

H E N R Y M O R R I S O N
FLAGLER MUSEUM
— PALM BEACH, FLORIDA —

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Flagler Museum Announces 2016 Winter Exhibition
Beauty's Legacy: Gilded Age Portraits in America

PALM BEACH, FL - *Beauty's Legacy: Gilded Age Portraits in America*, features fifty three stunning portraits of prominent Gilded Age Americans by the leading painters from America and Europe. On view at the Flagler Museum from January 26 through April 17, 2016, the exhibition was organized by the New-York Historical Society from their outstanding collection of American art.

Beauty's Legacy will explore the rise of interest in portraiture in the United States during the Gilded Age. Though portraits were popular during the Colonial period, the amassing of great fortunes during the Gilded Age, and its attendant interest in documenting the wealthy, sparked a level of interest and quality in portraiture that rivaled the European tradition. A brilliant generation of American and European artists rose to meet that demand.

The subjects of the portraits - ranging from famous society beauties to powerful titans of business and industry - left lasting legacies that contributed to the cultural and economic growth of the nation. *Beauty's Legacy* will include portraits of prominent New Yorkers including Mary Dahlgren Astor, Samuel Verplanck Hoffman, Mary Gardiner Thompson, and Mary Barrett Wendell, painted by noted American artists such as James



James Montgomery Flagg (American, 1877 - 1960), Nellie McCormick Flagg (1876 - 1923), ca. 1906 Oil on canvas. New-

Carroll Beckwith, George York Historical Society, Gift of Arnold Scaasi and Parker Ladd
Peter, Alexander Healy, Daniel
Huntington, Rembrandt Peale, John Singer Sargent, Gilbert Stuart, and John Quincy Adams
Ward.

The exhibition also reveals the highly competitive nature of the portrait market, as American portraitists found themselves in fierce rivalry for American patronage with their European counterparts. The vigorous demand for works by European masters is evidenced by portraits of subjects including James Hazen Hyde, Georgina Schuyler, Samuel Ward McAllister, Cortlandt Field Bishop, and Samuel Untermyer by European artists such as Léon Bonnat, William-Adolphe Bouguereau, Alexandre Cabanel, Théobald Chartran, Raimundo de Madrazo, and Anders Zorn. The exhibition will also feature a selection of twenty-five exquisite portraits from Peter Marié's vast collection of miniatures, known by his contemporaries as his "Gallery of Beauty," underscoring the intersection of beauty, celebrity, and social prestige.

This exhibition has been organized by the New-York Historical Society.

Beauty's Legacy: Gilded Age Portraits in America is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue published by the New-York Historical Society in association with D Giles Limited, London.

Dr. Margaret Laster, Assistant Curator of American Art at the New-York Historical Society, will present a tour of *Beauty's Legacy* on February 16, 2015, at 12:15 pm. Dr. Laster will reveal the stories of the important sitters and artists represented in the exhibition, within the context of the American portrait tradition. Advance reservations are highly recommended.

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About the Flagler Museum

When it was completed in 1902, Whitehall, Henry Flagler's Gilded Age estate in Palm Beach, was hailed by the *New York Herald* as "more wonderful than any palace in Europe, grander and more magnificent than any other private dwelling in the world." Today, Whitehall is a National Historic Landmark and is open to the public as the Flagler Museum, featuring guided tours, changing exhibits, and special programs. The Museum is located at Cocoanut Row and Whitehall Way, Palm Beach.

The Museum is open from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$18 for adults, \$10 for youth ages 13-17, \$3 for children ages 6-12, and children under six are free.

For more information, please call the Flagler Museum at (561) 655-2833 or visit www.flaglermuseum.us.

About the New-York Historical Society

The New-York Historical Society, one of America's pre-eminent cultural institutions, is dedicated to fostering research and presenting history and art exhibitions and public programs that reveal the dynamism of history and its influence on the world of today. Founded in 1804, New-York Historical has a mission to explore the richly layered history

of New York City and State and the country, and to serve as a national forum for the discussion of issues surrounding the making and meaning of history.

New-York Historical is recognized for engaging the public with deeply researched and far-ranging exhibitions, such as *A New Light on Tiffany: Clara Driscoll and the Tiffany Girls* and *Stories in Sterling: Four Centuries of Silver in New York*, both of which have been presented at the Flagler Museum. Supporting these exhibitions and related education programs is one of the world's greatest collections of historical artifacts, works of American art, and other materials documenting the history of the United States and New York.

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