



## **Masterpieces of American Art: *American Made* Debuts at The Columbus Museum**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
PRESS RELEASE**

**Exhibition Dates: March 8 – July 6, 2025**

**COLUMBUS, GA – March 5, 2025** – The Columbus Museum is pleased to announce the opening of *American Made: Paintings and Sculpture from the DeMell Jacobsen Collection*, a landmark exhibition featuring more than 100 works of art by renowned American artists. Organized by The Mint Museum, *American Made* will be on view from March 8 through July 6, 2025, providing visitors with a remarkable opportunity to experience two centuries of American artistry.

Drawn entirely from the distinguished DeMell Jacobsen Collection, *American Made* presents a sweeping survey of American artistic achievement, highlighting distinctive styles and thought-provoking works spanning the 18th to the 20th century. Though many of these works have been featured at leading institutions such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, this exhibition unites a carefully curated selection in one comprehensive presentation.

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### **Exhibition Highlights**

*American Made* invites visitors to explore the development of American art through masterful works by artists such as Benjamin West, Thomas Cole, Elizabeth Catlett, Mary Cassatt, Robert Henri, and Charles Alston. The exhibition begins with striking portraits by Rembrandt Peale and Thomas Sully before transitioning into the grandeur of mid-19th-century landscape painting, featuring works by Asher B. Durand and John Frederick Kensett that capture the nation's natural beauty.

Still-life compositions by artists including Severin Roesen, John Francis, Ferdinand Richardt, Elizabeth Williams, and Adelaide Coburne Palmer reflect the abundance and symbolism of everyday objects. Trompe l'oeil (“deceives the eye”) works by William Michael Harnett, John Haberle, and John Peto showcase an astonishing level of realism,

while later pieces highlight the bold innovations of modernism and realism through artists such as Patrick Henry Bruce, Marsden Hartley, Paul Cadmus, Charmion von Wiegand, Suzy Frelinghuysen, and Ernie Barnes.

**“By showcasing these diverse artistic movements, *American Made* provides a dynamic narrative of America’s cultural evolution, aligning with The Columbus Museum’s mission to connect audiences with the nation’s artistic and historical legacy,” said Jonathan F. Walz, Ph.D., Curator of American Art at The Columbus Museum. “We are excited to offer our visitors this fresh perspective that will captivate both art enthusiasts and newcomers alike.”**

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## Related Programs

The Columbus Museum will celebrate the opening of *American Made* with a **special Member Opening Reception on Thursday, March 13, from 6 to 8 PM**. Visitors can enjoy curator-led tours beginning at 6:30 PM, offering deeper insights into the exhibition’s themes and highlights. There will also be commentary by commentary by the exhibition’s curator, Jonathan Stuhlman of The Mint Museum. Light refreshments will be served.

In addition to the opening reception, the Museum has organized a series of **drop-in tours** led by COMU docents, that will provide guided discussions from **2 to 3 PM every Saturday from March through May**.

No registration is required for these tours. These programs offer visitors an opportunity to explore the exhibition in greater depth, fostering conversations about the evolution of American art and its lasting impact.

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Admission to the exhibition is free and included with general Museum admission. Accompanying the exhibition is a richly illustrated catalogue, authored by Elizabeth Heuer, Ph.D., with contributions from leading scholars. The catalogue will be available for purchase in the COMU Shop.

*American Made* was curated by Todd Herman, PhD, President and CEO of The Mint Museum; Kevin Sharp, Director of the Dixon Gallery and Gardens; and Jonathan Stuhlman, PhD, Senior Curator of American Art at The Mint Museum.

The exhibition is generously presented by Aflac and made possible in part by support from The Hardaway Fund, Georgia Council for the Arts, and the Columbus Cultural Arts Alliance through Visit Columbus GA.

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### **About The Columbus Museum**

Founded in 1953, The Columbus Museum is one of the largest museums in the Southeast. The Museum invites visitors to celebrate creativity and culture through the experience of American art, regional history, tranquil gardens, and more. As a destination for people of all ages and interests, the Museum has something for everyone – from the art enthusiast to the history buff, the nature lover to the leisure visitor – it's free and it's all in one space.

[www.comuga.org](http://www.comuga.org)

### **About The Mint Museum**

Established in 1936 as North Carolina's first art museum, The Mint Museum is a leading, innovative cultural institution and museum of international art and design. With two locations – Mint Museum Randolph in the heart of Eastover and Mint Museum Uptown at Levine Center for the Arts – the Mint boasts one of the largest collections in the Southeast and is committed to engaging and inspiring members of the global community.

### **The Thomas H. and Diane DeMell Jacobsen Ph.D. Foundation**

The Thomas H. and Diane DeMell Jacobsen Ph.D. Foundation is dedicated to preserving and exhibiting American art by carefully researching and obtaining American masterpieces, providing restoration, if necessary, and facilitating long-term loans to accredited major museums and traveling exhibitions. Created in 2011 as a 501(c)3 private operating foundation, the Foundation educates and stimulates creativity and teaches viewers about our nation's rich artistic heritage with the goal of celebrating American art.

### **For more information, contact:**

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# NANCY AND CASON CALLAWAY GALLERY



# 1930 AND BEYOND

## America Anew



As America struggled through the Great Depression in the 1930s and slowly began to emerge into a new era of prosperity in the 1940s, many artists continued to document various aspects of life, both rural and urban. As the effects of the ongoing economic crisis spread, the art world shifted its focus from the high-minded abstraction and decadent Art Deco of the 1920s to explore the more relatable concerns of common folk, so many of whom were poor, hungry, and unhoused. Variants of Regionalism popped up across the country, including Dust Bowl images of the Midwest, agricultural depictions of the Deep South, and factory scenes of the Northeast. During the Depression, the U.S. government instituted several work relief programs for unemployed artists. One of them, the Federal Art Project, employed many painters, sculptors, and graphic designers who channeled their creativity into murals for civic buildings or prints that could be sold at affordable prices.



## MARY PASSAILAGUIE GALLERY



## POSING FOR POSTERITY

### Early American Portraits



Portraits were the earliest and most prevalent form of painting in the United States during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. As representations of specific people, portraits fulfilled multiple functions: recording appearance, conveying wealth and status, demonstrating political power, and memorializing a private individual or public figure. In an age before photography made portraits more accessible (and now ubiquitous), paintings, sculpture, prints, and drawings were the only means to circulate such images. The same Enlightenment ideals that led to the creation of the United States—the world's first constitutional federal republic—also fostered depictions of self-possessed citizens acting in the public sphere for the common good. Besides portraits of such individuals, the DeWitt Jacobson collection also features a number of self-portraits, highlighted in a section nearby.

