

# Elliott Museum presents groundbreaking Leyendecker and Rockwell exhibit

**Doreen Poreba**

Elliott Museum

STUART – For the first time in Florida, visitors will have the unprecedented opportunity to view an exceptional collection of artworks by Norman Rockwell and his mentor, J.C. Leyendecker, at the Elliott Museum, 825 NE Ocean Blvd. in Stuart.

The exhibit will run through March 3, 2023 and include 20 original works of art — 10 by Norman Rockwell and 10 by J.C. Leyendecker — along with each artist's complete collections of vintage Saturday Evening Post covers — 323 by Rockwell (321 unique illustrations and 2 repeated covers) and 322 by Leyendecker. The magazine covers range from 1899 through 1963, giving an interesting visual history of the United States through an ever-changing time. Major events such as both World Wars, the Great Depression, and 16 presidential terms, as well as timeless scenes of family life and childhood, are represented.

This exhibit, presented by the Historical Society of Martin County, is being made possible through the generosity of these sponsors: The Lichtenberger Foundation, The Kiplinger Family Foundation, Henry & Rachelle (Rocky) Grady, Bob Massey, Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Activities and The Community Foundation Martin/St. Lucie.

"We are thrilled that the Elliott Museum promotes classic Americana, and what's more American than Norman Rockwell," said Judy Goffman Cutler, director of the National Museum of American Illustration. "This configuration has never been seen before in Florida. The scope and poignancy ... it's really brilliant."

Through this exhibition, Cutler hopes to highlight the mentorship and influence that Leyendecker had over the more well-known Rockwell. She



**NORMAN ROCKWELL (1894-1978), THREADING THE NEEDLE, 1922, oil on canvas, 25 1/2" x 20 1/2", signed lower right. Saturday Evening Post, April 8, 1922 cover** PROVIDED BY ©2022 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ILLUSTRATION AND AMERICAN ILLUSTRATORS GALLERY

encourages visitors to compare their artworks. Throughout their careers, both artists reflected the currents of American life and its times.

"I hope the viewers will gain an appreciation for the wider world of American illustration and take an interest in all the illustrators of the Golden Age," said Cutler.

The Elliott Museum is open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit the website at [hsmc-fl.com](http://hsmc-fl.com) or call the Elliott Museum at 772-225-1961.