For Immediate Release

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**The Muscarelle Museum of Art Announces**

**Norman Rockwell Boy Scout Exhibition**

Show Honors Robert Gates, William & Mary’s Chancellor and National President of the Boy Scouts of America

Williamsburg, Va. (Jan. 6, 2016) -- The Muscarelle Museum of Art is pleased to announce the opening of ***Norman Rockwell and the Boy Scouts*** on Feb. 6, 2016.

On loan from the National Scouting Museum in Fort Worth, Texas, are nine paintings by Rockwell (1894-1978), famed for his nostalgic and patriotic depictions of 20th-century American life. The National Scouting Museum contains the largest collection of Rockwell’s Scout paintings anywhere in the world.

***Norman Rockwell and the Boy Scouts*** is dedicated to William & Mary Chancellor and former U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates ’65, who became president of the Boy Scouts of America in May 2014. It also commemorates important anniversaries for both organizations: on February 8, William & Mary was chartered in 1693 and the Boy Scouts of America was founded in 1910. The National Scouting Museum and the Muscarelle Museum of Art celebrate their partnership on the university’s Charter Day weekend in association with this shared anniversary.

“William & Mary and the Boy Scouts of America are two great American institutions that have played profound roles in shaping our great nation,” said Gates. “Both institutions seek to instill in their charges a strong sense of moral character and civic responsibility, and they both possess remarkable records of providing enriching educational experiences to generations of American citizens and leaders.”

Rockwell was 18 years old in 1912 when he was hired to illustrate stories in the official scouting magazine, *Boys’ Life*. A year later, Rockwell became the publication’s chief illustrator and first art director. Although Rockwell left *Boys’ Life* in 1916 in order to begin his long career at *The Saturday Evening Post*, he reconnected with the Boy Scouts in 1925, when the publisher Brown & Bigelow featured one of his illustrations in its annual Scouting calendars. Rockwell’s relationship with the Boy Scouts spanned more than 60 years, resulting in nearly 500 images. His vividly realistic images came to embody the wide smiles, stars and stripes, salutes and aspirations of American Scouting.

The exhibition will be on view through Aug. 21, 2016.

**About the Muscarelle Museum of Art**

The Muscarelle Museum of Art is located on the campus of William & Mary at 603 Jamestown Rd in Williamsburg, Va. For more information, call 757-221-2700 or visit muscarelle.org. Follow on Twitter (@Muscarelle), Instagram (@muscarellemuseum) or on Facebook (Muscarelle Museum of Art).

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