

Biggs Museum of American Art

For Immediate Release
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The Twentieth Anniversary Biggs Museum Gala: *An Affair with the Arts* Saturday, May 19, 2012



Dover, DE (January 31, 2012) –The Biggs Museum invites the public to save **Saturday, May 19, 2012** for the Twentieth Anniversary Biggs Museum Gala: *An Affair with the Arts*. Regarded as one of the premier fundraising events in Dover, The Biggs Museum Gala attracts more than 400 enthusiastic friends and supporters. The Gala is designed to bring in substantial revenue that directly supports temporary exhibitions and educational programming for the forthcoming year.

The event boasts live entertainment, dinner and cocktails, silent auction, dancing, raffle, and more. **Deja Groove** of Philadelphia will be joining us for the first time at the 2012 Gala to musically enchant our guests. The showmanship and talent of this dynamic group guarantees to yield the right blend of music to have all guests on the dance floor. **Caffe Gelato** of Newark, DE will be serving delectable fare that is sure to delight everyone's taste buds. An open bar, including specialty drinks, will also be offered. Tickets for this event range from \$100 per individual to \$1500 for a Benefactor Table for ten. Tickets can be purchased by mail, phone or on-line at www.biggsmuseum.org.

The 2012 Gala Committee

The Board of Trustees and Staff of the Biggs Museum are proud to announce the 2012 Gala **Honorary Chairs, Senator Chris and Annie**



Coons and Mike and Jane Castle, Gala General Chairs Theda Blackwelder of Millsboro, DE and Richard Poole of Wilmington, DE and the 2012 Gala Committee. The Gala Committee consists of friends of the Biggs Museum, who are community minded to help the Museum achieve its goal. The Gala would not be possible without the hard efforts of its committee members.

Regina and Kenneth Brown
Raquel “Rocky” Bushweller
Linda Chatfield
William “Bill” Connelly
Erin Cooper
Claire DeMatteis and Michael Marquardt
Marcia DeWitt
Fern Gnesin
William “Bill” Hare
Sheri Hearn
Dolly and Vernon Ingram

Susan Johnston
Annabell Kressman
Jane and Michael Mattern
Judy McCabe
Lise Monty
Barbara and Donald Parks
Jane Richter
Donna and L.D. Shank, III
Gretchen Tillman
Stephanie Payne Turner
Mary Jane and Bill Willis

Sponsors

The 2012 Biggs Museum Gala is presented by Christiana Trust, a division of WSFS Bank. Silver Sponsors include Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware, Bayhealth Medical Center, and Wells Fargo. Additional sponsors include Vision Centre, Delaware Today, and Platypus Dreams. For information about event sponsorship and other opportunities to *Give to the Gala*, please contact Jennifer Kemske at jkemske@biggsmuseum.org or 302-674-2111 extension 105.

The 2012 Signature Image: *Young Lady*, ca. 1900, Edward August Bell, oil on wood panel.

The Permanent Collection at the Biggs Museum holds a diverse array of art forms, representing painting, illustration, drawing, furniture making, sculpture and more. The Biggs Museum Staff and Gala General Chairs chose from its galleries a painting titled *Young Lady* as the 2012 Gala Signature Object to represent the impressive paintings in the Museum’s collection.

Young Lady is a classic example of Bell’s mature style. This striking art form is not only a portrait of a woman, but an aesthetic statement-female beauty epitomized and codified by the ideals of the American Renaissance. The woman’s pose and garment suggest classical art. The limited palette – “a harmony of gold, green, and flesh tones – create a timeless countenance. Even the reflection of light off the woman’s porcelain skin suggests the quality of a precious still life. Bell’s paintings were intended to appeal to the refined sensibility of America’s growing leisure class.



This selection is a reflective of the Museum's past and partnering it with the current positive and forward-thinking disposition of *The New Biggs*. Having completed Phase One of Three Phases, *The New Biggs* capital campaign enhances outdated facilities to create gallery environments that allow unprecedented access to the collections while better serving the community's educational and gathering needs. The *Twentieth Anniversary Gala* will be a celebration of the completion of *Phase One* and of what is to come in the future.

If You Go: Gala Quick Facts

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2012

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Location: 406 Federal Street, Dover, DE

Ticket Price: \$100/Individual to \$1,500/Table of 10

What: Dinner, Open Bar, Silent Auction, Live Entertainment, Raffle

Attire: Black Tie Optional/Cocktail Attire

Reservations: Tickets must be purchased in advance by

Mail: P.O. Box 711, Dover, DE 19903

Phone: (302) 674-2111

On-Line: www.biggsmuseum.org

About the Museum

The Biggs Museum seeks to serve a diverse public as a regional museum of fine and decorative arts, made from 1700 to present, representing the State of Delaware and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic region. The Biggs Museum engages audiences through a compelling program of temporary exhibitions and programming. The Biggs Museum encourages the development of creativity and an appreciation for art by offering a comprehensive slate of educational programming for all ages. The Biggs Museum of American Art is a private, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday through Saturday; 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Sunday; 1:30 p.m. until 4: 30 p.m.

Admission: Biggs Museum is free to the public year-round. Fees may apply to certain programs and special events.

The Biggs Museum of American Art

406 Federal Street

Dover, DE 19901

302.674.2111

www.biggsmuseum.org

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