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National Academy Reopens in September 2011 after Extensive Renovations

American Masters and Visionaries in Exhibitions that Reveal Collection's Expansive Sweep

Will Barnet at 100, the Artist's First NYC Retrospective, Among Reopening Exhibitions

Renovations Enhance Visitor Experience and Provide Newly Designed Exhibition and Teaching Space in the Academy School

The National Academy Museum and School will reopen in September 2011 with exhibitions and installations of masterpieces of American art and little-known and infrequently seen gems from the nineteenth through twenty first centuries. The museum closed for renovation in July 2010.

For the first time in nearly a century, individual galleries will be dedicated to the Academy's permanent collection, which contains over 7,000 works of art and architectural renderings, photographs, and models. Built largely by artists and architects through their presentation of Diploma works upon induction as National Academicians (NAs), the collection reveals the breadth and inspiring sweep of American art and architecture since 1825, when the Academy was founded. The unique collection is a living history of American art and continues to grow as artists and architects become members of the Academy.

The reopening exhibitions from the permanent collection will include paintings, drawings, prints, and sculpture by over 200 artists, among them Academy founder Samuel F.B. Morse, William Merritt Chase, Reginald Marsh, and Richard Estes; a thematic exhibition drawn from the Academy's unparalleled collection of artist portraits, including those by Thomas Eakins, John Singer Sargent, Andrew Wyeth, Chuck Close, and Suzanna Coffey; architectural renderings, photographs, and models

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by Academicians and Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureates I.M. Pei, Phillip Johnson, Kevin Roche and Thom Mayne; and an installation of contemporary art by recently elected Academicians Bill Jensen, Harriett Korman, Melissa Meyer, David Reed, and others.

Also on view for the reopening will be *Will Barnet at 100*, the first New York retrospective of the 100-year-old artist and member of the Academy. A painter, printmaker and educator whose students included James Rosenquist and Cy Twombly, Barnet's work has explored some of the major movements in American art of the past century. The exhibition includes loans from both public and private collections across the United States.

Related programming during the reopening season will include a Will Barnet Symposium and lectures and conversations on Thomas Eakins and post-war architecture.

Renovations at the Academy will transform the visitor experience in the museum galleries and create new exhibition, teaching, and assembly space in the school. The museum entrance on Fifth Avenue will introduce visitors to the Academy's historic legacy and contemporary focus. Bade Stageberg Cox is the architectural firm for the project with Jane Stageberg as Principal. Abbott Miller of Pentagram created the design for the graphic identity and the museum and school lobbies. Architect Bruce Fowle, NA, of FXFOWLE and Vice President of the Academy's Board of Governors, is overseeing the renovations. Funding has come from recent bequests from Eleanor D. Popper, a former student of the School, and author Geoffrey Wagner in memory of his wife, Colleen Browning Wagner, NA, an American realist painter.

“We are thrilled to reopen the National Academy with a series of exhibitions that tell the important and nuanced story of American art as chronicled by artists and architects over the past 186 years,” said Carmine Branagan, Director of the National Academy Museum and School. “It is also a privilege to present the first New York retrospective on Will Barnet, NA and to inaugurate new space for teaching and learning in the school. The Academy was founded in the nineteenth century by a group of visionary artists and architects, and we are honoring that vision in the twenty first century.”

Exhibitions beyond the reopening season will include the Academy's 186th *Annual*, an exhibition that fills the museum's galleries with contemporary works by both Academicians and other artists and architects who are making a significant contribution to the ongoing narrative of American art (January – April 2012). *White: The Anatomy of a Color* will feature works by Academicians, Stephen Antonakos, Robert Mangold, Dorothea Rockburne, and others. *John Cage: The Sight of Silence* will be the first New York exhibition of an extensive but little-known body of watercolors and prints the composer and artist created over the last twenty years of his life (September 2012 – January 2013).

The Academy is located on Museum Mile on the Upper East Side of Manhattan in the Huntington Mansion, which was designed by architect and interior designer Ogden Codman, Jr. in 1913.

The National Academy Museum and School promotes American art through exhibition and education. The Academy comprises an honorary society of American artists and architects, a museum, and an art school. Founded in 1825 as the National Academy of Design by leading artists who included Samuel F. B. Morse, Asher B. Durand, and Thomas Cole, the Academy continues to play a critical role in preserving and fostering the visual arts in America.

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