

**Celebrate the Holiday Season at the Worcester Art Museum!**  
**Annual *Holidays at WAM* festivities begin Friday, November 28**

**Worcester, MA – November 11, 2014** – Delight in the spirit and joy of the upcoming season with the Worcester Art Museum's annual *Holidays at WAM* celebration, which begins Friday, November 28 and ends Wednesday, December 31. Visitors can revel in the Museum's holiday-oriented festivities that offer weekly gleeful musical concerts and dance performances in the Renaissance Court, special children's programming, season-themed tours and enchanting decorations throughout the Museum—including candy-laden, gingerbread-castle creations—and enjoy expanded Shop and Café hours.

"Holidays at WAM is a wonderful annual tradition. Visitors return year after year to enjoy festive music in the decorated Renaissance Court, take a winter-themed gallery tour, and to pick up unique, artsy holiday gifts in the Museum Shop," said Katrina Stacy, assistant curator of education. "One of the new programs this year is our first annual Gingerbread Castle Competition. Professionals and amateurs alike can participate, and we are encouraging anyone interested to submit an entry!"

**COMPLETE LIST OF HOLIDAYS AT WAM ACTIVITIES:**

A detailed list of the planned *Holidays at WAM* merriment and activities is included below. All events are free with Museum admission except where indicated. Admission is free from 10am to 12pm on Saturday, December 6 and is always free for Members. Join or renew a WAM membership in December and purchase a gift membership for half price! For more information about *Holidays at WAM*, visit <http://www.worcesterart.org/events/holidays-at-wam/2014/>

**MUSEUM TOURS**

**Zip Tours**

**Saturdays at Noon**

Celebrate the season with a holiday-themed, docent-led gallery talk that offers a short yet thorough view of a single work or artist.

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Nov. 29</b> | German Depictions of the Christ Child                         |
| <b>Dec. 6</b>  | <i>The Virgin and Child with Angels</i> , Stefano da Verona   |
| <b>Dec. 13</b> | <i>Getting Ready for Thanksgiving</i> , Grandma Moses         |
| <b>Dec. 20</b> | <i>The Adoration of the King</i> , Ottaviano di Martino Nello |
| <b>Dec. 27</b> | <i>Winter Landscape with Skaters</i> , Adriaen van de Venne   |

**Sunday Public Tours**

**November 30-December 21, 1pm and following all holiday performances**

Hour-long tour offers an overview of the WAM permanent collection. The 1pm tour leaves from the Lancaster Lobby; the tour following performances leaves from Salisbury Street Lobby.

**December Tour of the Month: Celebrate Roman Style**

**Wednesday, December 17 & Saturday, December 20, 2pm**

Join docent Mark Mancevice for reflections on celebrations and culture in late Republican and Imperial Rome.

**Audio tours** in English and Spanish, **self-guided thematic tours** and **family guides** also are available at the Museum. Inquire at the Visitor Service Representative Desks at the Lancaster and Salisbury Street Entrances.

**FOR FAMILIES**

**Family @ WAM Tour**

**Saturday, December 6, 10:30-11am**

Winter-themed intergenerational tour. Free.

**Families @ WAM Make Art!**

**Saturday, December 6, 11am-11:30am**

Stay after the family tour and enjoy hands-on art making with a holiday theme. Materials provided. Free.

**SUNDAY PERFORMANCES**

**At 2pm in the Renaissance Court**

**WPI Vocal Performance Lab**

**November 30**

Under the direction of John F. Delorey, WPI Director of Choral Music, the Vocal Performance Lab performs Benjamin Britten's achingly beautiful tapestry of sound, *A Ceremony of Carols for Harp and Chorus*, along with seasonal carols and sing-alongs.

**Ballet Arts Worcester**

**December 7**

The graceful Youth Ballet of Worcester dancers present a classical repertory from *The Nutcracker* and preview contemporary works for the 2014 season.

