



The National Museum of American Illustration
Vernon Court ★ 492 Bellevue Avenue ★ Newport RI 02840

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 25, 2013

Contact: Eric Brocklehurst
Tel: (401) 851-8949 ext. 18
Email: art@americanillustration.org
Website: www.americanillustration.org

NMAI'S 'MAXFIELD PARRISH: THE RETROSPECTIVE' CONTINUED DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND-The National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI) announces the continuation of its milestone exhibition – *Maxfield Parrish: The Retrospective* – for the 2013 Summer Season beginning Friday, May 24, and on display through September 1, 2013.

Maxfield Parrish (1870-1966) was best known for romantic images possessing an unmatched richness and ultra-saturated colors, often times featuring an intense cobalt blue which became known as “Parrish Blue.” His paintings were created using alternating layers of color and transparent varnish over a monochromatic underpainting, which was a superb technique for reproduction using the early four color printing process. The resultant depth and luminosity of the original paintings, unmatched by any artist before or since, truly must be seen in person to be fully appreciated. Among those on display will be Parrish’s magnum opus, the 18 *Florentine Fete* murals (each 10’8” tall), as well as his smallest work, *Tallwood Pearl*, painted on a 1.5” diameter Mother of Pearl button.

Parrish’s work as an illustrator encompassed the years between the 1895 and 1965. *The Retrospective* features works from all periods of his career – his early periodical and book illustrations with fantastical romantic images, commercial advertising which sold products due to his compelling artwork’s endorsement, depictions of fairy tales like the Brothers Grimm’s *Frog Prince*, to Edison Mazda (General Electric) calendars, which were ubiquitous in the 1910s and 1920s. During the 1920s, an estimated one of every four American households had a Parrish print on display. His art sold a myriad number of products, including Jell-O, Fisk tires, light bulbs, chocolate, soap, cameras, bicycles, silverware, cosmetics, and root beer.

Also showing at the NMAI are *Howard Pyle & His Brandywine Students*, featuring the works of Pyle, N.C. Wyeth, and others of the Brandywine school, and a brand new exhibition, *The American Muse*, a homage to American women of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the illustrators who portrayed the distinctly American beauty these women possessed, including: Charles Dana Gibson, Harrison Fisher, Philip Boileau, McClelland Barclay, Howard Chandler Christy, James Montgomery Flagg, Henry Hutt, Walter Granville Smith, Paul Stahr, and Albert Beck Wenzell. Additionally, highlights from the NMAI’s *American Imagist Collection*, featuring works by Norman Rockwell, J.C. Leyendecker, John Falter, Dean Cornwell, and other Golden Age illustrators will be on display.

The exhibitions are presently viewable at their home setting in Newport, during the NMAI’s Spring hours: Fridays 11am to 5pm with a guided tour at 3pm, and for group tours by advance reservation. The NMAI’s Summer hours commence Friday, May 24 and last until September 1. During this time, the Museum is open Memorial Day, and every Friday through Sunday, 11am to 5pm, with a guided tour Fridays at 3pm.

For more information and images, contact the NMAI at 401.851.8949 ext. 18, email art@americanillustration.org, or visit our website at www.americanillustration.org.

###

The National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI) was founded in 1998 by Judy Goffman Cutler and Laurence S. Cutler to house their art collection from the 'Golden Age of American Illustration.' The NMAI, a private, nonprofit organization, is an independent, educational, and aesthetic organization with the goal to present the best venue for the public to appreciate the greatest collection of illustration art.