



WADSWORTH ATHENEUM
MUSEUM OF ART



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The Connecticut Art Trail launches 25th anniversary year--celebrates with *Made in Connecticut*, collaborative exhibition at Wadsworth Atheneum

Hartford, Conn. (October 12, 2020)--One of the first tourism trails in the state--The Connecticut Art Trail--is celebrating 25 years of guiding art aficionados on a journey that includes 22 world-class museums and historic sites. Originally launched in 1995 as the Connecticut Impressionist Art Trail, encompassing 10 museums, today the Trail includes more than double that number, plus a growing range of affiliate members including galleries and art-based environments.

"When the founding museums first gathered, over two decades ago, I'm not sure that anyone imagined that this Trail would not only continue to thrive but grow in reach and reputation, across the country," shares Carey Weber, volunteer President of the Connecticut Art Trail and Executive Director of the Fairfield University Art Museum. "When considering how to celebrate 25 years of collaboration, the answer was clear--curating and opening a collaborative exhibition comprised of works from all of our member museums, hosted by a member."

The resulting *Made in Connecticut* collaborative exhibition will open to the public on Thursday, October 15, 2020, and run through Sunday, February 7, 2021 at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art in Hartford.

James Prosek, American artist, writer, naturalist, and current Artist-in-Residence at the Yale University Art Gallery will be the independent curator for the exhibition. "This exhibition is made possible thanks to the tremendous collaboration of the partner museums, and the generosity of our guest curator James Prosek. We are excited about building on this energy for our next 25 years," continues Ms. Weber. "In addition to paintings, drawings, prints and other traditional works of art, this exhibition will feature a number of decorative and industrial art objects including a rubber desk, an early typewriter, a selection of historic buttons and much more."

"The member museums and historic sites of the Connecticut Art Trail are spread statewide," shared Mr. Prosek. "Their combined collections number over half a million objects and are filled with astonishing works. It is an honor to be working with the museums to showcase the diversity of objects that have impacted Connecticut's rich cultural landscape over the centuries."

In addition to works from the collections of the member museums, Prosek has included works by two contemporary artists and members of the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, Bill Donehey and Kristin Emilyta. Together the artwork in the exhibition tells the story of Connecticut's natural and industrial landscape. It showcases the state's makers and builders, workers and thinkers, artists and innovators.

Made in Connecticut is the highlight of this milestone year for the Trail, which will also include educational programming and unique anniversary exhibits among individual members. This will also be the final year that the popular Connecticut Art Trail passport, which provides no-cost admission to all 22 member sites," will be available for its original, \$25.

Entrance to the Wadsworth and *Made in Connecticut* are included with the purchase of the Passport which can be done online at ctarttrail.org or at any member location. "The proceeds of passports purchased directly at a member location results in a \$25 donation directly to that museum," concludes Ms. Weber. "Not everyone realizes that the Trail currently does not receive any state or federal funding and that we strictly operate from members dues and the sales of passports. Therefore the sales of the passports have a direct impact on the ability of the museums to promote their great work." Docent-led tours of *Made in Connecticut* will be on Sundays at 11am from November 1, 2020 to February 7, 2020. Advanced registration is required via thewadsworth.org

In addition to celebrating the 25th anniversary with *Made In Connecticut*, the Wadsworth will be hosting several virtual related programs. For a current listing, check thewadsworth.org.

Virtual Gallery Talk

James Prosek

Friday, October 16; 5pm

Artist James Prosek guides us through the landscape of the rich creative history of artists working in Connecticut on tour of the Connecticut Art Trail's 25th anniversary exhibition, *Made in Connecticut*, which he curated. Free. Access link available via thewadsworth.org.

Virtual Discussion

An Evening with Mark Dion

Wednesday, October 21; 6pm

Artist Mark Dion draws on the early modern tradition of assembling artifacts and objects into theatrical dioramas that make statements about contemporary collecting habits, our relationship to history, and the future of the environment. In a conversation with curator Patricia Hickson, Dion discusses his artistic practices and his local New England roots. Free.Co-sponsored with the Hartford Art School. Access link available via thewadsworth.org.

Virtual Discussion

Mohegan Tribe Culture and Traditions

Wednesday, November 4; noon

Pamela Massey, Traditions and Outreach Specialist at the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut, discusses the history, rituals, and objects sacred and meaningful to the Mohegan Tribe. Free. Access link available via thewadsworth.org.

Virtual Performance

An Evening with James Prosek

Friday, November 6; 5pm

James Prosek is not only a prolific artist, curator, author, and naturalist, but he also charts the landscape through music. A founding member of the group Troutband, Prosek will perform a concert from the Wadsworth that you can watch virtually from your own home. Free. Access link available via thewadsworth.org.

Virtual Second Saturdays for Families

Connecticut Connections

Saturday, November 14

Explore the exhibition Made in Connecticut and get inspired by art objects collected from all over the state. Design an artwork that presents your unique view of The Constitution State. What artist, story, or town would you like to highlight? Free. *Second Saturdays for Families* digital activity packs include art-making demonstrations, visual scavenger hunts, close looking prompts, and story time in English and Spanish. Available on the second Saturday of the month and afterwards via thewadsworth.org.

The Connecticut Art Trail Passport is officially sponsored by the Greenwich Hospitality Group-- a luxury hotelier with properties that includes DELAMAR, The Goodwin, and Hotel Zero Degrees. For timely updates about the Trail visits ctarttrail.org or follow the Trail on social media.

About the Connecticut Art Trail

500,000 works of art within permanent collections.

250 scenic miles.

22 museums.

1 passport.

The Connecticut Art Trail is a nationally-recognized partnership between 22 world-class museums and historic sites, created to promote Connecticut's rich cultural assets as part of a unique travel experience. The Trail was launched in 1995 as the Connecticut Impressionist Art Trail, celebrating Connecticut's ten museums and historic sites that highlighted American Impressionism. In 2005, the member museums voted to expand its membership beyond Impressionism to include even more quality museums and historic sites - doubling the initial members. This strategic initiative allowed the Trail to reach a broader audience and showcase the diversity of collections within the state. Today, the Connecticut Art Trail offers the Art Passport, granting visitors one-day access to each museum along the trail for a \$25 fee. More information about the Art Trail can be found online at ctarttrail.org or at: facebook.com/ctarttrail | twitter.com/ctarttrail | instagram.com/ctarttrail/

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. Admission: free through November 25, 2020; \$15 adults; \$12 seniors; \$5 students; free for members, Hartford residents, and youth

(age 17 and under). Hours: Fridays, noon-8pm; Saturdays & Sundays, noon-5pm. Public phone:
(860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

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