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**Additional high-resolution images available upon request.
See attached image list.**

Above: Edgar Jerins, *Adam Takes a Break*, 2008, charcoal on paper, 48 x 55 inches. Courtesy of the Artist and ACA Galleries.

Asheville Art Museum Debuts The Philadelphia Story: Contemporary Figurative Work Drawn from the Academy

Exhibition Opens Saturday, January 26

Opening Reception Sunday, February 3 (2:00 – 4:00 p.m.)

ASHEVILLE, NC— [*The Philadelphia Story: Contemporary Figurative Work Drawn from the Academy*](#) debuts at the Asheville Art Museum on Saturday, January 26, 2013. The exhibition will be celebrated with an **Opening Reception on the afternoon of Sunday, February 3, 2013 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** (free with membership or regular Museum admission). *The Philadelphia Story* remains on view in the Museum's North Wing through Sunday, June 9, 2013. This exhibition celebrates figurative contemporary works produced over the past three decades by alumni of [The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts](#).

This exhibition will be accompanied by a **Lunchtime Art Break** with visiting UNCA Artist and Academy-Alumnus, Clarence Morgan, at **12:00 noon on Friday, February 8, 2013**. [The 1940 film *The Philadelphia Story*](#) will also be screened in conjunction with the exhibition on **Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. daily**.

In addition to its fine museums, the city of Philadelphia, PA is home to no less than five major art schools. [The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts](#) is the oldest art school and museum in the country, founded 1805. Like the Asheville Art Museum, the Academy's focus is on American art. The Academy also focuses on teaching traditional methods of working from life, such as classes in cast drawing and the use of live models for classes in drawing. Painting and sculpture dominate the school's curriculum, both in past and present. Academy faculty were most often Academy students first, affording many artists the ability to trace their artistic lineage back to noteworthy faculty and students such as Thomas Eakins, Mary Cassatt, Cecilia Beaux, Henry O. Tanner, Robert Henri, Alexander Calder and others.

Academy-trained artists have enjoyed a reputation for excellence in portraiture and figurative work in all media. In the past three decades the school has produced many

artists whose figurative work, while rooted in tradition, is compositionally and conceptually dynamic. Artists in the exhibition include Bo Bartlett, Christina Bothwell, James Brantley, Joe Brenman, Michael Ciervo, Vincent Desiderio, Beth Foley, Roger Geier, Sidney Goodman, Orit Hofshi, Edgar Jerins, Alex Kanevsky, Daniel Kornrumpf, Jessica Levine, Nancy Bea Miller, Bruce Samuelson, Julia Stratton, Chuck Tisa, Justin Webb and Elizabeth Wilson.

This exhibition was organized and curated by the Asheville Art Museum.

Related Public Programs:

Lunchtime Art Break with Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Alumnus, visiting UNCA Artist, and University of Minnesota Professor of Art: Clarence Morgan

Friday, February 8, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in the Museum's Appleby Gallery

Free with membership or Museum Admission

Weekend Film Screenings of the 1940 film, *The Philadelphia Story*

Saturday, April 6 + Sunday, April 7, 2013 (2:00 p.m. daily)

Free with membership or Museum Admission

Held in conjunction with the exhibition, the Museum will host two film screenings of *The Philadelphia Story*, a classic 1940 film and Broadway-adaptation featuring the legendary talents of Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant and Jimmy Stewart, offering visitors a glimpse into the privileged upper class society of Philadelphia during the period.

About the Asheville Art Museum

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

Additional information for upcoming exhibitions and public programs at the Museum can be found online at www.ashevilleart.org.

Special thanks to [Bold Life](#), [Verve](#) and [Carolina Home & Garden](#) magazines for their support as a Media Sponsor of the Museum for the 2013 fiscal year. For more information about media sponsorships, please email Kathleen Glass, Communications Manager, at kglass@ashevilleart.org.

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The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.

Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.

Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors and students (K-12 and college students with college ID). Children age five and younger are admitted free of charge. Members are admitted free of charge. The Holden Community Gallery, Museum Shop and Biltmore Gallery (all located on the first floor/street level of the Museum, are open at all times to the general public free of charge).

The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

The Asheville Art Museum asks when reprinting images, please keep all artwork at their original proportions; please do not crop them or alter them disproportionately. Provided image credit information is mandatory and images are not for resale.