

Contact:  
Ariane Doud  
Matter Communications  
978-499-9250 x239  
Addison@matternow.com

## **ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART PRESENTS SPECIAL SERIES OF COLLECTION DIALOGUES**

*Event series running from May 18-June 16 features discussions of architecture, conservation and an extraordinary recent addition to the Addison collection of American silver*

**Andover, Mass., May 11, 2011** – Beginning May 18, 2011, the Addison Gallery of American Art, located on the campus of Phillips Academy, will present a special series of “Collection Dialogues.” Held in the Museum Learning Center in the Addison’s Sidney R. Knafel Wing, the lecture series is a natural extension of the Addison’s core mission: to “inspire a love of the beautiful.” Free and open to the public, the series gives attendees an informed, inspiring look at pieces from the Addison’s core collection during its temporary closure for the completion of the final phase of renovation.

The first event, held Wednesday, May 18 at 6:30pm, will be “The Addison’s Architectural Legacy.” Led by Susan Faxon, Associate Director and Curator of Art Before 1950, the discussion will focus on the confluence of three architectural projects: the original 1931 Addison Gallery of American Art building by Charles Platt, the recent addition by Centerbrook Architects and Planners, and the roof renovation by Robert Olson & Associates.

On Wednesday, June 1 at 6:30pm, Allison Kemmerer, Curator of Art After 1950 and of Photography, presents “Conservation Discoveries and Quandaries.” A “beneath-the-surface” examination of the intriguing and complicated conservation challenges facing curators, Allison uses examples from the Addison collection such as paintings by Thomas Eakins, Eastman Johnson, and James McNeill Whistler. Also featured: watercolors by Winslow Homer, and albums by John LaFarge and Peter Sekaer.

Closing out the series, on Thursday, June 16 at 3:00pm, Brian Allen, The Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director of the Addison, presents “American and British Silver.” Be among the first to see a newly acquired teapot that belonged to Phillips Academy founders Phoebe Foxcroft Phillips and Samuel Phillips, Jr., along with other examples of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century silver.

“The teapot is a very beautiful piece of mid-century Boston silver. Weighing nearly twice as much as the typical teapot from the period, it has a monumental, stately presence,” said Brian Allen. “The engraving is very special, and overall, while derivative of London silver in some respects, the Phillips teapot represents an amalgam of different regional styles, much as Boston culture, even in the 1750s, was a melting pot of different nationalities.”

Entrance to the Museum Learning Center is through Elson Art Center across from the Andover Inn. Enter by Kemper Auditorium and proceed to the top of the stairs. For wheelchair access, enter by the loading dock through the metal mesh door across from the Chapel Avenue parking lot.

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#### **About the Addison Gallery of American Art**

Devoted exclusively to American Art, the mission of the Addison Gallery of American Art is to acquire, preserve, interpret and exhibit works of art for the education and enjoyment of all. Opened in 1931, the Gallery has one of the most important collections of American art in the country that includes more than 16,000 works by prominent American artists such as George Bellows, John Singleton Copley, Thomas Eakins, Winslow Homer, Georgia O’Keeffe and Jackson Pollock, as well as photographers Eadweard Muybridge, Walker Evans, Robert Frank and many more. The Addison Gallery, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, offers a continually rotating series of exhibitions and programs, all of which are free and open to the public. For more information, call 978-749-4015, or visit the website at [www.addisongallery.org](http://www.addisongallery.org).