



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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New Major Exhibit “200 Years of Bucks County Art”

Opens at the Mercer Museum on March 20

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. – The Mercer Museum, operated by the Bucks County Historical Society, is pleased to announce the opening of its new major exhibit *200 Years of Bucks County Art* in the Martin & Warwick Foundation Galleries. This exhibit opens to the public on Friday, March 20, 2020 and will run through September 7, 2020.

Since its founding in 1880, the Bucks County Historical Society has collected works of art – fine and folk paintings, portraits and landscapes, genre and decorative works. Never before displayed together, this collection is the centerpiece of the Mercer Museum’s new exhibit *200 Years of Bucks County Art*.

“Our audiences are often astonished by the extraordinary depth and breadth of the museum's collections. I believe *200 Years of Bucks County Art* will surprise once again as visitors discover the many remarkable paintings, drawings and watercolors featured, and encounter the artists - both prominent and obscure - who produced them,” said Vice President of Collections and Interpretation Cory Amsler.

This exhibit highlights local portraiture and landscape painting by noted American artists and important regional painters, as well as numerous companion pieces such as historical artifacts, documents and images from the Bucks County Historical Society collection that relate to the artists or their subjects.

The exhibit features over one hundred works, including paintings by Charles Willson Peale, Edward Hicks, Martin Johnson Heade, Thomas Hicks, Thomas Otter, William Lathrop and Daniel Garber, as well as Jonathan and William Trego, Edward Trego, Samuel DuBois, Robert Street, Samuel Moon, and many others. Notable works on display include “The Peaceable Kingdom” by Edward Hicks, “October” by Daniel Garber, an early self portrait of Thomas Hicks c. 1835-40 and several of Henry Mercer’s own pastels and illustrations.

200 Years of Bucks County Art also offers audiences experiential opportunities to “step into” portraits and become part of the artwork.

In conjunction with the exhibit, the Mercer Museum will host a wide array of community programs from March through September, including special behind-the-scenes tours, evening lectures highlighting the society’s art collection and engaging talks and demonstrations with renowned experts from the Smithsonian Institution. Up-to-date schedules are always available at mercermuseum.org.

Mercer Museum Vice President of Community Services & Marketing Marjan Shirzad adds, “We look forward to highlighting our vast collection of art and artifacts and sharing the fascinating stories behind the artists and their work. Our community programs for this exhibit offer our guests an opportunity to be inspired as well as entertained. From special guest speakers hailing from the Smithsonian Institution to family fun at our Crafternoon series, there will be something for everyone.”

200 Years of Bucks County Art is sponsored by UNIVEST, Visit Bucks County, Tom Thomas, Gratz Gallery, Penn Color, Freeman’s, Susan E. Kane, Kathleen F. O’Dea and J. Lawrence Grim, Jr., and Brian and Louise McLeod.

Entrance to the exhibit is included with general museum admission. The Mercer Museum is open every day from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For more information, please visit mercermuseum.org.

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About the Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle

Located in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA, the Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle are historic castles celebrating the legacy of Henry Chapman Mercer (1856-1930), American archaeologist, anthropologist, ceramicist and scholar. Both sites are operated by the Bucks County Historical Society.

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County's premier cultural attractions and a Smithsonian affiliate, features both local and national seasonal exhibits as well as a core museum collection of over 50,000 pre-Industrial tools. This permanent collection offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America through sixty different crafts and trades, and is one of the world's most comprehensive portraits of American material culture. The museum also features a research library that is a center for local history related to Bucks County and the surrounding region, with its roots dating back to the founding of the Bucks County Historical Society in 1880.

The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown, PA and is open year-round. For up-to-date schedule and admission information, please visit mercermuseum.org or call 215-345-0210.

Fonthill Castle was built between 1908-1912, and was the home to Henry Chapman Mercer. Mercer built Fonthill Castle as his home and as a showplace for his collection of tiles and prints. The castle serves as an early example of reinforced concrete and features forty-four rooms, over two hundred windows, and eighteen fireplaces. Fonthill Castle's interior features Mercer's renowned, hand crafted ceramic tiles designed at the height of the Arts and Crafts movement.

Fonthill Castle is located at 525 East Court Street, Doylestown, PA and is open for guided one-hour tours. Reservations are not taken in advance, and tours are booked at our Welcome Center each day, on a first-come, first-served basis.

For additional information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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