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DELAWARE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
IMAGINED PLACES: THE ART OF ALEXI NATCHEV

WILMINGTON, DE (February 14, 2013) – The Delaware Art Museum is pleased to present *Imagined Places: The Art of Alexi Natchev*, on view March 2 – August 4, 2013. This exhibition showcases the work of celebrated illustrator and Delaware College of Art and Design professor Alexi Natchev, whose illustrations conjure up an imaginary world of playful creatures, fairy-tale places, folktales, and more. *Imagined Places* features over 60 works by Natchev, including paintings and prints representing the range of his career as an artist and illustrator.

Alexi Natchev, of Newark, was born and educated in Sofia, Bulgaria. Since moving to the United States in 1990, he has illustrated 17 children’s books, collaborating with major authors and publishers. His work has been shown in many international exhibitions and he has received a number of national and international awards, including the 2013 Sydney Taylor Book Award for Younger Readers for his evocative hand-colored relief prints for *The Elijah Door—A Passover Tale*. Natchev was also the 2001 recipient of the prestigious Artist Fellowship from the State of Delaware and is currently the Illustration Area Coordinator at Delaware College of Art and Design in Wilmington, Delaware.

As an artist intent on capturing details of place and costume, Natchev often researches the art and literature of a region for his illustrations, creating a sensitive balance between fantasy and believability. This can be seen in the bright and fanciful watercolor paintings for popular children’s stories such as Brian Jacques’ *The Tale of Urso Brunov: Little Father of All Bears* (2003) and *Urso Brunov and the White Emperor* (2008).

In Natchev’s prints, allusions to historical events and figures often become mysterious images, suggestive of power, conflict, and romance. Depictions of the leaders from Bulgaria’s independence movement, such as Vasil Levski and Georgi Danchov, reveal a deep connection to his Bulgarian roots.
“Alexi Natchev is deservedly celebrated for his colorful and imaginative children’s books and is an accomplished printmaker with impressive fluency in various techniques,” says Mary F. Holahan, Curator of Illustration. “We are thrilled to be able to display the whimsical and sometimes enigmatic illustrations of such a distinguished artist of our region.”

Organizers and Sponsors
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 generous individuals. For more information, call 302-571-9590 or 866-232-3714 (toll free), or visit the website at 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 special exhibitions throughout the year.

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