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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## THE ANNUAL FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED PARK AND ARBORETUM TREE WALK

The National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI) in Newport, RI, is pleased to announce the return of its annual ***Frederick Law Olmsted Park & Arboretum Tree Walk*** in the Frederick Law Olmsted Park, adjacent to the NMAI. The walk is **Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup> from 2pm to 2:45pm**. The NMAI will be closed on the day, however guests will receive 25% off the price of admission to the NMAI on a future visit. The NMAI will open for the summer season on Thursday May 17th. Until then, we will continue to be open on Fridays 11am–5pm with a guided tour at 3pm.

***Frederick Law Olmsted Park & Arboretum Tree Walk*** is a free, guided tour of the Frederick Law Olmsted Park and Arboretum, home to four Rhode Island Champion Trees, recognized as a Level 1 Arboretum by the Moreton Register of Arboreta and the International ArbNet Program. In 1886, Frederick Law Olmsted designed the grounds of the former, three-acre Stoneacre estate. Although the mansion was demolished in 1963, the beautifully landscaped grounds remain to this day as a memorial to Frederick Law Olmsted, and the Park is the last open space on Bellevue Avenue.

Olmsted was America's first and most noted landscape architect. He designed the nation's most beloved parks and grounds including: New York's Central Park, The White House, Brooklyn's Prospect Park, the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, the Biltmore, Winterthur, Detroit's Belle Isle, Boston's Franklin Park, and many estate grounds. He conceived of Boston's first park system known as The Emerald Necklace. Olmsted's office went on to create the National Park System and designed a plethora of college and university campus plans including Stanford University. Olmsted was a social activist and reformer, artist and engineer—a man of epic vision. His work during the thirty years following the Civil War created an American landscape that is enjoyed today and will be forevermore.

Olmsted conceived of Stoneacre as a “park-like setting” with a variety of exotic trees to protect the owners of Stoneacre, the Ellis family, from viewers. Stoneacre was furnished with native and exotic trees including London Plane, Fern Leaf Beech, Japanese Maple, Zelkova, European Linden, English Oak, and Tulip Trees, as well as Silver Maple, Cucumber, and Sweet Gums. Manmade earthen forms and contours were designed to give a rolling and more naturalistic perspective to the overall site.

The National Museum of American Illustration 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. The NMAI is open to the public Fridays, 11am – 5pm, with a Guided Tour at 3pm. The NMAI's Summer Season begins May 17<sup>th</sup>, open Thursday through Sunday, 11am – 5pm, with a Guided Tour every Friday at 3pm. It is located at Vernon Court, 492 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI. For information call (401) 851-8949 ext. 18 or visit [www.americanillustration.org](http://www.americanillustration.org).

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