



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'TIS THE SEASON FOR HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES AT THE ART INSTITUTE
*** Museum-Wide Celebration Begins November 11 ***

Eight Specially Decorated Thorne Miniature Rooms Joined by
Never-Before Seen Americana Miniature Room

Degas Sculpture *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen* Returns to Impressionist Galleries

20th Annual Wreathing of the Lions and Other Daily Events for the Whole Family

Everyone is invited to ring in the holiday season at the Art Institute of Chicago beginning **November 11, 2011**, when the museum welcomes visitors of all ages "**Home for the Holidays.**" This year, a never-before seen **Americana Miniature Room** from Marshall Field V's private collection will be on display, alongside eight festive **Thorne Miniature Rooms** specially decorated for the holiday



season. A special presentation of an old favorite—**Edgar Degas's** captivating sculpture ***Little Dancer Aged Fourteen***—takes center stage in the Impressionist galleries. The annual **Wreathing of the Lions** ceremony, celebrating its 20th year as a Chicago holiday tradition, will take place the day after Thanksgiving, **Friday, November 25, at 10:00 a.m.**

In addition, from **November 25 through December 31**, families can pick up a free holiday-themed self-guide to the museum; participate in free art-making workshops every weekend where kids can make their own masterpiece to take home; or drop by for seasonal melodies during the daily **Midday Music** series. With a full roster of joyous performances, enlightening gallery tours, and engaging

activities for young visitors, the Art Institute is the place to spend the holidays with friends and family. **Children under 14 always receive free admission to the Art Institute.**

Back by popular demand, the **Holiday Thorne Miniature Rooms** will be decorated for the season beginning **November 11, 2011**. A total of eight dwellings will be decked out, with the New Orleans and New Mexico rooms joining the festive tradition this year. Keeping to Mrs. Thorne's exacting standards of craftsmanship, several renowned artists from across the country and around the world have been commissioned to create pieces for the rooms. Tiny toys from Germany, diminutive delicacies from Italy, and petite plants from South Africa, in addition to several pieces made in the museum, bring seasonal flair to the Lilliputian spaces. A Chinese New Year-inspired Thorne Room



will be installed later during the season. In addition, a special presentation of the Americana Room from Marshall Field V's private collection will also be on display through the holidays.

A Chicago holiday favorite, the **Wreathing of the Lions** ceremony will celebrate its **20th anniversary** the day after Thanksgiving, **Friday, November 25, at 10:00 a.m.** on the museum's front steps at

Michigan Avenue and Adams Street. This year, soulful performances by the **Wooten Choral Ensemble** will add cheer as the iconic lions are adorned with traditional evergreen wreaths. The celebration continues after the museum opens to the public at 10:30 a.m., when visitors will find **Edgar Degas's** beloved **Little Dancer Aged Fourteen** back on view in **Impressionism Gallery 201**. This sculpture of a graceful Parisian ballerina was first on display in 2006 as a special loan to the museum from a private collection. Art Institute curators have once again installed this famous sculpture among some of the most revered works of the Impressionism movement by Monet, Renoir, and Caillebotte. After exploring the galleries, families are invited to create wreaths of their own in free family art-making workshops. **The first 50 people to arrive and attend the event will receive free admission to the museum.**

Holiday Music at the Art Institute

Melodies of the season will fill the Modern Wing's Griffin Court everyday from **November 25 through December 31** as part of the **Midday Music** series. A diverse lineup of Chicago's finest musicians offers seasonal songs—from traditional carols, gospel, and jazz to klezmer, harp, lute,

and pipa—from **11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday through Friday and 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays**. An annual showcase of area high school and university choirs will brighten the bedecked Woman's Board Grand Staircase by the Michigan Avenue entrance with harmonies on **December 1, 2 and 5–9 at 12:00 p.m.** All performances are free with museum admission.

The Art Institute is also pleased to welcome **Anonymous 4**—the renowned virtuosic, all-female quartet specializing in medieval music—on **December 18** for two shows (**2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.**) in the museum's Fullerton Hall. Celebrating their 25th anniversary year with a major world tour titled "Anthology 25," the ladies of Anonymous 4 will perform ancient, traditional, and modern music from each of their 19 prize-winning albums under the hall's historic Tiffany Dome. The ensemble—twice voted one of Billboard's Top Classical Artists of the Year—has enthralled audiences with performances ranging from Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" to sold-out shows at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. **Advanced purchase is strongly recommended: tickets are \$15 for members/students, \$20 for the public; visit museumtix.com for more information.**



For a complete holiday music performance schedule at the Art Institute, please refer to the museum's website: www.artic.edu/holidays2011.

