Holidays 2013
Open Something Greater

Passion, inspiration, creativity, wonder—these are just a few of the experiences you’ll discover in your Art Institute stocking this holiday season. Along with our most beloved seasonal programming, we’ll also be unveiling some of the works new to the museum this year, including the spectacular Neapolitan crèche, a stunning drawing by Van Gogh, and newly decorated Thorne Miniature Rooms. Join us to unwrap these and all the gifts the museum has for you this season.

Neapolitan Crèche
NOVEMBER 29–JANUARY 5
GALLERY 209

Featuring over 200 figures, this rare and remarkably preserved 18th-century Neapolitan Nativity scene—one of the very few and finest examples outside of Naples—makes its Art Institute debut as one of our gifts to the city this holiday season. See page 15.

Holiday Thorne Rooms
NOVEMBER 22–JANUARY 5
GALLERY 11

The beloved decorating tradition is back—and more festive than ever—with 11 rooms dressed in holiday finery! This year, the 1930s French Library joins the celebration with a tiny taste of Art Deco holiday glamour. Plus, a new long-term loan, a miniature replica of the breakfast room of Frank Lloyd Wright’s William Martin House in Oak Park, will be unveiled for the first time.

Gifts to the City
NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 24
THROUGHOUT THE MUSEUM

Once again this holiday season we’re presenting the best and brightest new works, including a special loan of Van Gogh’s drawing The Christmas Prayer, as our gifts to the residents of and visitors to Chicago. Pick up a mini-tour at the museum to enjoy them all on your journey through the galleries.

Holiday Hot Chocolate in Our New Member Lounge
NOVEMBER 1–JANUARY 5 *
Relax in the beautiful new Member Lounge with a complimentary cup of our famous hot chocolate.

22nd Annual Wreathing of the Lions
NOVEMBER 29 AT 10:00 MICHIGAN AVENUE STEPS
Start the holidays with a roaring as our beloved lions don their traditional evergreen wreaths.

Great Mistletoe Ball
NOVEMBER 29–JANUARY 5 GRAND STAIRCASE
Steal a kiss with your sweetheart or snap a picture with your family under this monumental ball of merriment—it’s nearly four feet in diameter.

Lecture: The Christmas Story in Art
NOVEMBER 29 AT 1:00 DECEMBER 5 AT 12:00 RUBLOFF AUDITORIUM
Celebrate the story of Christmas through paintings, etchings, and illuminated manuscripts from the Middle Ages and beyond.

32nd Annual Holiday Treasure Hunt and Tea Party
DECEMBER 8
10:45, 12:00, OR 1:30 MODERN WING ENTRANCE ■
$30 MEMBERS, $35 NONMEMBERS, $15 CHILDREN (AGES 4–10)
Tickets for this popular family event, hosted by the Auxiliary Board, go on sale November 1. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (877) 307-4242 or visit www.museumtix.com.

High School Choirs
DECEMBER 9–13 AT 12:00 GRAND STAIRCASE
Song fills the museum with holiday cheer as area high school choirs sing carols. Check our website for additional dates.

Luminary Walk and Family Festivities
DECEMBER 12, 5:00–7:00 LURIE GARDEN AND RYAN EDUCATION CENTER
Experience the winter beauty of the Lurie Garden filled with luminary lanterns. Then make your own luminous ornament in the Ryan Education Center, and enjoy a family gallery walk.

Member Workshop: Holiday Thorne Rooms
DECEMBER 12, 6:00–8:00 DECEMBER 14, 2:00–4:00 RYAN EDUCATION CENTER $30 ADULTS AND CHILDREN AGES 12 AND UP ■
Meet Lindsay Mican Morgan, the keeper of the Thorne Rooms, and learn about the process of decorating the rooms for the holidays. Then create your own fanciful decoration.

Lecture: Neapolitan Crèche
DECEMBER 12 AT 6:00 FULLERTON HALL
Join crèche scholar Carmine Romano, Sorbonne, as he explores the history, context, and traditional display of Neapolitan crèches.

Bank of America Family Festival: Holly Days
DECEMBER 27–30 DROP IN 10:30–3:00 RYAN EDUCATION CENTER
Celebrate the holidays with art making, gallery activities, and more! Create a flexible figure inspired by our new Neapolitan crèche. Stop by the Little Studio (ages 3–5); take a guided family gallery walk (ages 6–12); and on December 27, meet the Art Institute’s mascot, Artie the Lion.

Express Talks: Masterpiece of the Day
DECEMBER 16–31 AT 12:00 GALLERY 100 OR GRIFFIN COURT
Reconnect with some of the museum’s most iconic artworks in these 30-minute noontime tours. See the calendar on pages 26–27 for the featured artworks and meeting places.

Gift Memberships
Share the wonder of the museum’s renowned collection with your family and friends—give the gift of membership.
• Visit www.artic.edu/gift-memberships
• Call (312) 499-4111
• Stop by any membership desk
Not sure if someone is a current member? Call (312) 499-4111, and we’ll let you know. If they already belong, you can extend their membership! Just be sure to purchase your gift by December 10 to ensure holiday delivery.

Caroling Tea
DECEMBER 14–15, 2:00–4:00 STOCK EXCHANGE TRADING ROOM ■
$20 MEMBERS, $25 NONMEMBERS, $15 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER
Join a holiday sing-along while enjoying complimentary snacks and desserts. For reservations, call (312) 553-9675 or visit www.artic.edu/calendar.

Build Your Own Gingerbread House
DECEMBER 14–15 11:00–1:30 OR 2:00–4:30 MILLENNIUM PARK ROOM FAMILY OF FOUR: $50 MEMBERS, $60 NONMEMBERS ■
Create an edible dream home with your family. Call (312) 553-9675 or visit www.artic.edu/calendar for reservations.