



FOR RELEASE ON MARCH 15

MEDIA CONTACT: BRAD BOYER, 937-206-5348  
FAX, 937-521-1958

### **Local Museum Becomes Smithsonian Affiliate**

Springfield, OH (March 15, 2012) – Springfield is now home to the only Smithsonian Affiliate art museum in the state of Ohio. The distinction celebrates the museum’s adherence to best practices and its exemplary permanent collection, which features artists such as Berenice Abbott, George Bellows and A.T. Bricher.

“Having this affiliation will connect the nationally-recognized name of Smithsonian with the high quality collections already featured at the museum,” said Ann Fortescue, director of the Springfield Museum of Art. “This affiliation enables us to showcase an even broader scope of exhibits and sustain a more vibrant public profile by sharing Smithsonian collections.”

The Springfield Museum of Art holds accreditation by the American Association of Museums, an achievement that helped garner the Smithsonian Affiliation. This distinction recognizes the museum’s adherence to best practices for museums. The Springfield Museum of Art exhibits strong, regionally focused collections of American art, which was also a factor in the decision-making process.

In addition to its local, regional and national exhibits, the Springfield Museum of Art regularly hosts community events, works with local schools to offer art education and teams with the Springfield Symphony Orchestra for an outdoor summer concert series.

“It’s encouraging to see a local art museum have such a strong presence in the community,” said Harold Closter, director of Smithsonian Affiliations. “We’re proud to collaborate with the Springfield Museum of Art, because this museum is a true representation of the Smithsonian Affiliate Program’s continued push to broaden the experiences of museum-goers and the community as a whole.”

-30-

### **About Smithsonian Affiliations**

Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops collaborative partnerships with museums and educational and cultural organizations to share Smithsonian Institution resources with Americans in their communities.

Smithsonian Affiliations works with affiliates to enrich communities with Smithsonian scholars, public programs and professional development opportunities. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and a list of current affiliates are available at [www.affiliations.si.edu](http://www.affiliations.si.edu).

**About Springfield Museum of Art**

Since 1946, the Springfield Museum of Art has served the region as a premier destination for the promotion, preservation, study and appreciation of historical and contemporary American artwork. Known for its amazing permanent collection and cutting-edge exhibitions, the museum collects, exhibits and preserves works of art for the benefit of all individuals while encouraging the education, participation and appreciation of the arts.