



**VAST COLLECTION OF WORKS BY ANDREW WYETH TO BE MADE ACCESSIBLE
BY WYETH FOUNDATION FOR AMERICAN ART IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM OF ART & FARNSWORTH ART MUSEUM**

April 27, 2022—The Wyeth Foundation for American Art announced today that it has established a collection-sharing arrangement providing for more than 7,000 works of Andrew Wyeth to be maintained, conserved and exhibited for the general public at the Brandywine River Museum of Art and the Farnsworth Museum of Art, as well as making such works available for loans to other institutions and encouraging research into the life and legacy of Andrew Wyeth.

The Foundation's collection contains works from Wyeth's seven decades as a working artist, including iconic temperas and watercolors, drawings, studies and sketchbooks. The collection was assembled primarily by the artist's wife, Betsy James Wyeth, who was Andrew Wyeth's muse and who also carefully documented his career. The collection is deeply personal and gives significant insight into Wyeth's artistic and career trajectory.

As part of this innovative partnership, The Brandywine River Museum of Art has begun a search to fill a new curatorial position at the Museum to be financially supported by the Wyeth Foundation. The new *Wyeth Foundation Curator, Andrew and Betsy Wyeth Collection*, will develop exhibitions, make works available for loan to other institutions, and foster research and scholarship on Andrew Wyeth including finalizing and publishing the catalogue raisonné of the artist. The collection will be maintained jointly at Brandywine in Pennsylvania and the Farnsworth Art Museum in Maine, the two geographic regions where the artist lived and painted. Rotating presentations of works will be on view in both museums' galleries throughout the year. Accessibility to the works in the collection for the general public, as well as curators, scholars, and students is a primary aim of the collaboration with the Wyeth Foundation.

Both the Brandywine and Farnsworth museums have longstanding relationships with the Wyeth family. Located in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, the Brandywine is focused on American art, and has generated some of the most well-received exhibitions and scholarship on three generations of Wyeth family artists. In 2017, the Brandywine's *Andrew Wyeth: In Retrospect* exhibition presented more than 100 of the artist's most important paintings and works on paper, along with a catalogue publishing new perspectives on his work and career.

The Farnsworth, in Rockland, Maine, is also recognized for its close connections with and exhibitions of works of the Wyeth family. The artist spent his summers living and working in

midcoastal Maine. Its recent exhibition *Andrew Wyeth: Maine Legacy* highlighted the artist's connections to the area. In both Pennsylvania and Maine, Wyeth was engaged by the landscapes and the people living there, finding inspiration for works that at once capture the majesty of nature and the everyday lives of the artists and their subjects.

"We are excited to formalize the Foundation's partnership with the Brandywine River Museum of Art and the Farnsworth Art Museum to ensure that Andrew and Betsy Wyeth's collection is well-maintained and available for the public to enjoy," said J. Robinson West, the President of the Wyeth Foundation for American Art. "Andrew Wyeth is so closely connected to both Chadds Ford and coastal Maine, with long relationships with both of these institutions. This collection management arrangement draws on the expertise of these two great museums in managing works of art, while also furthering the mission of the Foundation to support scholarship and exhibitions of Wyeth's work, now and into the future, both at these two museums and around the world."

The Collection of the Wyeth Foundation for American Art

The Foundation's collection is both broad and deep—and the majority of the works have never been exhibited publicly. Among the unusual elements are 70 of Wyeth's oil paintings—very rare works, principally from the 1930s, when he experimented with the medium before adopting tempera and watercolor as his preferred mediums. These paintings—such as *Fox Grass Below Adams* (1934), currently on view at the Brandywine—reflect prevalent themes, yet their style and approach demonstrate his evolution as an artist over his entire career. Wyeth is best known for his tempera paintings, 48 of which are in the collection, including his 1966 tribute to his wife Betsy, titled *Maga's Daughter*. Also included are *Black Hunter* (1938), an early tempera, and Wyeth's last major painting, *Goodbye* (2008), which has rarely been seen publicly. The collection features over 2,000 of Wyeth's watercolors, for which he is renowned—many rendered using the "dry brush" technique.

