

# Biggs Museum of American **Art**

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## *Landscapes of Bayard T. Berndt Opens November 1, 2013* Open November 1, 2013 – February 23, 2014



Dover, DE (October 8, 2013) – The Biggs Museum of American Art is pleased to announce a new temporary exhibition starting November 1, 2013 entitled *Refining the Region: the Landscapes of Bayard T. Berndt*. The exhibition will run from November 1, 2013 - February 23, 2014.

*“Refining the Region* includes over 70 paintings featuring local points of beauty,” shared Ryan Grover, Biggs Museum Curator. “Scenes from the Brandywine Park, the Wilmington Riverfront, Buckley’s Tavern, and historic Odessa will warm the hearts of all viewers, but especially those familiar with the area.”

### **About Bayard Berndt**

Bayard Taylor Berndt was a 20th century Brandywine Valley owner of the iconic Hardcastle Gallery, and artist who studied under such recognizable figures as Frank

Schoonover, N.C. Wyeth and Gayle Hoskins. *Refining the Region: the Landscapes of Bayard T. Berndt* is an exhibition of paintings produced over the course of the artist's sixty-year career. Local history was a passion of his paintings and is often reflected in his large-scale compositions. He was especially enamored with the beauty and heritage of the Brandywine Valley and often focused on his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware. Some of his most recognizable scenes highlight historic commerce on the local waterways, industrialization, urban street views and covered bridges.

High resolution photos of the artwork is available upon request. A series of programs have been planned in coordination with the Bayard Berndt exhibition. Please read below for details on the various programs.

## **Event Quick Facts**

**First Friday: Refining the Region: the Landscapes of Bayard T. Berndt Opening Reception**

**Friday, November 1**

**5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Free, All Ages**

**Saturday, November 16**

**A Point of Comparison: Paintings and Photographs as Evidence of Change in Industrial and Cultural Landscape**

**1:00 to 2:00 p.m. | Free**

Some of the artist's most recognizable scenes highlight commerce on the local waterways, industrialization, urban street views and covered bridges. As a Wilmington native, Berndt was well versed in local history. It is assumed that he utilized photographs as well as, paintings, and drawings to make his images historically accurate. The Zebbley-Hoffecker digital collection may also have been an invaluable resource to Bayard Berndt. This collection includes images from the Mid-Atlantic region of iron and steel manufacturing, locomotives, ships, bridges, aerial photographs of factories, city and town centers, housing and rivers. Sarah Denison, Processing Archivist at Delaware Public Archives will discuss some of the photographs that Berndt may have been referencing.

**Saturday, January 18**

**Panel Discussion: Bayard Berndt as Artist, Instructor and Mentor**

**1:00 to 2:30 p.m. | Free**

Bayard Berndt was an integral part of Wilmington's art scene during the twentieth century. As an instructor at Wilmington Academy of Art and co-owner of Hardcastle's art supply store in Wilmington, he engaged with the artists who helped create the spirit of the city during this time. This program brings together three individuals who will

address the impact of Berndt's diverse involvement in the Wilmington art community. Participants include: David Berndt, son of Berndt and author of Bayard Taylor Berndt: Brandywine Valley Artist; E. Jean Lanyon, Berndt protégé and former Hardcastle employee; Charles Allmond, Delaware artist and longtime Hardcastle customer. Ryan Grover, Biggs Museum Curator, will moderate.

**Saturday, February 8**

**Frame Making: A Wilmington Tradition**

**1:00 to 2:00 p.m. | Free**

Frames play an important role in our perception of a painting. Early wooden frames were works of art in their own right. Francis A. Coll was a frame maker who worked at Hardcastle from the mid 1920s through the 1960s. During his lifetime, Coll mastered an array of styles, from moldings carved with floral motifs and gilded in pale silvery gold to bold moldings of black lacquer with simple, geometric carving. Today, Coll's distinctive frames enhance paintings in the collections of Brandywine River Museum, Delaware Art Museum, Historical Society of Delaware, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and Biggs Museum of American Art. This lecture will focus on the historic profession of frame making in the Mid-Atlantic, especially Delaware, from around 1750 to the present. Biggs Museum Curator, Ryan Grover, will discuss the variety of historic frames contained within the Museum's permanent collection. Delaware artist, Charles Allmond, who trained with Frank Coll in his studio at Hardcastle, will discuss his personal experiences along with his personal frame making technique. Mike Podmaniczky, Furniture Conservator, will discuss frame conservation and gilding.

**Saturday, February 22**

**America's Covered Bridges: From Vital Mode of Transportation to Nostalgic Symbol of the Past**

**1:00-2:00 p.m. | Free**

As American commerce increased in the early 19th century, a new mode of transportation was needed to facilitate increasing movement of people and goods across waterways. The earliest bridges were simple in design and were limited to the length of the wooden supports. As the industry of bridge building evolved, builders learned to create longer spans using trusses and arches. However, these bridges were made almost entirely of wood and deteriorated rapidly due to exposure to the elements. The practice of building wooden covered bridges spread quickly throughout the country. With the availability of iron in 1830s, wooden bridges quickly became obsolete. Bayard Berndt captured the essence of many of the covered bridges in the Brandywine Valley in his paintings. Though many covered bridges have vanished, storyteller and folklorist Ed Okonowicz will discuss how the surviving structures evoke feelings of nostalgia and have

become sources of community pride, stimulate tourism and encourage a deeper understanding of our local history.

**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  
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