



**NEWS RELEASE:**

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**Hermitage Museum Opens Community Supported Florence K. Sloane Painting Gallery**

Norfolk, VA – The [Hermitage Museum and Gardens](#) is pleased to announce the unveiling of a brand new gallery space on the second floor of the historic house museum. Now open to the public, the gallery features work by a variety of significant 20<sup>th</sup> century artists, including Helen Turner, Sir Edward Poynter, and Nicholai Fechin.

The [Florence K. Sloane Painting Gallery](#) arose from a great need – to display Mrs. Sloane’s impressive collection of contemporary masters in optimal conditions with informative labeling. This approach is a first for the Hermitage, and a great leap forward in appealing to the modern museum visitor. Bringing art and culture to the Norfolk area was Mrs. Sloane’s life’s work, and her legacy persists in this gallery.

The paintings now on display are undoubtedly some of the finest of their kind in the world, and several are on public view for the first time in history. In amassing her collection, Mrs. Sloane was deliberately instructive; she purposefully filled her museum with a diverse array of paintings so that the people of Norfolk might learn about all styles of art. Her collection stands alone in the region.

Local, state, and federal granting agencies came together in support of the gallery. The Irene Leache Memorial Foundation, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts were instrumental in the successful transformation of this new space.

A gallery tour and lecture by the Curator of Collections will be held on Friday, February 25, 2011 starting at 10 AM. Free for members and students (with a valid ID), \$5.00 for non-members.

For more information on the Florence K. Sloane Painting Gallery, contact Lauren Northup, Curator of Collections, at 757-423-2052 x204 or [ln@thfm.org](mailto:ln@thfm.org).

*The Hermitage offers 45-minute guided tours, on the hour, of fifteen galleries filled with the Sloane family world-wide art collection, furniture, and history. The Visual Arts School houses classrooms, a complete ceramics studio, and darkroom photography facilities. Open daily 10-5, Sundays 1-5—closed Wednesdays and Thursdays. Free for Museum Members, children under 6, and Active Duty military. Admission: \$5 for Adults, \$2 for ages 6-18, and \$3 for students. For more information on the museum and membership offerings call 757-423-2052 or visit [www.thfm.org](http://www.thfm.org).*

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