

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:
Susannah Abbott
Addison Gallery of American Art
978.749.4027
sabbott@andover.edu

***AMERICAN VANGUARDS: GRAHAM, DAVIS, GORKY, DE KOONING AND THEIR CIRCLE, 1927 – 1942* ANCHORS FALL SEASON AT ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART**

Andover, Mass. (September 13, 2012) – The Addison Gallery of American Art, located on the campus of Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., opens its fall exhibition season this month with a trio of new shows. *American Vanguard: Graham, Davis, Gorky, de Kooning, and Their Circle, 1927 – 1942*, which opens on September 21 and runs through December 30, headlines the fall season. The show focuses on the enigmatic and charismatic John Graham (1886–1961) and his circle of New York artists, including Stuart Davis, Arshile Gorky, and Willem de Kooning. Along with others in Graham’s orbit, such as Jackson Pollock and David Smith, they played a critical role in developing and defining American modernism in the 1930s. *American Vanguard* showcases more than 95 works of art from this vital period that demonstrate the inter-connections and common sources among the members of Graham’s circle.

Brian T. Allen, The Mary Stripp and R. Crosby Kemper Director of the Addison, notes, “This long-overdue exhibition rediscovers John Graham, who has remained little known despite his close links with so many internationally renowned artists. *American Vanguard* puts Graham’s art and charismatic influence in the context of his time. By bringing together works by the New York artists of Graham’s circle, made during the years of their association with him, the show testifies to dialogue and cross-fertilization as well as common sources and stimuli between these artists.”

This exhibition, curated by scholars William C. Agee, Irving Sandler, and Karen Wilkin, will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue co-published by the Addison and Yale University Press. This critical reconsideration sheds new light on the New York School,

Abstract Expressionism, and the vitality of American modernism between the two world wars.

On Sunday, September 30 at 2:00 p.m., the Addison will present a panel discussion concerning *American Vanguard*s with the three curators. The discussion will be followed by a reception, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., celebrating the Addison's fall exhibitions. Both events are free and open to the public.

*American Vanguard*s is organized by the Addison Gallery and generously supported by the Henry Luce Foundation and The Dedalus Foundation, Inc., and by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities.

Also at the Addison this fall, *Pekupatikut Innuat Akunikana / Pictures Woke the People Up: An Innu Project with Wendy Ewald and Eric Gottesman* opens on September 1. This exhibition and artists' residency explores the representation of the Innu people of Labrador and the cultural, economic, social, and environmental challenges they have faced since their forced settlement in the 1960s. The project has grown out of a partnership between the artists and the Innu that spans decades and has actively engaged the community.

Comprised of approximately 100 objects—including historic photographs by explorer William Brooks Cabot and anthropologist William Duncan Strong, archival footage by documentary filmmakers such as Richard Leacock, 1969 photographs by Ewald and her Innu students, and contemporary photographs, video, writings, and banners by Ewald, Gottesman, and the Sheshatshiu community — *Pekupatikut Innuat Akunikana* will explore the representation of the Innu over time as well as document Ewald and Gottesman's efforts to use photography and video to revitalize Innu culture. The material explores the unsettling and transforming effects of the shift from the Innu's traditional nomadic lifestyle to a sedentary one and offers the opportunity for interdisciplinary community dialogues through the exploration of themes ranging from the impact of the settlement of indigenous peoples to the art of storytelling and the rights to cultural property.

Along with a residency by Ewald and Gottesman at the Addison, *Pekupatikut Innuat Akunikana* will include the installation of a series of ten large banners based on images from the exhibition throughout the Phillips Academy campus, a series of educational programs and events, and a week-long visit to Andover by six representatives of the Innu community in October.

The Addison is hosting a reception celebrating *Pekupatikut Innuat Akunikana* on Saturday October 13 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. The reception, which is free and open to the public, will offer an opportunity to meet the artists and members of the Innu community from Labrador.

The exhibition *People, Places, Things: Symbols of American Culture* will round out the Addison's fall exhibitions and opens on September 1. From the American flag to the Coca Cola logo, *People, Places, Things* celebrates the rich visual material that is at the foundation of American cultural identity. Paintings, prints, and photographs drawn from the Addison's collection include images of the modern city and industrial power, the changing landscape of the American West, the diverse faces of the country's citizens, and scenes documenting car culture and the open road. Works by artists such as Childe Hassam, Thomas Hart Benton, Robert Frank, Walker Evans, and Larry Stark document people, places, and things that define and commemorate the many facets of national identity.

Exhibition curator Jaime DeSimone will lead a gallery talk for *People, Places, Things* on Sunday, November 4 at 2:00 p.m.

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 Mondays, national holidays, and December 24. 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

###

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 nearly 17,000 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**.