

NEWS RELEASE



Montclair Art Museum

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For Immediate Release

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George Inness, *Autumn in Montclair*, c. 1894, oil on canvas. Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martucci.

**THE MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM PRESENTS
*GEORGE INNESS: PRIVATE TREASURES***

**The Exhibition Brings Together Works from Mostly Private Collections by America's
Greatest Landscape Painter**

On View November 6, 2011- April 1, 2012

Art is a subtle essence. It is not a thing of surfaces, but a moving spirit...
—George Inness (1879)

MONTCLAIR, NJ, October 17, 2011— The Montclair Art Museum (MAM) proudly presents *George Inness: Private Treasures*, opening Sunday, November 6, as the first special exhibition to be held in the George Inness Gallery, a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Martucci. The gallery is the only space in the world dedicated to the work of George Inness (1825-1894) and customarily houses an installation of rotating selections from the Museum's renowned collection of America's greatest landscape painter. *George Inness: Private Treasures*, on view through April 1, 2012, will consist of 10 works, nine from private collections as well as one from the Montclair Historical Society. The local lenders are from various towns in New York and New Jersey, including Montclair, Glen Ridge, Essex Fells, Verona, and Irvington. Additionally, *George Inness Sketching Outside His Montclair Studio*, a painting from the Museum's collection by Inness's son, George Inness, Jr., will be on display. The exhibition is curated by MAM chief curator Gail Stavitsky.

Inness, often called the “father of American landscape painting,” was a visionary artist whose renderings of nature were profoundly personal and inspired by his belief in

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Swedenborgianism, the philosophy of Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772). According to the teachings of the Swedish scientist-mystic Swedenborg, God speaks to humanity through nature, connecting the spiritual and material worlds. Inness referred to this spiritual dimension as “the reality of the unseen.” Inness’s considerable contribution to American art at the turn of the century greatly influenced 20th-century art movements, and brought recognition to American artists in their own right as peers of their European counterparts. Inness settled in Montclair in 1885 and the town of Montclair was frequently the subject of his art. As a nationally and internationally recognized artist during his lifetime, Inness’s presence attracted other well-known artists, helping to establish the town’s reputation as an intellectual community and artists’ colony, one of the earliest in the country.

In addition to the Museum’s holdings of 18 paintings, 2 watercolors, and an etching, Inness is well represented in local collections. The forthcoming exhibition provides a rare opportunity to view significant works that span the artist’s career from his productive trip to Italy in 1870–74 to the year of his death, in 1894. The lyrical, intimate landscapes of the 1880s and 90s reveal Inness at the height of his expressive powers as the artist employed softly brushed, broadly generalized forms to evoke the mystical unity of material and spiritual existence. A master of essentials, Inness felt that a literal copying of nature would record only its transitory and fragmentary aspects. He therefore evolved a harmonious, eternal style of broad, expressive brushwork that unifies all aspects of the pictorial composition.

The Lenders

Joseph and Lisa Amato
Thomas and Karen Buckley
Douglas R. Ewertson
Susan and Rees Jones
Frank and Katherine Martucci
Angel and Curt Schade
William H. and Judith Turner
Montclair Historical Society

Group Tours

Group tours may be booked by calling 973-259-5136 or by emailing tours@montclairartmuseum.org.

Online Press Site

The Museum will maintain a site dedicated to the exhibition for journalists seeking further information, including a checklist and images. Please visit montclairartmuseum.org and click on For the Media.

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Visit Montclair

For more Montclair experiences, visit websites for the Montclair Center Business Improvement District (www.montclaircenter.com/) and Destination Montclair (www.destinationmontclair.com).

Sponsorship

George Inness: Private Treasures is made possible with generous Exhibition Angel support from the Vance Wall Foundation, Jacqueline and Herb Klein, Tracy Higgins and James Leitner, Karen and Larry Mandelbaum, Lyn and Glenn Reiter, Toni LeQuire-Schott and Newton B. Schott, Jr., and Margo and Frank Walter.

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum, a notable, community-based institution with an international reputation, boasts a renowned collection of American and Native American art that uniquely highlights art making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 12,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions. The Museum's education programs serve a wide public and bring artists, performers, and scholars to the Museum on a regular basis. MAM's Yard School of Art is the leading regional art school, offering a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, teens, adults, seniors, and professional artists.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website, montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling 973-746-5555. MAM is open Wednesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is \$12 for nonmember adults, \$10 for senior citizens and students with I.D., and free for members and children under 12.

All Museum programs are made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vance Wall Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Museum Members.

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