The largest part of the collection are the more than 4,000 drawings: some are finished drawings some are preparatory drawings and sketches, and some are study pieces for works he would later paint in tempera or watercolor, and many are still in their original sketchbooks. From the fully rendered work in pencil, *My Sister* (1967), to a casual portrait of his father, *Pa Writing at his Desk* (1942), to tempera studies for major paintings such as *That Gentleman Study* (1961), these drawings will provide a vast trove of information that reveal Wyeth's thought process and experimentation with how to stage or represent different scenes.

"Andrew Wyeth is truly an iconic artist. In a career spanning over seven decades he developed a singular style, creating some of the most haunting compositions in American art," said Thomas Padon, the James H. Duff Director of the Brandywine River Museum of Art. "Focusing on the landscapes, people and objects he knew in Chadds Ford and in midcoastal Maine, where he summered throughout his life, his art is as personal as it is timeless. Through her tireless documentation of her husband's work throughout his career and all the planning she put into making her collection accessible through this partnership with the Wyeth Foundation, Betsy

Wyeth ensured that her husband's remarkable artistic legacy will always be accessible to the public. We are profoundly grateful for her generosity and her important contribution to the study of American art."

Christopher Brownawell, the Director of the Farnsworth Art Museum added "We are also thankful for the foresight and careful planning of Andrew and Betsy Wyeth, and are excited to build on our museum's longstanding relationship with the Wyeth family and the Wyeth Foundation for American Art with this new collaboration."

About the Wyeth Foundation for American Art

Throughout their lifetimes, Andrew and Betsy Wyeth through their charitable endeavors have encouraged the study, appreciation, and recognition of excellence in American art. Since the Wyeths formed and funded the Wyeth Foundation for American Art in 2002, the Foundation has provided over \$8 million in financial support for major fellowship programs, educational initiatives, scholarly gatherings and lectures, exhibitions, publications, and conservation and preservation efforts related to the field of American art. The Foundation supports selected programs of scholarship, research, conservation, and exhibitions with institutions and other non-profit organizations that are consistent with this mission. In particular, the Foundation provides financial support for a number of pre- and post-graduate fellowship programs in American art, for scholarly publications (especially first-time publications) in American art, for conservation of important works of American art, and for innovative exhibitions and educational programs centered on American art.

About the Brandywine River Museum of Art

The Brandywine River Museum of Art has a remarkable collection of American art, with a particular strength in artists who have lived and worked in the area, most notably the three generations of Wyeth family artists whose work is always on view. In addition, the Museum owns and makes open to the public seasonally three sites—all National Historic Landmarks—integral to their careers: the N. C. Wyeth House and Studio; the Andrew Wyeth Studio (in part of which Jamie Wyeth had his first studio); and the Kuerner Farm. Complementing these holdings, the Brandywine has renowned holdings of landscape paintings and American illustration and organized a robust program of temporary exhibitions ranging from mid-nineteenth century to contemporary art.

About the Farnsworth Art Museum

Founded in 1948, in Rockland, Maine, the mission of the FAM is to celebrate Maine's role in American art. With a changing display from its collection of 15,000 objects (online at <https://collection.farnsworthmuseum.org/explore>), inventive exhibitions, and energetic educational programming, visitors from around the world gain a deep appreciation of the ongoing story of Maine's role in American art. The museum has one of the nation's largest collections of works by sculptor Louise Nevelson, who grew up in Rockland. The Farnsworth Homestead, listed

on the Register of Historic Places, as well as the Farnsworth Library are within the museum complex. Also on the campus is the Wyeth Center, a free-standing building that presents works of the Wyeth family of artists from FAM's collection, as well as loans from the WFFA and others. It is curated by FAM staff. The Farnsworth's Olson House, a National Historic Landmark and the subject of over 300 works by Andrew Wyeth, is located some 20 miles from the campus in the town of Cushing.

The Wyeth Study Center, located in a wing of the museum, contains vault space, flat files and other archives related to the artist, and interprets Andrew Wyeth's Maine work and the archival holdings owned by the WFAA. The Wyeth Study Center installs Andrew Wyeth exhibitions in the adjacent gallery.

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For more information, please contact:
Sascha Freudenheim
PAVE Communications & Consulting
sascha@paveconsult.com
917-544-6057