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Media Only: Amanda Young, (860) 838-4082
amanda.young@wadsworthatheneum.org

**WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART AWARDED \$750,000 TO
FUND REINSTALLATION OF COLLECTIONS AND RELATED
PROGRAMMING FOLLOWING RENOVATION**

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art has received a collective \$750,000 from the National Endowment of the Humanities (NEH) and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (HFPG) to fund the comprehensive reinstallation of its collections following a five-year, \$33 million renovation, and to continue related programming aimed at community engagement.

NEH awarded the Wadsworth Atheneum \$400,000—the second-highest award offered this year in its Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations Implementation category—for the creation of an interdisciplinary gallery with interactive technology to introduce visitors to the Cabinet of Art and Curiosities. The immersive exhibition will feature remarkable 17th-century objects, many assembled by the great collector J. Pierpont Morgan, combined with natural history specimens and other rarities, and will be a highlight of the reinstallation of European artworks in the restored Morgan Memorial building, opening September 2015. The museum is one of only 15 museums nationwide to receive NEH’s Museums, Libraries, and Cultural Organizations Implementation funding this year.

“We are thrilled to receive exceptional support from the National Endowment for the Humanities,” said Linda Roth, Senior Curator and Charles C. and Eleanor Lamont Cunningham Curator of European Decorative Arts. “This investment will ensure that hundreds of thousands of visitors over the next few years will learn about objects of wonderment from the era of early modern collecting in Europe—some so rare they can only be found in a museum.”

HFPG awarded the Wadsworth Atheneum \$325,000 to fund “Beyond the Walls/Behind the Scenes” over the next three years. “Beyond the Walls/Behind the Scenes” is a continuation and growth of the collaborative partnerships developed through the museum’s ongoing

Community Engagement Initiative. The HFPG grant will support new interpretative strategies in the museum’s renovated permanent collection galleries, as well as through web resources and educational programming at partnering organizations.

“The Wadsworth Atheneum’s long-term success lies in our commitment to welcoming and inspiring new and existing audiences while remaining a vital part of the city of Hartford and surrounding region,” said Johanna Plummer, Georgette Auerbach Koopman Director of Education. “With this gift the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has realized the museum’s desire to be a destination for all who wish to come together to experience the power of art.”

This strong show of support both nationally and locally brings the Wadsworth Atheneum closer to realizing the goals of its re-installation project and its ongoing community initiatives. These substantive gifts add to what has already been a fruitful year for the museum; in January the State of Connecticut awarded the Wadsworth Atheneum \$5 million, bringing the State’s total investment in the museum’s renovation project to \$25 million. That same month the museum learned of a \$9.6 million bequest from former museum member Charles H. Schwartz to fund the acquisition of European artwork from the 18th century or before—a portion of which supported the museum’s landmark acquisition of Artemisia Gentileschi’s “Self-portrait as a Lute Player” (1616-18) just a month later.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is the oldest public art museum in the United States. The museum’s nearly 50,000 works of art span 5,000 years, from Greek and Roman antiquities to the first museum collection of American contemporary art. The museum’s five connected buildings—representing architectural styles from Gothic Revival to modern International Style—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Connecticut. Since 2010 the museum has been undergoing a major, \$33 million renovation, slated to be complete 2015. Hours: Wed – Fri: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; First Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. Admission: \$5 – 10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: <http://thewadsworth.org>.

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