



Smithsonian
***Donald W. Reynolds Center for
American Art and Portraiture***

Smithsonian American Art Museum

News

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Smithsonian American Art Museum's Blog Wins National Award

"Eye Level," the Smithsonian American Art Museum's blog, won a silver medal in the new category, "Two-way Communications" at the American Association of Museums' Muse Awards on April 27. The competition, now in its 17th year, recognizes outstanding achievement in museum media.

"Eye Level," launched in November 2005, is the first and only blog developed by a Smithsonian museum. Technorati, a Web site that specializes in indexing and tracking blogs, reports that 200 sites are currently linking to "Eye Level," which places the museum's blog in the upper echelon of all arts and cultural blogs. Using the Smithsonian American Art Museum's collection as a touchstone, the conversation on "Eye Level" is dedicated to American art and the ways in which the nation's art reflects its history and culture. The discussion extends beyond the walls of the museum's collection to include other collections, exhibitions and events. "Eye Level" also documents the extraordinary collaboration between curators, conservators, art handlers, historians, critics, exhibition and new media designers and bloggers. The blog is accessible at <http://eyelevel.si.edu>.

"We are dedicated to connecting with online visitors in every possible way and we have had tremendous success engaging American art enthusiasts from across the country through our blog," said Elizabeth Broun, The Margaret and Terry Stent Director of the museum. "We look forward to continuing these conversations about American art and culture through this national forum."

The Smithsonian American Art Museum collection began with gifts of art donated to the federal government in 1829 and has evolved into one of the world's most important American art holdings, with approximately 41,000 artworks in all media spanning more than three centuries. The museum's National Historic Landmark building, which opens July 1, is located at Eighth and F streets N.W. in the heart of a revitalized downtown arts district, above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station (Red, Yellow and Green lines). Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 357-1729 (TTY). Recorded information: (202) 275-1500. Web sites: www.americanart.si.edu or www.reynoldscenter.org.

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