

# Biggs Museum of American Art

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## *Jewels of the Generations: The Legacy of the Loockerman and Bradford Family of Dover* February 22, 2012



*Dover, DE* (February 22, 2012) – The Biggs Museum is pleased to present a full schedule of exhibition programming to accompany the *Jewels of the Generations* exhibition. A **First Look pARTY** on Friday, March 2, 2012 will open the exhibition with the opportunity to view the treasures of the Loockerman and Bradford family. This exhibition will feature early American clothing, fashionable Victorian jewelry, European and Asian ceramics, American and European silver, important American and European portraits, and Delaware and Philadelphia made furniture. On Saturday, March 10, learn about the clothing worn by three Loockerman family women dating 1750s to 1810. Historical and Cultural Affairs Curator of Collections, Ann Baker Horsey will establish that the family was living forward through fashion in Dover and beyond. On Wednesday, March 21, Biggs Museum Curator, Ryan Grover, and Delaware Public Archives Specialist, Margaret Dunham, will discuss one of the most interesting and influential families in Dover's history, the Loockerman's. This lecture and gallery walk-through will examine the multi-generational collecting practices of the Loockerman family in Dover from the 1730s to the present. Please bring a bag lunch for this event. All programs listed above will be offered FREE to the public and all ages are welcome. *Jewels of the Generations* exhibition and programming are partially funded by grants from Delaware Division of the Arts and the Delaware Humanities Forum, a state program for the National Endowment for Humanities.

The Museum will also be offering FREE children's educational programs in conjunction with the *Jewels of the Generations* exhibition during the month of March. On Saturday, March 3 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. *Biggs Kids* (children ages 5-10) will discover the history behind the portrait of Loockerman while being lead through the exhibition. Artist's technique will be discussed and children will have the opportunity to create their own

portraits using tempera paint. On Wednesday, March 14 from 10:00 – 11:00 A.M. *Mini-Masters* (children ages 3-5) will also have the chance to learn the history of Vincent Loockerman concluding their tour with the opportunity to finger paint their own self portrait.

Pre-registration is required for both *Mini-Masters* and *Biggs Kids*. Please call 302-674-2111 extension 101 or fill out a registration form online at [www.biggsmuseum.org](http://www.biggsmuseum.org) in the *Biggs Kids* section. *Biggs Kids*, *Mini-Masters*, and *First Friday* are supported by the Delaware Division of the Arts and Mid-Del Charitable Foundation.

### Event Quick Stats

**Event:** First Friday: *Jewels of the Generations: The Legacy of Loockerman and Bradford Family of Dover* Exhibition Opening Reception

**Date:** Friday, March 2

**Time:** 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**Price:** Free, All Ages

**Description:** When Dover merchant, Vincent Loockerman, died in 1785 he was probably Dover's single largest land owner and unrivaled collector of Delaware and Philadelphia-made furniture of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. For the last 200 years, Vincent's descendants have lived with the riches of the past while adding treasures from their own times. This exhibition will feature early American clothing, fashionable Victorian jewelry, European and Asian ceramics, American and European silver, important American and European portraits, and Delaware and Philadelphia furniture. Please join us as we unveil this noteworthy collection. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be provided.

**Event:** *Biggs Kids*: The Loockerman Portrait

**Date:** Saturday, March 3

**Time:** 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**Price:** Free, Children Ages 5-10

**Description:** Discover the history behind the portrait of Vincent Loockerman while being lead through the *Jewels of the Generations: The Legacy of Loockerman and Bradford Family of Dover* exhibition. We will discuss the artist's technique and create our own portraits using tempera paint.

**Event:** The Superfine Gowns of the Loockerman Family of Dover

**Date:** Saturday, March 10

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

**Price:** Free, All Ages

**Description:** The collections of the State of Delaware contain an extensive group of clothing worn by three Loockerman family women dating from the 1750s to 1810. Susannah and Elizabeth were the wives of Vincent and Eliza was his daughter. Historical and Cultural Affairs Curator of Collections, Ann Baker Horsey, will establish that the family was living forward through fashion in Dover and beyond. For the first time since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, part of the collection will be displayed on mannequins within an interior setting including the portrait of Vincent and furniture owned by the family.

**Event:** *Mini-Masters: Finger Paint Portraits*

**Date:** Wednesday, March 14

**Time:** 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Price:** Free, Children Ages 3-5

**Description:** Discover the history behind the portrait of Vincent Loockerman while being lead through the *Jewels of the Generations: The Legacy of Loockerman and Bradford Family of Dover* exhibition. We will discover the history and importance of portraits. Each participant will use finger paints to create a self-portrait.

**Title:** *A Living Museum: 300 Years of Collecting at the Loockerman House*

**Date:** Wednesday, March 21

**Time:** 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

**Fee:** Free, All Ages

**Description:** Biggs Museum Curator, Ryan Grover, and Delaware Public Archives Specialist, Margaret Dunham, will discuss one of the most interesting and influential families in Dover's history. This lecture and gallery walk-through will examine the multi-generational collecting practices of the Loockerman family in Dover from the 1730s to the present. The family's affinity to import/export allowed them to acquire a number of luxury items from around the world. Please bring a brown bag lunch.

### **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.biggmuseum.org](http://www.biggmuseum.org)

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