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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

THREE CENTURIES OF BUCKS COUNTY ART AND ARTISTS AT THE MERCER MUSEUM

DOYLESTOWN, PA: (January 7, 2010)–Beginning on Saturday, January 16, the Mercer Museum will open its elegant Elkins Gallery to the public, for a rare look at its extraordinary paintings collection which spans three centuries. The exhibit, "Three Centuries of Bucks County Art and Artists" is scheduled to run through Sunday, March 7 and is included with museum admission.

The nearly one hundred works of Bucks County fine and folk art on display include "The Peaceable Kingdom," and "Washington at the Delaware" by Edward Hicks and "October," "Barnyard," and "The Marshall House" by Daniel Garber. Other noted artists whose work is on display include Charles Willson Peale, Thomas Hicks, Martin Johnson Heade, William Trego, Thomas Otter, and R. Sloan Bredin. Selections from the Museum's collection of oil on canvas paintings are supplemented by seldom-seen miniatures and works on paper, including some recently acquired pieces that have never been exhibited before.

The Mercer Museum will hold two "Gallery Talks" inspired by the works in the exhibit, "Three Centuries of Bucks County Art and Artists." The museum's Vice President of Collections, Cory Amsler, will focus on historical events and individuals waiting to be discovered by looking just beyond the tranquil scenery portrayed by the artist, in his half-hour lecture, "Gallery Talk-Looking Beyond the Frame," on Sunday, January 24 at 2 p.m. Historian and author Joseph Eckhardt will explore the life and work of local artists Jonathan and William Trego, in "Gallery Talk-Paintings by the Tregos" on Sunday March 7 from 2-2:30 p.m. Eckhardt has recently completed a biography of William B. T. Trego, and is currently compiling a Catalogue Raisonne of the artist's works, several of whose paintings and drawings are on view in the exhibit. The Gallery Talks are included with museum admission.

Mercer Museum admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62+), \$4 youth (5-17), and free for members and children under the age of 5. The museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown.

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About the Mercer Museum

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier tourist attractions, offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The Museum's collection includes more than 40,000 objects exhibiting the tools of more than 60 different crafts and trades, providing one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of material culture in America. The museum is raising funds for a \$12 million expansion and renovation program to expand changing exhibition space and visitor services, as well as enliven existing spaces within the museum. The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call 215-345-0210, or visit www.mercermuseum.org.

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