

Biggs Museum of American Art

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Biggs Museum Twentieth Anniversary Gala Spotlight Artist: Susan S. Johnston



Dover, DE (May 4, 2012) – The Twentieth Anniversary Biggs Museum Gala: *An Affair with the Arts* and silent auction are designed to bring in substantial revenue to directly support temporary exhibitions and educational programs. The silent auction will feature original paintings, prints, collectibles, jewelry, gift baskets and a number of unique items. Each year the silent auction spotlights the artwork of one local artist and has featured H. Earl Abbott, N. Taylor Collins and William Hank Smallwood in the past. This year we have chosen to highlight an original watercolor painting by Susan S. Johnston, an arts advocate and Biggs Museum enthusiast. Mrs. Johnston moved to Dover, Delaware from Iowa in the spring of 2008 when her husband, Dr. William N. Johnston, became President of Wesley College. Her 30 year background in the arts has included teaching art for 15 years in public schools and serving as an activist for downtown historic preservation programs in order to promote opportunities for artists. She was instrumental in the organization of Downtown Dover's First Friday program which began in 2009. Mrs. Johnston's watercolors have been accepted in regional and national shows where she has garnered numerous awards.

Bell, a watercolor painted by Mrs. Johnston depicts an image of the replica of the Liberty Bell located on Legislative Mall in downtown Dover. Mrs. Johnston states, "From my earliest impressions of the region, the juxtaposition of the bell and Legislative Hall continue to impress me as a very strong and dignified image of our capital city, Dover." The staff at the Biggs Museum are extremely delighted with the image and believe it will

have great appeal to guests at the event. Educational Programs Coordinator, Beccy Cooper, states, "Susan has an immense amount of talent which is evident in all her paintings. This specific work not only demonstrates her gift as an artist but also captures the spirit of Dover. The striking image of the Liberty Bell serves as a reminder of the fact that there is so much history and pride here in the First State. The stately architecture, beautiful landscaping and important historical sites make this a truly wonderful place to live and work. I think that this painting will be a very popular item during the auction and help to generate money for our educational programs."

The Twentieth Anniversary Biggs Museum Gala: *An Affair with the Arts*, will be held at the Museum, 406 Federal Street in Dover on Saturday, May 19, 2012. Guests at this tented affair will enjoy cocktails, gourmet food from Caffe Gelato of Newark, Delaware, live musical entertainment from Deja Groove of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and a silent auction. Friends of the Museum and members of the public are invited to join the celebration. 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.

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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