

Media Contact: Dennis Lawson • Manager of Public Relations
302-571-9590 ext. 515 • dlawson@delart.org

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**DELAWARE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
DINOTOPIA: THE FANTASTICAL ART OF JAMES GURNEY**

Wilmington, DE (January 15, 2010)—The Delaware Art Museum presents *Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney*, featuring more than 60 paintings and mixed media objects, on view February 6, 2010 – May 16, 2010. Inspired by archaeology, lost civilizations, and the art of illustration, Dinotopia is an extraordinary island where humans and dinosaurs live in harmony. James Gurney’s stories and art fuse fantasy with realism and scientific accuracy. This major exhibition includes works from three of Gurney’s books: *Dinotopia: A Land Apart from Time* (1992); *Dinotopia: The World Beneath* (1995); and Gurney’s fourth volume in the series, *Dinotopia: Journey to Chandara* (2007). James Gurney will come to the Delaware Art Museum to celebrate the Dinotopia Family Day on Saturday, February 6, 2010, with a lecture at 1:00 p.m. followed by a book-signing.

“Gurney joins the company of America’s noted illustrators such as Howard Pyle (who also wrote and illustrated many of his own stories), Maxfield Parrish, and N. C. Wyeth,” said Walt Reed, founder of Illustration House.

Throughout the exhibition’s run, families are encouraged to pick up a free Dinotopia Journey Guide at the Museum’s Front Desk to help navigate the exhibition. Also, included in the exhibition is a resource room where visitors of all ages can learn more about James Gurney and the fantastical world he created in Dinotopia.

The Dinotopia storyline chronicles the adventures and remarkable experiences of Professor Arthur Denison and his son Will on Dinotopia, a mysterious “lost” island inhabited by dinosaurs

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and shipwrecked travelers. The faraway land of Dinotopia—wholly the product of Gurney’s imagination, scientific knowledge, and meticulous artistic ability—is a civilization like no other. The society has its own language, alphabet (dinosaur footprints that correspond to each letter of the Roman alphabet), colorful festivals, and parades. The lively cast of characters includes the inquisitive Professor Denison; Will and Sylvia, the adventurous young Skybax riders-in-training; the devious curmudgeon Lee Crabb; the beautiful musician Oriana Nascava; and a multilingual, diplomatic Protoceratops named Bix.

“The thing I love about dinosaurs is that they are on that balance point between fantasy and reality,” says Gurney. “It might be hard to believe that mermaids and dragons really existed, but we know that dinosaurs did—we can see their footprints and skeletons but we can’t photograph them or see them, except in our imagination.”

Gurney’s first Dinotopia book, the *New York Times* bestseller *Dinotopia: A Land Apart from Time*, appeared in 18 languages in more than 30 countries and has sold over two million copies. In 2002, Hallmark Entertainment produced a lavish \$86 million television miniseries for ABC-TV based on the Dinotopia books that received record-setting ratings and an Emmy award for best visual effects.

Organizers and Sponsors

Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney was organized by the Norman Rockwell Museum, Stockbridge, MA.

Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney is presented in Delaware by DuPont.

In Delaware, this exhibition is made possible, in part, by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency dedicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Press Preview

- **Thursday, February 4, 2010 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

Dr. Mary F. Holahan, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Delaware Art Museum, will lead a tour and answer questions.

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Exhibition-Related Events

Opening Day

- **Dinotopia Family Day**

Saturday, February 6, 2010 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Free with admission

Kids and their families will have an opportunity to explore the extraordinary world of Dinotopia with family-friendly tours of the exhibition and create hands-on art activities inspired by James Gurney's popular series. Gurney will give a public lecture at 1:00 p.m. followed by a book signing where visitors have a chance to meet the artist.

- **Fact & Fantasy: The Making of Dinotopia (Artist Lecture and Book Signing)**

Saturday, February 6, 2010 | 1:00 p.m. | Free with admission

During this lively, illustrated talk, artist James Gurney will explain how he created Dinotopia from its origins in 1988 to the most recent book, *Dinotopia: Journey to Chandara*. Gurney will provide information on his creative process and share how he uses scientific information to both educate and expand the world of the imagination. The lecture will conclude with a book signing in the Museum's East Court.

Studio Programs

- **Dinotopia Workshop with James Gurney: Water-Soluble Colored Pencils**

Sunday, February 7, 2010 | 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | \$65 (\$55 for Museum Members)

Explore a fantastic new medium with James Gurney, who will guide students through a presentation on water-soluble colored pencils, followed by a painting/drawing demonstration. Students will then create their own drawings from life while experimenting with the medium. Join us for a lively day of art making and a truly unique experience! (For teens and adults.)

