



Greenville County **Museum of Art**

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gcma.org

# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**— In celebration of the centennial of Andrew Wyeth’s birth in 1917, the Greenville County Museum of Art presents *Wyeth Dynasty*, a retrospective of Wyeth’s art complemented by works of his father, N.C., his son Jamie and his sisters Carolyn and Henriette. More than 70 examples are featured in the exhibition, which also includes a number of sketches and studies that enrich finished paintings while demonstrating Andrew Wyeth’s process and technical mastery of media.

Greenville’s Andrew Wyeth collection encompasses the full scope of the artist’s extraordinary career, including significant decade-by-decade examples, from the 1930s to the 21st century. Wyeth himself described it as “the very best collection of my watercolors in any public museum in this country.”

Andrew Wyeth stands out as a consummate realist in an age of abstraction, and much has been made over his 70-year career of his “worlds,” bodies of work set within the context of his homes in Pennsylvania and Maine. Drawing inspiration from the distinctive characteristics of these locations, he revealed universal attributes in his depictions of landscapes, objects, and people. The GCMA collection emphasizes Wyeth’s preference for painting intimate and personal subjects, including his family, his homes, his memories, and his favorite models. He once said, “I am an illustrator of my own life.”

Wyeth family patriarch Newell Convers Wyeth (1882-1945) is acclaimed for his illustrations of such classic tales as *Robinson Crusoe*, *Treasure Island*, and *The Last of the Mohicans*. Born in Needham, Massachusetts, N.C. Wyeth moved to Delaware to study with American illustrator Howard Pyle. He married in 1906 and moved his family to Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, where he lived most of his life. He taught three of his five children to paint in his studio filled with props that included a collection of firearms, death masks of Beethoven and Abraham Lincoln, and a full-size birch canoe.

Representing the third generation of one of America's most renowned families of artists, James Browning Wyeth (born 1946) began pursuing his career as an artist at the age of eleven, under the tutelage of his aunt, Carolyn Wyeth. Ambitious and talented, Jamie Wyeth enjoyed early success painting the residents and landscapes of his hometown, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. He later worked in New York City, where he befriended and painted art world celebrities Andy Warhol, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rudolf Nureyev, and Lincoln Kirstein.

Highlighted by local residents, both human and animal, and set in the familiar surroundings of the Brandywine River Valley and coastal Maine, Wyeth's expressive new works invite viewers to freely conjure their own narratives based on the artist's provocative titles and ambiguous imagery.

The Greenville County Museum of Art is pleased to acknowledge United Community Bank as the presenting sponsor of *Wyeth Dynasty*. The exhibition will be on view through September 10, 2017. Visit the GCMA website [gcma.org](http://gcma.org) to find the latest details on special tours and other programs that complement the exhibition.

The Greenville County Museum of Art is located in the center of downtown Greenville's cultural campus, Heritage Green, at 420 College Street. The GCMA is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 am until 5 pm and on Sundays from 1 pm until 5 pm. Admission is free.

Upcoming related events:

**Sundays at 2 Gallery Tour: *Wyeth Dynasty***  
Nov 20, 2016, 2 pm  
free

Join us for an introduction to the *Wyeth Dynasty* story as we begin our celebration of the centennial of Andrew Wyeth's birth.

**Sundays at 2 Gallery Tour: *Wyeth Dynasty* "Home for the Holidays"**  
Dec 11, 2016, 2 pm  
free

The GCMA collection emphasizes Andrew Wyeth's preference for painting intimate subjects, including his family, his memories, and his favorite models. As we celebrate the holiday season, join us for a guided tour of selections from *Wyeth Dynasty* and discover the inspiration he found where he felt most at home.

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