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MY (GRANDFATHER'S) ADVENTURES AS AN ILLUSTRATOR
by ABIGAIL ROCKWELL

The National Museum of American Illustration (NMAI) in Newport, RI is pleased to welcome singer/songwriter Abigail Rockwell to the NMAI's 2019 Summer Lecture series on **Saturday, July 20th, 2019, at 1:30PM**. This lecture is open to the public and there is no additional charge beyond the standard cost of Museum admission. Seating is limited; please RSVP for lectures by calling (401) 851-8949 ext. 18 or emailing art@americanillustration.org. This lecture will take place at the NMAI: Vernon Court, 492 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, RI.

Abigail Rockwell, one of Norman Rockwell's grandchildren, has edited the Definitive Edition of his classic Autobiography, *My Adventures as an Illustrator*, published by Abbeville Press, May 2019. The book was originally written by Norman with the help of his son Tom, Abigail's father, and published in 1960. The book is regarded as the best account of Rockwell's personal life and artistic career, spanning from his childhood through to the height of his successful career with the *Saturday Evening Post*.

For this newly released edition, Abigail oversaw the restoration of the first edition text, reintegrated the charming chapter heading drawings that Rockwell drew for the book which had been taken out of the second edition, and made sure his tender drawing and dedication to his second wife, Mary, was also restored. Abigail curated over 170+ illustrations that reveal a more comprehensive vision of her grandfather's work. She also wrote an 11-page introduction that includes brand new information on Rockwell's life and work after investigating his life for the last 6 years. The text also includes a foreword by the eminent design writer Steven Heller, who places Rockwell in the context of American art and illustration.

Abigail is a jazz singer/songwriter who released her most recent album *Autumn Noir* last fall. She has written about her grandfather in *HuffPost* and *Saturday Evening Post*. Rockwell will use her expertise to deliver a lecture on the new Definitive Edition of *My Adventures as an Illustrator*, followed by a brief book-signing session.

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's Summer Season runs from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, 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.

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