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**DELAWARE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
FASTER THAN THE EYE CAN SEE: PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAROLD EDGERTON**

Wilmington, DE (February 12, 2010)—The Delaware Art Museum presents *Faster than the Eye Can See: Photographs by Harold Edgerton*, featuring 18 photographs produced at ultra high-speed, on view February 13, 2010 – April 25, 2010. Dr. Harold “Doc” Edgerton redefined the limits of vision, showing things invisible to the unaided eye by stopping time and making it possible to witness split seconds. Produced with a strobe light, which he invented, Edgerton’s exposures could be as brief as 1/1,000,000 of a second, allowing him to capture a bullet piercing an apple or a hummingbird in flight.

Published in *Life* magazine and *National Geographic* and displayed frequently at the Museum of Modern Art, Edgerton’s photographs have amazed millions since the late 1930s. And although he photographed in the service of scientific and commercial research, Edgerton appreciated the importance of aesthetics to create wonder and communicate ideas. For 25 years he labored to get the perfect picture of a milk drop and the coronet created by its splash—the resulting 1957 photograph is one of the most familiar images of modern visual culture. The enduring appeal of Edgerton’s photographs results from his combination of technological innovation and visual allure.

Clear, scientific, and exciting, Edgerton’s photographs are products of American ingenuity that demonstrate faith in technology to reveal truth and improve life. From the vantage point of 2010, Edgerton’s photographs are delightfully pre-digital—they date from a time when photographs were routinely equated with truthfulness. Echoing *Dragnet*, Edgerton has stated: “Don’t make me out to be an artist. I am an engineer. I am after the facts. Only the facts.”

Fast Facts

- In 1931, Edgerton invented the stroboscope, which would evolve into the electronic flash used in most modern cameras.

- One of Edgerton's photographs of a milk drop was included in the first photography exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in 1937.
- Edgerton photographed celebrity athletes including ice skater Sonia Henie and boxer Joe Louis. His photographs of track meets and prize fights transformed sports photography.
- Edgerton won an Oscar for his short film *Quicker'n a Wink* in 1940.
- During World War II, Edgerton worked with the United States Army to produce aerial reconnaissance photographs of Germany and the beaches of Normandy at night.
- He collaborated with Jacques-Yves Cousteau to perfect underwater photography and film-making.
- Edgerton helped develop side-scan sonar technology, used to map the ocean floor and locate wrecked ships including the Civil War ironclad *Monitor*.
- In 1976, Edgerton participated in an (unsuccessful) expedition to locate and photograph the Loch Ness Monster.

Exhibition-Related Event

- **Harold Edgerton Gallery Chat**

Friday, April 9, 6:00 p.m. | Free as part of Art on the Town

Heather Campbell Coyle, Curator of the *Faster than the Eye Can See* and Curator of American Art at the Delaware Art Museum, will lead a tour of the exhibition.

Organizers and Sponsors

Faster than the Eye Can See: Photographs by Harold Edgerton was organized by the Delaware Art Museum.

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.

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 exhibitions throughout the year.

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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