



Media only: Laura Baptiste (202) 633-8494
Media website: americanart.si.edu/pr

Feb. 1, 2011

Save America's Treasures Grant Awarded to the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum

The Save America's Treasures program, administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities, has awarded a \$335,000 grant for the renovation of the National Historic Landmark building that houses the Renwick Gallery, a branch of the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

"The recognition of the significance the Renwick Gallery building as an American treasure is a very welcome honor as we begin planning for renovation. This elegant historic building was conceived as a symbol of our country's aspirations for culture and art, and was the first art gallery in the Capital City," said Elizabeth Broun, The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. "The award from Saving America's Treasures underlines the importance of this noble landmark and why it is deserving of support."

The Renwick Gallery features one of the finest collections of American craft in the United States. Its collections, exhibition program and publications highlight the best craft objects and decorative arts from the 19th century to the present. The Renwick Gallery is located steps from the White House in the heart of historic federal Washington. Its Second Empire-style building, begun in 1859 and completed in 1874, was designed by the distinguished architect James Renwick Jr., who also designed the Smithsonian's Castle and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. It became the home of the museum's craft and decorative arts program in 1972.

The Smithsonian has hired the Washington, D.C.-based architecture firm Architrave PC to oversee the renovation, which is in the planning stages. It will be funded through a public-private partnership.

About the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum

The Smithsonian American Art Museum celebrates the vision and creativity of Americans with artworks in all media spanning more than three centuries. Its Renwick Gallery, located on Pennsylvania Avenue at 17th Street N.W., is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free. Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Website: americanart.si.edu.