



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Dec. 14, 2015

Media Only: Taryn Bunger, (860) 838-4081
taryn.bunger@wadsworthatheneum.org



**New Exhibition Explores Works by Visionary Porcelain Modeler
*“Miniature World in White Gold: Meissen Porcelain by Johann Joachim
Kaendler” opens Jan. 16, 2016 at the Wadsworth Atheneum***

“Miniature World in White Gold: Meissen Porcelain by Johann Joachim Kaendler”—a new exhibition exploring the important career of this innovative porcelain modeler—opens Jan. 16, 2016, and runs through January 2017, at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford, Conn. The exhibition, assembled from the museum’s collections, showcases a broad range of finely detailed porcelain figures created by Kaendler over his 44 years as a modeler at the Meissen Porcelain Factory in Germany. The exhibition is organized by Vanessa Sigalas, Dangremond Research Fellow for European Art and Decorative Arts at the Wadsworth Atheneum.

Johann Joachim Kaendler was one of the most visionary artists in the history of porcelain, creating more than 2,000 models over the course of his career and consistently testing the limits of porcelain as an artistic medium. Kaendler was one of the first artists to use porcelain as a sculpting material rather than as a surface for painted decoration. His designs and figures, more detailed and realistic than any earlier creations, were essential for the development of porcelain as an independent art form in Europe. “Miniature World in White Gold” will feature dozens of Kaendler’s works including his animals, crinoline figures, exotic representations, and court and peasant figures.

The formula for hard-paste porcelain, which originated in China centuries earlier, was not discovered in Europe until the early 18th century—only decades before Kaendler became a modeler at Meissen. The material was as valuable as gold during his lifetime, when dinner services and figurines were commissioned by aristocrats to ornament extravagant banquet and dining tables. While they initially served as table decoration and conversation pieces, porcelain figures soon became collectibles themselves and were displayed in cabinets as independent artworks.

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, Conn. Hours: Wed – Fri: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Admission: \$5 – \$10; discounts for members, students and seniors. Free admission 4 – 5 p.m. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: <http://thewadsworth.org>.

###