

# NEWS



from the Worcester Art Museum

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## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### WORCESTER ART MUSEUM WELCOMES CURATOR OF AMERICAN ART, DR. WILLIAM KEYSE RUDOLPH

(WORCESTER, Mass., May 1, 2009) – Worcester Art Museum Director James A. Welu is pleased to announce the appointment of William Keyse Rudolph as curator of American art. “Our collection of American art is one of the oldest and most distinguished in the country, with many of the works acquired directly from the artists themselves. With William Rudolph, we look forward to continuing a long tradition of scholarship and exhibitions that will engage audiences not only locally and nationally, but also internationally, as global interest in our art and culture continues to grow.”

Dr. Rudolph has responsibility for the Museum’s extensive collection of American paintings, from the 17<sup>th</sup>- through the later 20<sup>th</sup>-century, as well as decorative arts—including furniture, sculpture, and significant holdings in Paul Revere silver and portrait miniatures. He also is charged with reinstalling the permanent collection, acquisitions, and exhibitions related to the Museum’s collections.

From 2004 to 2008, Rudolph served as Pauline Gill Sullivan Associate Curator of American Art at the Dallas Museum of Art. Prior to that, he held a number of curatorial research positions at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in the departments of European paintings and European decorative arts. He holds a B.A. from the University of Nebraska, a Post-Graduate Diploma in the History of Art from the Courtauld Institute of Art at the University of London, an M.A. from the University of Virginia, and a Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr College, where he concentrated in Colonial and Federal American Art. He also attended the Attingham Summer School for the Study of Country Houses and Collections, in England.

“We are delighted that William Rudolph has joined our curatorial team,” said Elizabeth Pendleton Streicher, Director of Collections and Exhibitions. “We conducted an intensive, national search for an experienced colleague with a keen eye, who is committed to scholarship, building and installing a permanent collection, and outreach to our many audiences. His background working with American art in the context of European and British art also is an advantage, in light of the Museum’s strengths in those areas. A member of a talented group of senior curators, he brings welcome energy and enthusiasm as we focus again on this key collection. “

While at Dallas, Rudolph initiated and completed the reinstallation of the permanent collection of American art, in collaboration with the curator of decorative arts and design. He made numerous significant acquisitions, particularly of portraits, including works by John Wollaston, Jean-Joseph Vaudechamp, John White Alexander, and Edmund Tarbell, as well as likenesses attributed to Gerardus Duyckinck and Julien Hudson. He also acquired a major genre scene by Thomas Sully, *Cinderella at the Kitchen Fire*. Rudolph’s exhibitions included a major traveling retrospective on legendary Texas landscape artist Julian Onderdonk, as well as focus shows based on the Dallas permanent collection and on local private collections, and planning for a major loan exhibition devoted to Thomas Sully. He has lectured widely and has taught at colleges and universities in Philadelphia and Dallas. Notable publications include *Vaudechamp in New Orleans*, a study of the most important portraitist working in Louisiana before the Civil War.

“The Worcester Art Museum has one of the most acclaimed collections of American art anywhere,” said Rudolph. “As a scholar of portraiture, it is a privilege for me to work with three of the handful of surviving 17<sup>th</sup>-century Colonial American portraits, as well as the Museum’s many other treasures, including enviable collections of

miniatures and silver. I am looking forward to working with Jim Welu, Elizabeth Streicher, and the Museum's renowned curatorial, conservation and education teams, to remind both the Worcester community and the Museum's wider network of audiences how engaging and exciting American art is, and that the Worcester Art Museum is an ideal place to experience it."

***About the Worcester Art Museum***

*The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture. View paintings by Cassatt, Gauguin, Goya, Monet, Sargent and Whistler; admire floor mosaics from the ancient city of Antioch; see cutting-edge contemporary art; and discover the Museum's many other treasures. Special exhibitions showcase the masterworks, seldom-seen gems, and important works on loan. Enjoy a delectable lunch in The Museum Café, and browse The Museum Shop for unique gifts and mementos.*

*Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 7,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.*

*Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Third Thursdays of every month, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by Fidelity Investments, The TJX Companies, Inc.).*

*The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call 508.799.4406 or visit the Museum web site at [.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org).*

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