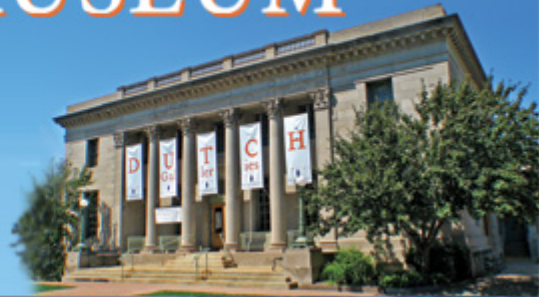


HOLLAND MUSEUM

31 West 10th Street • Holland, MI 49423
616.392.9084 • hollandmuseum.org



For Immediate Release

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Holland Museum's Joyous 'Smile' Exhibit Opens

--New and archival photos of nation's second happiest city's residents featured --

HOLLAND, MI - Mar. 31, 2010 -

The Holland Museum's large Wichers Gallery welcomes a new exhibit on April 7 when 'Smile' begins its four-month run.

'Smile' is being described as a dynamic assemblage of images representing Holland's diverse cultural past, present, and future. Photographs from the Museum's own Archive, the Joint Archives of Hope College, private local collections, and rising Holland area photographer Brad Bruce will be featured, along with videographies, a 'photo wall' montage, and stories of how various people came to choose Holland as their home. The exhibition was curated by Rebekah Bakker and designed by Taylor Wise-Harthorn.

'Smile' features the people and stories of Holland's rich past, thriving present and hopeful future. Founded in 1847 by Dutch immigrants, Holland, Michigan was built on the principles of religious freedom, hard work and the importance of family. As decades pass, people from other cultures who share these values have also come to call Holland home. Today, thanks to a legacy of rich cultural heritage, Holland is a thriving community of socially diverse and civically active citizens.

The Museum has encouraged locals to actively participate in the exhibit by sharing their stories and family photographs. Rebekah Bakker, Curator for the exhibit, organized incoming submissions and assisted Bruce with photography shoots. "I think we've found a really dynamic way to showcase the many faces of Holland," Bakker says.

'Smile' kicks off with a preview and reception for Holland Museum members on April 5, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. The event will feature refreshments and live music. 'Smile' opens to the public on April 7, and runs through August 28.

The Holland Museum is located at 31 W 10th Street. For more information, call (616) 392-9084, toll free (888) 200-9123, or visit hollandmuseum.org.

PHOTOS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT:

<http://hollandmuseum.org/downloads/smile.JPG>

PHOTO KEY AND CREDIT:

All photos courtesy Holland Museum/Holland Archive & Research Library

smile.JPG: "Necessary Lighting" by J. Jaspers, 1945. A photo of microbiologist, author, and Holland area resident Paul de Kruif is among those showing in Holland Museum's upcoming "Smile" exhibit. The museum has put out the call to locals to share their family photos and histories.

About Holland Museum

Holland Museum
31 West 10th St.
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-9084
www.hollandmuseum.org

The Holland Museum is located in the former Post Office, built in 1914, and houses an extensive, fascinating collection of artifacts. Exhibits focus on the story of the early Dutch settlement and its development into a thriving and diverse city.

Local History Exhibition (1st Floor)

Special cultural attractions from the "old country" include Dutch paintings and decorative arts, and exhibits from the Netherlands Pavilion of the 1939 New York World's Fair. Other permanent exhibits explore aspects of local history including Lake Michigan maritime, shipwrecks and resorts; agriculture and manufacturing; service to the community; the religious foundation of the "Holland Kolonie"; and an illustrated timeline of area history including its increasing ethnic diversity.

Temporary and Traveling Exhibitions (1st Floor)

Frequently changing temporary and traveling exhibits are shown in the Wichers Gallery. The current exhibition, running through March 21, 2010, is "Archipelago: Indigenous Art Of Indonesia & Melanesia."

The Dutch Galleries (2nd Floor)

Four new Dutch art galleries, exhibiting a growing collection of 17th to 19th century paintings and decorative arts has opened. Docents are on duty and guided tours are available. For children: "I Spy Adventure" and hands-on activities in "Mark's Room." The Holland Museum is an AAM accredited museum.

The Archives and Research Library (Basement)

The Archives and Research Library houses the museum's extensive paper collection of local history and Netherlands history, including the unparalleled Netherlands Information Service collection, is located on the lower level of the building with free access to the public.

About Cappon House

Cappon House Museum
228 West 9th Street
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-9084

www.hollandmuseum.org

Dutch immigrant architect Jan R. Kleyn designed this Italianate style house for Holland's first mayor and tannery owner, Isaac Cappon, and his large family. Owned by the Capps from 1873 until 1980, the house's stately interiors are furnished with one of the country's largest collections of early Grand Rapids furniture in its original setting. The house was comprehensively restored in 2000 - 2004 including the reproduction of original wallpapers, floor coverings and silk upholstery material. A Visitor Center, in the Cappon barn, is the starting point for touring both the Cappon and nearby Settlers houses.

Holland Historical Trust

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