the French Barbizon style as it was spiritually interpreted by George Inness. Superb paintings by both of these influential artists are in this exhibition.

A subdued palette and a misty poetic interpretation of landscape can be seen in Tonalist paintings by Francis Murphy, Andrew Wyant and Dwight Tryon. Moody moonlit paintings by Ralph Blakelock and his friend Alexander Shilling demonstrate other aspects of

the Tonalist style. While most Tonalist paintings are of landscapes, the exhibition also includes the Whistlerian interior scene *The Letter* by Thomas Dewing. The American Impressionists J. Alden Weir and John Twatchman are also included in this exhibition.



George Inness, *In the Pasture*, c. 1876-78
Oil on canvas, Arkell Hall Foundation

Arkell Museum Exhibitions continued:

**Picturing Women:
American Artists' Images of Women 1780s-1940**

March 4, 2010-June 8, 2010

The Arkell Museum owns remarkable portraits of women painted by notable American artists such as Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Eakins and Mary Cassatt. This exhibition includes these portraits along with other painted views of women at leisure and perusing everyday activities. The representations of women in this exhibition range from young to old, and from entirely decorative to thoroughly personal. Some are formally posed portraits while others, such as Reginald Marsh's watercolor *A Windy Day*, capture a specific snap-shot moment in time.



Reginald Marsh *Windy Day*, c. 1940
Watercolor on paper, Arkell Museum

The Arkell Museum at Canajoharie completed a major addition in September 2007 which included new galleries, classroom and program spaces. Permanent 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 concerts, films, family activities, and school programs. The Arkell Museum is open during the winter months weekdays 11:00 am -4:00 pm and on weekends from 1:00 -4:00 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.

Digital images of works in the exhibitions are available to the media. Please contact Diane Forsberg dforsberg@sals.edu for a complete list of available images.