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**Digital Engagement Opportunities Connect You with
Wadsworth Atheneum Staff, Collections, Exhibitions**

Hartford, Conn. (April 24, 2020)—While the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is temporarily closed, the museum is leveraging digital content to drive engagement with its staff, collections, and exhibitions. Digital projects and partnerships support the Wadsworth's mission to advance knowledge and inspire everyone to experience and appreciate excellence in art and culture, even from afar. Upcoming digital engagement opportunities, and those you can participate in now, are detailed below.

Live conversations with curator Brandy Culp produced in collaboration with #UNLOAD, an arts-based initiative that seeks to reduce gun violence, and the Quick Center for the Arts at Fairfield University will take place April 29 and May 13 from 1:30-2pm. Culp, the Wadsworth's Richard Koopman Curator of American Decorative Arts, discusses Samuel Colt's *Experimental Pocket Pistol* in a conversation about firearms as loaded objects that illuminate history, violence, and the power of art and design to promote social change. The focus of a Smarthistory video titled *Inventing America, Colt's Experimental Pocket Pistol*, the pistol is one of many objects from the collection of Samuel Colt, founder of Colt's Patent Fire Arms Manufacturing Company, bequeathed to the Wadsworth in 1905 including paintings from the Hudson River School, decorative works, and the firearms collection. Tune in to the live conversations via vimeo.com/event/34840.

An upcoming video series titled *Creative Connections* will introduce viewers to museum staff. Each short video--shared on social media and thewadsworth.org--will feature a member of the Wadsworth's staff sharing musings about art, creative know-how, and ways they are staying connected to the museum and the collection while working from home. These personal messages

exemplify the Wadsworth's capacity to impart value in our lives beyond the museum walls. *Creative Connections* videos will be published every Thursday at 5pm.

On May 9, do-it-from-home Second Saturdays for Families activities will be shared via thewadsworth.org and social media. Virtual activities include kid-friendly prompts for looking at and discussing a work of art from the collection, an art making activity, and story time all themed to celebrate family caretakers. Previous digital family activities, still available via thewadsworth.org, include [*Art & Nature*](#), a celebration of Earth Day 2020.

Available now, audio tours inspired by the collection and exhibitions are available from any location with smartphone, computer, or tablet via tap.thewadsworth.org; sign up to receive weekly collection highlight emails spotlighting a single work of art from the collection at thewadsworth.org/connect; resources for teachers, including classroom lesson plans that may be adapted for distance learning, may be downloaded via thewadsworth.org/education.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842 with a vision for infusing art into the American experience, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is home to a collection of nearly 50,000 works of art spanning 5,000 years and encompassing European art from antiquity through contemporary as well as American art from the 1600s to today. The Wadsworth Atheneum's five connected buildings—representing architectural styles including Gothic Revival, modern International Style, and 1960s Brutalism—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn. Public phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

COVID-19 Response

To support the effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is temporarily closed effective March 14. All programs, tours, and films are canceled during this time. Programs and events will be rescheduled when possible.

Images (left to right): Brandy Culp, Richard Koopman Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Wadsworth will participate in a live conversation hosted by #UNLOAD and the Quick Center for the Arts April 29 and May 13; The subject of Anne Butler Rice's *Creative Connections* video is Georgia O'Keeffe's *The Lawrence Tree*, 1929. Oil on canvas. The Ella Gallup Sumner and Mary Catlin Sumner Collection Fund. © 2020 Georgia O'Keeffe Museum / Artists Rights Society (ARS) New York. Rice is the Georgette Auerbach Koopman Director of Education at the Wadsworth; Still from *Art & Nature* video showing a kid-friendly art making demonstration led by Marisely Gonzalez, the Wadsworth's Youth and Community Programs Manager, in celebration of Earth Day 2020.

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