More Art Institute holiday events continuing through December:

Go on an expedition to learn about the museum's artworks and collect stickers and stamps, followed by a tea party featuring live entertainment and refreshments at the **30th Annual Treasure Hunt and Tea Party** on **December 11 at 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., or 1:30 p.m.** Tickets go on sale November 1. Call **(877) 307-4242** or visit www.museumtix.com to purchase tickets.

Feeling creative? Why not gather the whole crew and construct an edible dream home with the **Build Your Own Gingerbread House** workshop in the Millennium Park Room (**December 17–18, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**). The cost is \$60 per family of four; \$50 per Art Institute member family of four. Gingerbread kits, frosting, and decorating candy are included. Additional kits and discounted dining vouchers for the Garden Café will be available for purchase. Tax and gratuity not included. Call **(312) 553-9675** for reservations.

Enjoy a family-oriented afternoon filled with holiday sing-alongs at **Caroling Tea** events in the **Stock Exchange Trading Room (December 17–18, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.)**. Complimentary tea sandwiches and festive desserts will be offered. Drinks and kids’ “mocktails” can be purchased at the cash bar. The cost is \$25 per person; children 12 and under \$15 per person; Art Institute members \$20 per person. Tax and gratuity not included; cash bar available. Call **(312) 553–9675** for reservations.

Masterpiece of the Day returns for this year’s holiday celebration. **Each day at noon from December 19 to 31 (except December 25)**, visitors can take a 30-minute guided gallery tour focusing on a different jewel in the Art Institute’s crown, including Grant Wood’s *American Gothic* and Mary Cassatt’s *The Child’s Bath*. These engaging, brief talks give viewers the chance to learn more about their favorite works--and the objects that make the Art Institute’s collection world-renowned.

On the second night of Hanukkah, Chicago's own **Maxwell Street Klezmer Band** plays songs inspired by the works of Marc Chagall. This concert, free with museum admission, will take place on **December 22 at 6:00 p.m.**, in **Fullerton Hall**.



Family Programs for the holidays include workshops and gallery walks on Saturdays and Sundays in December (except December 24 and 25). The popular **Holly Days** festival takes place annually just before the New Year. Beginning **Tuesday, December 27**, and continuing through **Friday, December 30**, Holly Days offers a variety of activities daily from **11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the Ryan Education Center. This year, families are

invited to visit the picture book exhibition *Animals around the World* and stop by the studio to create a paper animal sculpture of their own. Families can explore movement, rhythm, and yoga at a storytelling led by Pranita Jain of Kalapriya at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. In addition, families are invited to discover captivating works throughout the museum on an interactive gallery walk at 1:30 p.m. Art Institute mascot Artie the Lion makes a special appearance on December 27!

Looking for unique, inspired gifts this holiday season? **Art Institute gift memberships** can be purchased at both the Michigan Avenue entrance lobby and the Monroe Street Modern Wing entrance lobby. Members receive free hot chocolate all season long! Or, stop by the Art Institute's main **Museum Shop** and the **Modern Shop** and find a wide array of merchandise, including jewelry, home décor, clothing, stationery, gift books, and much more. Then, after art, entertainment, and shopping at the Art Institute, take a break at **Terzo Piano** in the Modern Wing or the **Garden Café** in the lower level of the Rubloff Building for treats and more.

For general museum information, please call **(312) 443-3600** or visit www.artinstituteofchicago.org. For information about specific lectures and family programs, please call the Department of Museum Education at **(312) 443-3680**. Exhibitions and programs are free with museum admission unless otherwise noted. **The Art Institute will be closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.**

IMAGE: A 2006 gallery installation of Hilaire Germain Edgar Degas's *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*, original in wax, c. 1879–81. Anonymous loan.

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MUSEUM HOURS

10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Thursday

10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Museum admission is free to Illinois residents on first and second Wednesdays of every month.

ADMISSION

Adults \$18.00 Includes all special exhibitions

Children 14 and over, students, and seniors \$12.00

Chicago residents receive a \$2.00 discount with proof of residency

Children under 14 always free

Members always free

City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Museum Passport" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago.