



## MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American, Common Mergansers, (Drake & Hen), ca. 1900, Carved and painted wood, lead weight, nails, metal loop

### **Ducks, fish migrate into Milwaukee Art Museum** *Folk art exhibition showcases the finest in wildlife art*

**Milwaukee, Wis.** – A flock of nearly thirty duck decoys will alight on the Milwaukee Art Museum January 31, 2014 as part of the exhibition *Uncommon Folk: Traditions in American Art*. The decoys hail from across the United States, made by various artists throughout the years.

The mallards are in good company in the diverse collection, among them long-billed curlews and various shorebirds. Some decoys are artfully painted, others are so well-used and worn the paint is chipping away, but all the decoys are masterfully carved, capturing the birds in natural poses.

“The exhibition includes a range of decoys, from a simply carved black brant goose to an elegantly posed preening back duck,” said exhibition curator Margaret Andera. “While the function of the birds may be the same, the level of artistic expression varies from maker to maker.”

Including the decoys, *Uncommon Folk* has nearly six hundred works of folk and self-taught art in an unprecedented selection of American paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography, textiles, furniture, and decorative arts, including a collection of fifty fish decoys from the North American Fish Decoy Partners.

“The exhibition highlights the breadth and depth of the Museum’s world-class collection of American folk and self-taught art, from paintings to photographs to walking sticks to quilts,” said Daniel Keegan, director of the Milwaukee Art Museum. “This unique grouping of American folk and self-taught art is a testament to the Museum’s long history of collecting works by untrained creators.”

The Museum’s commitment to folk and self-taught art began as early as 1951, when Wisconsin artist Anna Louisa Miller gave the museum two works. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Museum continued to expand its collection while other museums were acquiring very little non-academic art.

“Thanks to the Museum’s rich holdings, *Uncommon Folk: Traditions in American Art* is able to overview the far-reaching variety in folk and self-taught art through a lively and visually compelling installation that has something for all ages,” said Keegan.



Elmer Crowell, (American, 1852–1951), Preening Black Duck, ca. 1910, Carved and painted wood with metal loop, nails, glass and glue

The duck decoys will be highlighted on Sunday, February 9, during Duck Decoy Day at the Museum.

*Uncommon Folk: Traditions in American Art runs January 31–May 4, 2014 at the Milwaukee Art Museum and is presented by the Caxambas Foundation and International Autos Group.*

#### **HOURS AND ADMISSION**

The Museum is open Tuesday–Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Thursdays until 8 p.m. Admission is \$17 for adults; \$14 for students, seniors, and active military; and free for Members and for children age 12 and under.

The first Thursday of each month is Target Free First Thursday and admission is free for individuals (does not apply to groups).

#### **ABOUT MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM**

The Milwaukee Art Museum houses a rich collection of over 30,000 works, with strengths in 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century American and European art, contemporary art, American decorative arts, and is the world’s leading repository for work by untrained creators. The Museum campus is located on the shores of Lake Michigan and spans three buildings, including the Santiago Calatrava-designed Quadracci Pavilion and the Eero Saarinen-designed Milwaukee County War Memorial Center. For more information, please visit [mam.org](http://mam.org).

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