FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DELAWARE ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES 2014 EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

Wilmington, DE (September 11, 2013) – For more information on these exhibitions, or to request images, please contact Jessica Jenkins, Manager of Marketing & Public Relations, at jjenkins@delart.org or 302-351-8558.

“Blessed are the Peacemakers”: Violet Oakley’s *The Angel of Victory* (1941)

*February 8–May 25, 2014*

*On view in Gallery 9*

Violet Oakley (1874–1961) was an illustrator, stained-glass designer and the first American woman to find fame in the burgeoning field of public mural painting. Throughout her 60-year artistic career she also devoted herself to the quest for a just and peaceful world. During World War II, the elderly Oakley continued that mission by joining with the Citizens Committee of the Army & Navy to produce portable altarpieces for use on American battleships, military bases, and airfields around the world. Oakley’s *The Angel of Victory*, originally painted for Brooklyn’s Floyd Bennett Airfield and now in the Delaware Art Museum’s permanent collection, was the first of her 25 wartime altarpieces, completed just two weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor. This exhibition reunites the altarpiece with preliminary studies for the project for the first time. It also explores Oakley’s unique creative process, and reveals how she responded to a volatile moment in world history by infusing her religious works with a democratic spirit and her lifelong belief in peace.
**Fashion, Circus, Spectacle: Photographs by Scott Heiser**

*March 8–June 1, 2014*

*On view in The Anthony N. and Catherine A. Fusco Gallery (Gallery 10)*

Best known for his grainy, wildly cropped glimpses of fashion runway shows, which appeared in the avant-garde magazine *Interview* between 1978 and 1987, Scott Heiser was an extraordinarily talented photographer who documented a wide range of public entertainments, including circuses, dance competitions, and the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. A master of composition, Heiser isolated the surreal juxtapositions, offstage moments, and intriguing details that ordinary viewers overlook. Heiser studied photography with Harry Callahan at the Rhode Island School of Design before moving to New York City, where he chronicled the vibrant cultural scene for downtown publications like the *Soho Weekly News* and *Paper*. Heiser was particularly interested in popular performances, and his rich, meticulously printed photographs imbue these fleeting spectacles with an unexpected timelessness. This is the first retrospective exhibition dedicated to Heiser (1949–1993), who was born and raised Wilmington, Delaware. A richly illustrated 136-page catalogue will also accompany the exhibition.

Organized by: Delaware Art Museum.
Delaware Art Museum Curator: Heather Campbell Coyle, Curator of American Art

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**Retro-active: Performance Art from 1964–1987**

*June 14–September 21, 2014*

*On view in Gallery 9*

Organized to coincide with the Museum’s showing of Independent Curators International’s *Performance Now* exhibition, *Retro-active* presents a historical view of this important genre. Performance art as a genre exploded onto the art scene in the mid-1960s and developed through the 1970s and 1980s to incorporate audience participation, dance, and video. Seven
groundbreaking works by artists Carolee Schneemann, Yoko Ono, Trisha Brown, Chris Burden, Dan Graham, Joan Jonas, and Paul McCarthy trace this pivotal moment and provide an historical context for contemporary performance art.

Organized by: Delaware Art Museum
Delaware Art Museum Curator: Margaret Winslow, Associate Curator for Contemporary Art

**Performance Now**
*July 12–September 21, 2014*
*On view in The Anthony N. and Catherine A. Fusco Gallery (Gallery 10)*

Curated by RoseLee Goldberg and co-organized by Independent Curators International (ICI), New York and Performa, New York, *Performance Now* presents a survey of visual performance art at the start of the 21st century. Goldberg first mapped the development of this art form in her seminal 1979 text, *Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present*, and in 2005, she founded *Performa* as a biennial festival of performance art. *Performance Now* examines the definitive role the medium has taken in contemporary art and culture today. The exhibition is comprised of work by leading performance artists, including Marina Abramović, Jérôme Bel, Christian Jankowski, William Kentridge, Yvonne Rainer, and Laurie Simmons.

Organized by: *Performance Now* is a traveling exhibition produced by Independent Curators International (ICI), New York, and Performa, New York. The curator for the exhibition is RoseLee Goldberg, Artistic Director and founder of Performa. The exhibition and tour are made possible, in part, by grants from the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, and the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts; the ICI Board of Trustees; and donors to ICI’s Access Fund. Delaware Art Museum Curator: Margaret Winslow, Associate Curator for Contemporary Art

**Nature Morte: Platinum Prints by Bruce Katsiff**
*October 4, 2014–January 25, 2015*
*On view in Gallery 9*
For more than 30 years, photographer Bruce Katsiff has worked on the series *Nature Morte*. He collects the remains of birds and mammals—skulls, skeletons, bones, and feathers—which he arranges with other objects in his studio. His orderly compositions, evoking Renaissance cabinets of curiosities, are captured with a large-format view camera and printed in platinum and palladium. Surprisingly beautiful, Katsiff’s photographs present a haunting meditation on mortality. Former Director and CEO of the James A. Michener Art Museum (1991–2012) and Professor and Chair of the Art and Music Division at Bucks County Community College, Katsiff has exhibited widely in solo and group exhibitions in Pennsylvania and New York.

Organized by: Delaware Art Museum  
Delaware Art Museum Curator: Heather Campbell Coyle, Curator of American Art

**From Houdini to Hugo: The Art of Brian Selznick**  
*October 18, 2014 – January 11, 2015*  
*On view in The Anthony N. and Catherine A. Fusco Gallery (Gallery 10)*

*From Houdini to Hugo: The Art of Brian Selznick* presents over 100 paintings and drawings by this award-winning children’s author and illustrator. Selznick’s world includes images of characters as diverse as magician Harry Houdini, poet Walt Whitman, singer Marian Anderson, and the fictional Hugo Cabret—an orphan who lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, portrayed in *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. The exhibition encompasses works from *Hugo* and 18 of Selznick’s other books, among them *The Houdini Box, Walt Whitman: Words for America, Amelia and Eleanor Go for a Ride, The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins*, and *Frindle*. The illustrations are accompanied by the books, allowing visitors to put each image into the context of the story. Selznick received a 2002 Caldecott Honor for *The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins* and was awarded the 2008 Caldecott Medal for *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, which was made into the Oscar award-winning film *Hugo*, directed by Martin Scorsese.
Organized by: National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas
Delaware Art Museum Curator: Mary F. Holahan, Curator of Illustration/Curator of Outlooks
Exhibition Series

**Sponsors and Organizers**

Support is provided 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 works by Wilmington native Howard Pyle and fellow American illustrators, a major collection of British Pre-Raphaelite art, 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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