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An American Renaissance in Fort Wayne: Muralists from the Allen County Courthouse

Classical elegance exhibited through historic decorative drawings created for the Allen County Courthouse to be featured at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art

July 5, 2023 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is pleased to present “An American Renaissance in Fort Wayne: Muralists from the Allen County Courthouse,” an exhibition of works on paper by great muralists, Charles Holloway and Carl Guthertz, on view July 15 through September 10, 2023.

Beaux-Arts architecture was the dominant style used for civic buildings and private mansions during the period known as the American Renaissance, from 1876 to 1917 in the U.S. Architects strongly identified with classical Greek and Roman structures and the Italian Renaissance, all perceived as high points in European culture. They envisioned unifying all the arts in majestic, formal buildings with interiors adorned with murals, sculptural reliefs, and ornamental decoration that evoked grandeur while communicating the role and the function of the building. The Library of Congress and the Boston Public Library became national models, setting high standards for lavish mural cycles.

The **Allen County Courthouse** was built during this era and its crown jewel is the mural collection. This exhibition will focus on the lives of courthouse painters Charles Holloway and Carl Guthertz, their allegorical representations of law and order, and the mural making process.

Works in this exhibition are part of a generous donation from the Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, and loans from the Allen County Courthouse Preservation Trust, and the History Center: Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society. This exhibition is supported by the Edward D. and Lone Auer Foundation, and Knox Decorative Painting.

To celebrate the art of this National Historic Landmark, FWMoA will launch the **Mastrangelo Lecture Series** on **Friday, September 8 at 7pm** with a lecture by esteemed scholar, Mark D. Mitchell, Yale University’s Holcombe T. Green Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture. Mitchell will present his talk entitled, “Powers that Be: The Expressive Figure in the American Renaissance, 1876–1917,” which will explore the emergence during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries of the expressive human figure as the primary vehicle for a new vision of American civic identity. The public is also invited to a **Curator’s Tour** of the exhibit on **Thursday, August 3rd at 12pm** with the Executive Director of the Allen County Courthouse Trust, Robyn Zimmerman; FWMoA Curator of Prints and Drawings, Sachi Yanari-Rizzo; and FWMoA Registrar, Leah Reeder. Reserve your tickets to these events at fwmoa.org/rsvp.

General admission to see this exhibition at the museum is free for FWMoA members, \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors 65+, and \$25 for families. General admission is free for everyone on Thursdays 5-8pm. Veterans, active military personnel, and their families receive free general admission. FWMoA gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10-6pm, Thursdays 10-8pm, and Sundays 12-5pm.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art:

Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art is now the third largest art museum in Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts a collection of 7,700 objects of American and international art from the 18th century to today. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation, and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. This activity made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

For more information, visit www.fwmoa.org.

Image Credit:

1. Charles Holloway, American, 1859-1941. *Study for Peace and Joy*. Watercolor and ink on paper, Undated. Loan from Allen County Courthouse Preservation Trust.

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