

## American Illustration museum starts summer lecture series with look at WWII

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The title of John Howard Sanden's lecture on Saturday is "The Great Illustrators and World War II." He will focus on how these famous illustrators contributed to the war effort and then showed the nation how to return to the joys of peace after the war's conclusion in 1945.

NEWPORT – A three-part summer lecture series kicks off at the National Museum of American Illustration, 492 Bellevue Ave., on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. with a talk by John Howard Sanden, a well known portrait artist for 50 years.

He painted the official portraits of President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush, which have hung in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., since their unveiling in 2012.

Abigail Rockwell, a jazz singer-songwriter and one of Norman Rockwell's grandchildren, will deliver a talk about her grandfather's autobiography, *My Adventures as an Illustrator*, on the following Saturday, July 20, at 1:30 p.m. The artist wrote the book in 1960 with his son, Tom Rockwell.

Abigail Rockwell edited and oversaw the restoration of the first edition text, adding back the chapter heading drawings by Rockwell himself for the definitive edition published by Abbeville Press in May this year. She also wrote an extensive introduction to the text and curated more than 170 illustrations that reveal a more comprehensive vision of her grandfather's life and work.

Geoff Gaunt, owner of the Providence Picture Frame & Dryden Gallery will deliver a lecture titled, “All There is to Know About Framing and Conservation,” on Saturday, July 27, beginning at 1:30 p.m. to conclude the summer series.

He plans to educate the audience about the delicate art of framing and conservation.

The title of Sanden’s lecture on Saturday is “The Great Illustrators and World War II.” He will focus on how these famous illustrators contributed to the war effort and then showed the nation how to return to the joys of peace after the war’s conclusion in 1945.

Sanden promises to illustrate his lecture with masterworks by Rockwell, Dean Cornwell, J.C. Leyendecker, Mead Schaeffer, and John Falter, among others.

His “goal is to provide listeners with a new appreciation for the powerful influence the illustrators’ artworks had on the public, and the amazing artistic and technical skill involved in their design and creation,” according to a written statement from the museum.

His talk will be followed by a brief question-and-answer session.

Sanden has written six books on portrait painting and is currently completing a new book called The Norman Rockwell Mystery, about a Rockwell painting that Sanden revealed to be a fraud and the discovery of the real Rockwell painting behind a secret wall in the studio of fellow artist, Don Trachte.

In 1994, Sanden became the first recipient of the John Singer Sargent Medal for Lifetime Achievement from the American Society of Portrait Artists and in 2010 he was awarded the Founders’ Gold Medal from the Portrait Society of America.

Judy Cutler, the co-founder and curator of the National Museum of American Illustration, began collecting the original artwork of illustrators like Norman Rockwell in the 1970s, when their work was underappreciated. She and her husband, museum co-founder Laurence Cutler, started the lecture series last summer as part of the museum’s educational mission.

The lectures are open to the public and there is no additional charge beyond the standard cost of museum admission, which is \$20 for adults; \$18 for military personnel and seniors 60 and over; \$14 for students; and \$10 for children ages 5 to 12.

Seating for the lectures is limited; so please RSVP for the individual talks by calling (401) 851–8949, ext. 18, or emailing [art@americanillustration.org](mailto:art@americanillustration.org).

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