



## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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For Immediate Release:

### **GARI MELCHERS CENTERPIECE OF GEORGIA EXHIBITION**

October 1, 2009

Gari Melchers, a famous painter with local ties, is the star attraction of *Dutch Utopia: American Artists in Holland, 1880-1914*, a traveling exhibition organized by the Telfair Museum of Art in Savannah, Georgia. The exhibition is scheduled to open there on October 1, 2009 through January 10, 2010. *Dutch Utopia* surveys the work of American artists who frequented or settled in Holland during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. It explores how their “constructed” imagery of picturesque Holland displayed a nostalgic yearning for a pre-industrial way of life and alluded to their own country’s colonial Dutch heritage. Of the 73 works by 43 artists showcased, nine are by Gari Melchers, including *In Holland*, loaned by the Gari Melchers Home and Studio, the museum at Belmont dedicated to the artist’s life and career. Melchers’ painting *The Sisters*, owned by the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., is featured on the cover of the exhibition’s accompanying catalog.

In addition to *In Holland*, Gari Melchers Home and Studio is loaning *Magnificat*, by George Hitchcock, the Rhode Island native with whom Melchers founded an international artist’s colony in North Holland. Also being lent is *Portrait of a Girl* by the American painter Walter MacEwen. *Portrait of a Girl* will appear in *Walter MacEwen: An American Expatriate Revisited*, a focus show running concurrently with *Dutch Utopia*.

From Savannah, *Dutch Utopia* will travel to the Taft Museum of Art in Cincinnati, Ohio (February 5 – May 2, 2010), the Grand Rapids Art Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan (May 23 – August 15, 2010) and conclude at the Singer Museum in Laren, the Netherlands (September 15, 2010 - January 16, 2011).

Gari Melchers Home and Studio is a 28-acre estate and former residence of the artist Gari Melchers and his wife Corinne. The property, which is operated by the University of Mary Washington, is both a Virginia Historic Landmark and a National Historic Landmark. Located at 224 Washington St. in Falmouth, Va., a quarter mile west of the intersection of U.S. 1 and U.S. 17, it is open daily with an admission charge. The museum also serves as the official Stafford County Visitor Center.

For directions and other information, call (540) 654-1015 or visit the museum website at [www.GariMelchers.org](http://www.GariMelchers.org).

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