



THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

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DAYTON ART INSTITUTE CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF ICONIC AMERICAN STORYTELLER NORMAN ROCKWELL

American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell on view at the museum, Nov. 12 – Feb. 5

(DAYTON, OHIO) – October 28, 2011 – The Dayton Art Institute will celebrate the life and work of Norman Rockwell with the special exhibition [*American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell*](#), presented by PNC, on view Saturday, November 12 through February 5, 2012.

The exhibition, organized by the [Norman Rockwell Museum](#), explores Rockwell's unparalleled role as an iconic American storyteller. *American Chronicles* features 42 original artworks from the Norman Rockwell Museum's collection, including well-known images such as *Triple Self-Portrait* (1960), *Girl at Mirror* (1954), *Going and Coming* (1947), and *Art Critic* (1955). The exhibition also features a set of all 323 covers Rockwell created for *The Saturday Evening Post*. Rockwell's work for the *Post* spanned a remarkable 47 years, and the artist became a household name in the process.

Norman Rockwell painted the best of America, creating indelible images of the lives, hopes, and dreams of Americans in the 20th century. Expertly weaving both narrative and painterly images, he was a consummate visual storyteller with a finely honed sense of what made an image successful in the rapidly changing era of mass media. Rockwell's unique artistic legacy, established during 65 years of painting, offers a personal chronicle of 20th century life and aspirations that has both reflected and profoundly influenced American perceptions and ideals.

American Chronicles traces the evolution of Rockwell's art and iconography throughout his career – from carefully choreographed reflections on childhood innocence in paintings such as *No Swimming* (1921) to powerful, consciousness-raising images like *The Problem We All Live With* (1964), which documented the traumatic realities of desegregation in the South.

The exhibition also includes materials from the Museum's archives demonstrating how Rockwell worked, from preliminary sketches, photographs, color studies, and detailed drawings to the finished painting. Commentary focusing on recurring personal themes, artistic and cultural influences, and the commercial climate that influenced Rockwell's creative process will be woven throughout the exhibition.

The Dayton Art Institute is planning a number of special events and programs in conjunction with *American Chronicles*. These include a Veterans Day program, talks, workshops, the popular *Tour and Tea* programs, and a special visit by Ruby Bridges, the subject of Rockwell's painting *The Problem We All Live With*. For more about related events and programs, visit www.daytonartinstitute.org/rockwell or call the museum at 937-223-5277 to request a copy of the exhibition brochure.

Visitors to *American Chronicles* will also have the opportunity to have their pictures taken in front of a life-size *Saturday Evening Post* cover. Props will be available for those who want to create a Rockwell-inspired scene. Photos will be posted to the museum's [Flickr](#) and [Facebook](#) pages.

American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell will be on view at The Dayton Art Institute from November 12 - February 5, 2012. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors (60+), students (18+ w/ID) and active military, \$10 for youth (ages 7-17) and free for children (ages 6 & under). Museum members are free for their first visit, \$10 for return visits. All prices include admission to the museum's permanent collection. Exhibition audio guides, providing commentary on Norman Rockwell's life and work, may be rented at the Visitor Services Desk for an additional \$5.

Group tour packages are available, including docent-led tours of the exhibitions and boxed lunches from the museum's Café Monet. Group tickets (groups of 10 or more) are \$13 per person. For more information about group tours, please contact Mary Eberle, at 937-512-0152 or meberle@daytonart.org.

Support for *American Chronicles* is provided by **Presenting Sponsor** PNC, **Executive Sponsors** the Berry Family Foundation and Premier Health Partners, **Benefactor Sponsors** Mr. Charles D. Berry, ELM Foundation, Kettering Health Network and Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, **Patron Sponsors** DP&L Foundation and Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, and **Media Sponsor** WHIO-TV. The museum's **Rockwell Documentary Partner** is ThinkTV and **Official Host** is Crowne Plaza Dayton. The Norman Rockwell Museum received support for the exhibition from an American Masterpieces Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Curtis Publishing Company, the Norman Rockwell Estate Licensing Company, and the Stockman Family Foundation Trust.

To learn more about this exhibition and other programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call the museum at 937-223-5277. Be sure to also visit The Dayton Art Institute on Facebook (facebook.com/daytonartinstitute) and Twitter (twitter.com/daytonart) for additional information and exclusive offers. For more about the Norman Rockwell Museum, visit www.nrm.org.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

As one of the Miami Valley's premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. The galleries and Museum Store are open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursday until 8 p.m. Suggested admission to the museum's permanent collection is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors, active military and groups, free for museum members, students (18+ w/ID), and youth (17 and under). Some special exhibitions, programs and events may carry an additional charge and include admission to the museum's permanent collection as part of that price. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically challenged visitors. The Café serves lunch Wednesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 2:30 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-4278 or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org. The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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