FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DELAWARE ART MUSEUM AWARDED FEDERAL GRANT FOR ONLINE COLLECTION

WILMINGTON, DE (September 12, 2013) – The Delaware Art Museum is pleased to announce that it received a $130,000 Museums for America grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant will support a two-year Collections Stewardship project, allowing the Museum to make over 5,000 works on paper from its collection available to the public through a new searchable online collection database. The Museum’s project was one of 244 selected nationally by IMLS this year, with support totaling nearly $30 million.

“This is an incredible opportunity for the Museum,” explains Margaretta Frederick, Chief Curator, and Curator of the Bancroft Collection of Pre-Raphaelite Art at the Delaware Art Museum. “Putting the collection online allows us to serve our diverse audiences more effectively through expanded access to collections-related information, images, and scholarship.”

In June 2013, the Museum received funding from the Welfare Foundation to begin the first phase of a five-phase Collections Accessibility Plan. This phase includes preparing the first 500 most familiar works from the Museum’s collection for digitization and uploading them to the new web-based platform eMuseum.

The IMLS grant will fund the second phase of the project. During this phase, Museum staff will perform a comprehensive inventory of over 5,000 works on paper, digitally photograph these works, update the records, and place the object records in eMuseum. Visitors to this new online resource will be able to browse the Museum’s collections, search for specific objects, and create and share their own collections of work.

The majority of the Museum’s 12,500-work collection will be accessible online by 2018. A more complete and accurate online database will allow the Delaware Art Museum to carry out its core mission “to connect people to art.” Visitors exploring the collection for the first time, as well as scholars,
educators, and curators researching specific works will have access to the Delaware Art Museum's vast holdings, including the largest collection of British Pre-Raphaelite art outside of the United Kingdom and American art and illustration from the 1800s to the present.

“IMLS recognizes the valuable roles museums have in their communities: putting the learner at the center, serving as community anchors, and serving as stewards of cultural and scientific collections,” said IMLS Director Susan Hildreth. “It is exciting to see the many ways our newly announced grants further these important museum roles. I congratulate the slate of 2013 museum grant recipients for planning projects that advance innovation in museum practice, lifelong learning, and community engagement.”

Click here to view the complete list of museums with IMLS funded projects and their contacts by state and city.

About IMLS
The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. Its mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit imls.gov.

About the Delaware Art Museum
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.

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 Museum’s website at delart.org.