**Salisbury Singers**

**December 14**

The Salisbury Singers, a popular mixed chorus of selected volunteers under the dynamic guidance of Music Director Michelle Graveline, perform a rousing holiday concert.

**Merrimack Valley Ringers**

**December 21**

The Merrimack Valley Ringers handbell ensemble delight audiences with its infectious joy, spontaneity, and festive spirit. *A Holidays at WAM* crowd favorite.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### **Gingerbread Castle Competition**

**Sunday, November 30-December 7**

Higgins Education Wing

View a sweet display of gingerbread castles created by both professional and amateur competitors and vote for your favorite entry from Sunday, November 30 to Sunday, December 7. Awards, including the People's Choice Award, for the winning gingerbread castle(s) will be bestowed on Sunday, December 7 at 3:30pm in the Lancaster Lobby.

To enter the gingerbread castle competition, download a registration form at

<http://www.worcesterart.org/events/holidays-at-wam/2014/>

### **Third Thursday: Champagne & Shopping**

**Thursday, December 18, 5:30-7:30pm**

Enjoy shopping, live music, cash bar, and complimentary gift wrapping at this special evening event. Free with Museum admission; no admission charged if just visiting the Museum Shop. Sponsored by the WAM Members Council. Members can enjoy a "Holiday Toast"—a complimentary glass of champagne while they shop! Cheers!

### **First Night Worcester 2015**

**Wednesday, December 31, 11am-5pm**

Ring in the New Year at WAM with fun family-oriented activities. A First Night Worcester 2015 badge is your entrée to the revelry! Visit [www.firstnightworcester.org](http://www.firstnightworcester.org) for details.

For more information about *Holidays at WAM* performances, events, tours and other merriment, visit <http://www.worcesterart.org/events/holidays-at-wam/2014/>

*Holidays at WAM* is generously sponsored by National Grid. Media sponsor is 96.1 WSRS.

## HOLIDAY HOURS

### **Gallery**

Wednesday-Friday: 11am-5pm

Third Thursday of every month: 11am-8pm

Saturday: 10am-5pm

Sunday: 11am-5pm

(Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursday, December 25)

### **Museum Shop**

Open 7 days a week, December 1-24, 11am-5pm\*

Third Thursday: December 18, 11am-8pm

Shop WAM for the season's most inspired gifts! Members receive a 20 percent discount off purchases Friday, November 28 to Sunday, December 28. Spend \$100 or more after discount and receive a free *WAM Cookbook II*.

\*On Mondays and Tuesdays enter through the Salisbury Street front doors since access to the shop is limited on days that WAM galleries are closed. The Salisbury doors are open during the construction of the Museum's new accessible entrance.

### **Café**

Expanded hours and open Sundays in December

Open Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30am-2pm

(Closed December 25, 28 and 29)

### **ABOUT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM:**

Founded in 1898, the Worcester Art Museum serves Worcester and the broader region. The Museum houses an encyclopedic collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings, and new media. WAM's collection has historically been strongest in European and American art, and with recent acquisitions and donations, like Veronese's *Venus Disarming Cupid* and the integration of the collection from the Higgins Armory Museum, it continues to grow in strength. Symbolized by the opening of the Salisbury Street doors in 2012, the Museum continues toward its goal of accessibility for all visitors.

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, Mass., is open Wednesday through Friday and Sunday from 11am to 5pm; Saturday from 10am to 5pm; and every third Thursday from 11am to 8pm. Admission is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children 4-17, \$12 for seniors 65+, \$12 for college students with ID. Members and children under 4 are free. Admission on the first Saturday of each month is free from 10am-noon. Parking is free. For more information, visit [worcesterart.org](http://worcesterart.org).

### **CONTACT:**

Worcester Art Museum

Julieane Frost

508-793-4373

[JulieaneFrost@worcesterart.org](mailto:JulieaneFrost@worcesterart.org)