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CONTACT: Amanda Zimmerman
azimmerman@hagginmuseum.org
209-940-6312

American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists' Colony

December 1, 2017 – STOCKTON, Calif. – A new exhibition at the Haggin Museum titled *American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists' Colony* opens December 7, 2017 and continues through March 4, 2018. This special exhibition, organized by the Reading Public Museum, gives visitors a unique look into the many approaches and styles of American Impressionism.

“We are honored to be hosting a show of such caliber here at the Haggin Museum. This beautiful exhibition represents the many facets of American Impressionism from lesser-known artists to more distinguished masters. It tells the story of artists’ colonies across the nation and their impact on impressionism in America during the turn of the century,” explained Collections Manager Andrea Dompe.

This collection of lyrical landscapes, ranging from snow-covered hills to sun-filled harbors and seascapes, penetrating portraits, and remarkable still life paintings documents an important moment in the history of American art. It includes more than 75 total works, including over 60 oil paintings and nearly 15 works on paper dating from the golden age of American Impressionism, the 1880s through the 1940s. A wide variety of approaches to impressionism in the earliest twentieth century, including an abiding interest in capturing the effects of light and atmosphere in loosely brushed compositions, is explored.

Arranged according to the artists’ colonies that played a critical role in the development of American Impressionism around the turn of the century, this exhibition examines those at Cos Cob and Old Lyme in Connecticut; Cape Cod, Cape Anne, and Rockport, in Massachusetts; New Hope and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; Taos, New Mexico; and throughout California. Within each of these colonies, artists were able to teach, collaborate and escape the daily rigors of their city studios. Often located in scenic locations within striking distance of major cities, artists’ colonies served up steady doses of natural beauty and provided ample subject matter.

Leading artists of the movement include William Merritt Chase, Childe Hassam, Ernest Lawson, Julian Alden Weir, John Twachtman, Chauncey Ryder, Frank W. Benson, William Paxton, Abbott Thayer, Guy Wiggins, Charles Webster Hawthorne, Colin Campbell Cooper, Daniel Garber and Edward Redfield, among others. In addition, American expatriate artists such as Mary Cassatt and John Singer Sargent will be examined.

Haggin Museum is a nonprofit art and history museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It is located at 1201 N. Pershing Ave., Stockton, CA. and open to the public Saturdays-Sundays from 12-5 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays from 1:30-5 p.m. and 1st & 3rd Thursdays from 1:30-9 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors (ages 65 and older), \$5 for students and youth (ages 10-17), and free for children under 10, museum members, and on the first Saturday of each month. For more information call 209.940.6300 or visit www.hagginmuseum.org.

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