



Canton Museum of Art

• News Release •

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 7, 2011

Upcoming Civil War Exhibit Features Ohio Region

September 2 – October 30, 2011

Marking the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War, the Canton Museum of Art will present *A Nation Divided: The Heartland Responds*, an exhibition of Civil War photography and artifacts – relevant to Ohio and neighboring states.

The Civil War was the first major war that was “observed” by the public while it occurred, accomplished by artists and photographers documenting events while in the field. *A Nation Divided: The Heartland Responds* was inspired by a collection of Civil War photos from the archives of the Western Reserve Historical Society. To protect the fragile historic originals from extended exposure, the Canton Museum of Art will reproduce more than 50 selected images in an enlarged format. The photos will be compiled in a companion publication by the Kent State University Press, titled “Feel the Bonds that Draw,” with text by Christine Dee, PhD.

A Nation Divided: The Heartland Responds will also feature depictions of camp life created by Winslow Homer, on loan from The Butler Institute of American Art. During the 1860’s, Homer’s illustrations were reproduced in newspapers using a block printing technique, as the technology for printing photographs in newspapers was not invented until 1880. Uniforms, weapons and memorabilia from the collection of the McKinley Presidential Library & Museum and private collections will be on display, including a variety of artifacts relevant to Andrew Smith, a Massillon resident who was a member of the Ohio 6th Calvary.

Modern technology meets early photography. A unique component of *A Nation Divided: The Heartland Responds* will be a gallery space devoted to viewing stereograph images. Stereographs are a form of 3-D viewing technology invented by Oliver Wendell Holmes in 1859, which became popular during this period of history. Traditionally viewed through a hand-held stereoscope, the exhibit will instead project digitized images, for viewing by large groups of spectators wearing “anaglyph” glasses (red and green). According to Museum Executive Director, M.J. Albacete, “The Civil War was heavily documented in photographs, but not just conventional pictures. Stereo cameras took pictures in 3-D like today’s movies – and we will reproduce them in digital 3-D, so you can actually see scenes from the Civil War as real as life!”

Related Events

Special Opening Event

September 1, 6 – 9:00 PM

A modern celebration of history and art is planned for September 1, in the Great Court of the Cultural Center for the Arts. Chaired by Lindsay Zimmerman, this special cocktail party event will feature a first look at the exhibit, elegant hors d'oeuvres by Peter Shears, cash bar, live entertainment and visits by historical “guest personalities.” Photography by Shawn Wood. Tickets: \$75/person (\$65/Museum members). For reservations call 330-453-7666.

First Stop First Friday --Public kick-off of *A Nation Divided*

September 2, 5:30 – 6:30 PM

Civil War re-enactors representing the 6th Ohio Calvary and soldiers will march from the Canton Museum of Art to the Kresge Green “encampment,” where they will perform a drill demonstration. Visitors can tour the exhibit, enjoy complimentary wine and cheese, then enjoy the parade. This is a FREE event. First Stop is co-hosted with About Magazine.

Caption for exhibit image:

Soldiers Aid Society in Cleveland, photo courtesy of Western Reserve Historical Society

Civil War Calendar Highlights

Numerous cultural agencies throughout the region will be participating with related Civil War events, exhibits and performances:

Canton Palace Theater

Shenandoah - August 11

National First Ladies' Library

Battles Bandages and Honor: Dr. Mary Walker - August 20

Stark County District Library-Main Branch

Rally Round the Flag: Civil War Memories - August 20

Canton Museum of Art

A Nation Divided: The Heartland Responds - September 2 – October 30

Opening Event - September 1

First Stop First Friday (re-enactor parade) - September 2

Zoar Community Association

Battle of Bull Run: 1st Manassas, 1861 Re-enactment- September 17 - 18

Kent State University Museum

On the Home Front: Civil War Fashions & Domestic Life - September 30 – August 26

Voices of Canton (VOCI), Cultural Center

The Union and the Confederacy – Cantata by Richard Bales - October 23

The Canton Museum of Art is located at 1001 Market Avenue North in the Cultural Center for the Arts, Canton, Ohio 44702. www.cantonart.org Phone: 330-453-7666.

Admission is \$6/adult, \$4/senior and student, children 12 and under are free and Canton Museum of Art members are free.

Museum Hours:

Monday – closed

Tuesday, Wednesday – 10 am – 8 pm

Thursday - Friday – 10 am – 5 pm

Saturday – 10 am – 3 pm

Sunday – 1 pm to 5 pm

The Ohio Arts Council helps fund the Canton Museum of Art with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans.