- **Dino Design-O**

Poster templates now available | Open to all ages

What would your Dinotopia look like? Participate in Dino Design-O and create your own world where dinosaurs and humans co-exist. Poster templates are available at the

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Museum's Front Desk for people to design their posters. Once finished, return your poster to the Education Department and it will go on display in the Museum's Bank of America Education Wing. Posters will be on view from February 6, 2010, to April 6, 2010.

- **Camp Dinosaur: Spring Break Art Camp**

March 22, 2010 – March 26, 2010 (5 days) | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. |

\$275 (\$250 for Museum Members)

Campers will draw inspiration from the exhibition *Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney* and create dinosaur-inspired art, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, and more! Camp will include visits to the Museum's galleries, sketching in the Sculpture Garden, and a unique outreach experience with the Delaware Museum of Natural History. Don't miss this year's exciting camp experience! Visit www.delart.org to register (registrations not taken by phone). Scholarships are available through the Red Apple Fund.

Family Programs

- **Make & Take Saturdays**

First Saturdays, March 6, 2010; April 3, 2010; May 1, 2010 | 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. |

Free with admission

Museum Staff will lead family-friendly tours of *Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney* and host a different art activity each month. **March 6:** Sculpt-a-Saurus. **April 3:** Dino Maps & Tracks. **May 1:** Dinosaur Game Boards.

- **Fact and Fantasy (A Homeschool Program)**

Wednesdays, February 10, 2010 – March 3, 2010 (4 weeks) | 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. |

Cost per child: \$16 (\$14 for Museum Members)

(Ages 3 – 18): In conjunction with the Museum's exhibition *Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney*, this session will combine art, fantasy, and natural history. Included with the program is a special presentation on dinosaurs by the Delaware Museum of Natural History.

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Adult Programs

- **Art on the Town Gallery Chats**

Fridays, March 5, 2010 & May 7, 2010 | 6:00 p.m. | Free

The Delaware Art Museum joins other cultural institutions in offering extended hours and free admission during the first Friday of the month as part of Wilmington's Art on the Town program. **March 5:** "The Art and Science of Dinotopia." Join Courtney Waring, Director of Education at the Delaware Art Museum, and Paula Holloway, Director of Education at the Delaware Museum of Natural History, on a fun tour exploring the art and science behind James Gurney's *Dinotopia*. **May 7:** Dr. Mary F. Holahan, Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Delaware Art Museum, will lead a tour of *Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney* and answer questions.

School & Teacher Programs

- **Artist-in-Residency: James Gurney**

A unique program in conjunction with this exhibition is a week-long artist-in-residency program with James Gurney. Area schools will visit the Delaware Art Museum for a special presentation and demonstration with the artist, followed by a guided tour of *Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney*. Gurney will be the Museum's artist-in-residence from Saturday, February 6, 2010 through Friday, February 12, 2010. Space is limited—interested educators should contact Courtney Waring, Director of Education at the Delaware Art Museum, at 302-351-8509 or cwaring@delart.org.

- **School Tour Package with Delaware Museum of Natural History**

The Delaware Art Museum and the Delaware Museum of Natural History are joining forces to present a new K-6 field trip program. **The Dynamic Dinosaur Duo** offers a day of exciting activities touring the Delaware Museum of Natural History's thrilling Dinosaur Gallery and the Delaware Art Museum's special exhibition *Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney*.

Tours for 10 – 60 students are available Wednesday through Friday from February 2010 through May 2010. The program time of 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. includes travel time

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between museums and a lunch break. Tickets are \$8.00 per student with some scholarships available. Please check each museum's website for scholarship information and deadlines. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact: Cynthia Smith at 302-351-8514 or csmith@delart.org, or Julie Steinhauer at 302-658-9111 ext. 305 or jsteinhauer@delmnh.org.

- **Teacher Workshop—Fact & Fantasy: The Making of Dinotopia**
Saturday, February 6, 2010 | 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

During this workshop, teachers will receive a guided tour of the exhibition *Dinotopia: The Fantastical Art of James Gurney* and attend an illustrated talk by the artist himself. Gurney will provide information on his creative process and share how he uses scientific information to both educate and expand the world of the imagination. The lecture will conclude with a book signing.

About the Delaware Art Museum

The Delaware Art Museum, located at 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE 19806, is open Wednesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday noon – 4:00 p.m. Admission fees are charged as follows: Adults (19 – 59) \$12, Seniors (60+) \$10, Students (with valid ID) \$6, Youth (7 – 18) \$6, and Children (6 and under) free. Admission fees are waived every Sunday thanks to support from AstraZeneca. For more information, call 302-571-9590 or 866-232-3714 (toll free), or visit the website at www.delart.org

Founded in 1912, the Delaware Art Museum is best known for its large collection of British Pre-Raphaelite art, works by Wilmington-native Howard Pyle and fellow American illustrators, and urban landscapes by John Sloan and his circle. Visitors can also enjoy the outdoor Copeland Sculpture Garden and a number of major traveling exhibitions throughout the year.

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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