Works by the American imagist Maxfield Parrish (1870-1966), one of the greats of the Golden Age of Illustration, will be on view at Nassau County Museum of Art through February 28, 2016. The works are drawn from the National Museum of American Illustration, Newport, Rhode Island, and curated by Judy and Laurence S. Cutler, co-founders of the National Museum of American Illustration.

Maxfield Parrish: Paintings and Prints from the National Museum of American Illustration embodies the artist's long career and extraordinary accomplishments, displaying Parrish's lush coloristic effect with amazing detail. The exhibition includes original artworks as well as a large collection of vintage prints. Through this showing of artworks and vintage reproductions, today's viewers will have the unique opportunity to see the way that viewers of an earlier age observed these images, comparing the mass-produced reproductions against the original luminous canvases.

Parrish described himself as “a businessman with a brush,” and was proud of his ability to market his artwork to the public. In 1904, a time that the average annual income for an American worker was $500 or less, Parrish signed a six-year contract with Collier’s Magazine for $1,250 per month. His fee rose to $2,000 a painting, but each Parrish cover was a guaranteed sell out for that month’s edition of Collier’s.

Parrish’s universally popular and instantly recognizable images were produced between the late 1890s through the mid 1960s; they were seen on magazine covers, greeting cards, art prints, calendars, novels, advertisements and packaging. Clear and bold, with uncomplicated subjects, Maxfield Parrish’s art prints papered the walls of American homes for decades.

Nassau County Museum of Art is offering public programming to enhance the experience of viewing the exhibition. There are daily screenings of a 30-minute documentary, Parrish Blue: An American Art History that includes images of many of Parrish’s original canvases as well as comments by the artist’s son, Maxfield Parrish, Jr., and Norman Rockwell, a friend and fellow artist.

Nassau County Museum of Art is chartered and accredited by New York State as a not-for-profit private educational institution. Docent-led tours of the exhibition are offered at 2 p.m. each day; tours of the mansion are offered each Saturday at 1 p.m.; meet in the lobby, no reservations needed. Tours are free with museum admission.

Visit www.nassaumuseum.org


Mitchell Meisner of Meisner Gallery and Meisner Acrylic Casting, Farmingdale, NY

PHOTOS BY JAMIE ELLIN FORBES

Constance & Hank Schwartz; Constance is Director Emerita of the Museum

Laurence & Judy Cutler, guest curators of the exhibition, founders of the National Museum of American Illustration

At the opening reception

Mitchell Meisner, Jamie Ellin Forbes

Photos by Jamie Ellin Forbes

Caryn & Christopher Pasey, Mitch Meisner, Debbie Miraglia

Board Member Harvey Manes with guest

Constance Schwartz (red sweater) and a group of supporters of the Nassau County Museum of Art at the Maxfield Parrish exhibition opening, November 20, 2015.

Artist Christopher Hart Chambers (on view in Contemporary Gallery) with Laurence Cutler