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A FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY IN SPRING EXHIBITIONS AT THE ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART

Making a Presence: F. Holland Day in Artistic Photography kicks off the season

Andover, Mass. (April 12, 2012) -- The Addison Gallery of American Art, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., has opened its spring exhibition season with *Making a Presence: F. Holland Day in Artistic Photography*. *In Character: Artists' Role Play in Photography and Video*, designed to be viewed in concert with the Day exhibition will open on April 14, and *Life Lines: The Art of Elizabeth Enders*, featuring paintings and works on paper, opens on April 28 to complete the spring season.

In celebration of the new season, the Addison invites the public to attend an opening reception on Saturday, April 28, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the museum. The event is free and open to the public. For additional information, please visit addisongallery.org or call 978-749-4015.

“The Addison has always been home to an extraordinary collection of photography, and it is with great pleasure that we present the historic work of Massachusetts native and internationally respected photographer F. Holland Day,” said Brian T. Allen, the Mary Stripp & R. Crosby Kemper Director of the Addison. “We are also pleased to be presenting *In Character*, an exhibition of contemporary artists that similarly examines the artistic use of props and costume.” As Allison Kemmerer, Scott Mead Curator of Photography and of Art after 1950, noted, “Together these two exhibitions provide an invaluable context in which to examine the rich and long-lived tradition of theatrical masquerade and self-portraiture in photography. Viewed separately or in conjunction with one another, both shows are a ‘must-see’ for photography devotees and casual observers alike.”

The Addison encourages anyone intrigued by F. Holland Day's art to visit his historic home in Norwood, Massachusetts. The house is a spectacular blend of Victorian and Arts and Crafts influences and offers a unique perspective on Day's artistic sensibility. Go to <http://www.norwoodhistoricalsociety.org/> for details.

Exhibitions arriving at the Addison this season are:

March 27 – July 31: *Making a Presence: F. Holland Day in Artistic Photography*

Boston photographer F. Holland Day (1864–1933) first distinguished himself in literary circles—as a critic, bibliophile, and co-founder of the progressive publishing firm Copeland and Day. But by the turn of the century, he had established an international reputation as a leading Pictorialist photographer, striving to gain acceptance for photography as a fine art.

Making a Presence explores the multifaceted persona that Day created in his own art and in photographs taken of him by his peers. Including approximately 100 works ranging from Day's self-portraiture, including his Jesus Christ series, to expressive portraits of him by such noted photographers as Frederick Evans, Gertrude Käsebier, Alvin Langdon Coburn, Clarence White, and Edward Steichen, the exhibition presents a dynamic composite portrait of an iconoclastic, independent artist, and of a man exquisitely expressive of his time.

Making a Presence is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue of the same name, authored by guest curator Trevor Fairbrother. The exhibition and publication have been generously supported by the Winton Family Exhibitions Fund, Nancy B. Ticken, The Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, Inc., the William E. Weiss Foundation, Richard and Terry Albright, and by Furthermore: a program of the J.M. Kaplan Fund.

April 14 – July 31: *In Character: Artists' Role Play in Photography and Video*

Featuring the work of contemporary artists, Kalup Linzy, Yasumasa Morimura, Laurel Nakadate, Tomoko Sawada, Cindy Sherman, Lorna Simpson, and Gillian Wearing, this exhibition explores the ways in which artists continue to build on the tradition of performance within photography and video. Referencing pop culture, art, and history, and

appropriating such mainstream visual traditions as studio portraiture, the photographic album, and TV and video, these artists use masquerade and role play to explore themes of individual and cultural identity as well as issues regarding gender and racial stereotyping. For each of these artists, slipping in and out of characters before the camera offers an opportunity to explore and redefine him or herself and challenge the ways in which identities have been commonly represented, understood, and in many cases overlooked. Investigating the theme of individual identity as it exists within the context of larger societal pressures and cultural norms, *In Character* provides thought provoking insight into the elusive nature of personality in our changing world.

In Character is presented in collaboration with Harvard Art Museums and has been generously supported by the Mollie Bennett Lupe and Garland M. Lasater Exhibitions Fund and the Winton Family Exhibition Fund.

April 28 – July 31: *Life Lines: The Art of Elizabeth Enders*

Featuring paintings and works on paper by Elizabeth Enders ranging in date from the early 1970s to the present, this exhibition focuses on the artist's ongoing interest in language and mark making in objects that are both referential and abstract. The works in the show, including a core group from the Addison's permanent collection, reveal the artist's expressive integration of the verbal and visual, in large paintings that fuse gesture and ciphers into abstracted landscapes of meaning and smaller collages and drawings, often in series, that engage calligraphic signs and marks to propose a provocative language of the imagination.

In the adjacent galleries, as a complement to the Enders exhibition, is *Lines of Action*, showing modern and contemporary works selected from the Addison's collection that further explore the power of line and mark making in all their varied manifestations.

In addition to the April 28 opening reception, there are number of upcoming events linked to the Addison's spring exhibitions, including:

GALLERY TALK for *Making a Presence: F. Holland Day in Artistic Photography* with guest curator Trevor Fairbrother.
Sunday, April 22, 2:00 pm

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION: *Exploring Color in Art and Literature*
In collaboration with Andover Reads at Memorial Hall Library, this program takes Markus Zusak's *The Book Thief* as a starting point for a conversation about works of art that use color in interesting and unexpected ways. Led by Katherine Ziskin, education fellow for school and community collaborations.

Ages 11 and up. Space is limited; please register in advance through Memorial Hall Library, Andover at www.mhl.org/eventcalendar or call 978-623-8401, x31 or x32.
Wednesday, April 25, 5:30–6:45 pm

GALLERY TALK for *In Character: Artists' Role Play in Photography and Video* with exhibition curators Allison Kemmerer and Michelle Lamunière, John R. and Barbara Robinson, Family Assistant Curator of Photography at the Harvard Art Museums.
Sunday, May 20, 2:00 pm, Museum Learning Center

The Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., is open to the public from Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Sunday 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on Monday. Admission to all exhibitions and events is free. The Addison Gallery also offers free education programs for teachers and groups. For more information, call 978-749-4015, or visit the website at www.addisongallery.org

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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.