

From: Columbia Museum of Art
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Cc:
Subject: The Columbia Museum of Art Announces 2015 Gala with Early Bird Special

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE

November 12, 2014

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The Columbia Museum of Art Announces 2015 Gala with Early Bird Special

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Columbia, S.C. - The Columbia Museum of Art announces the 2015 Gala, *A Fair to Remember*, held on Saturday, March 21, 2015. **Early Bird tickets are available for \$125 through November 30, 2014.** The discounted tickets are a great holiday gift for friends, family, or your significant other. Visit the Gala website today to buy tickets or become a sponsor, columbiamuseum.org/gala/

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A Fair to Remember celebrates the major spring exhibition, *Charles Courtney Curran: Seeking the Ideal*, with a grand party reminiscent of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair, where the American impressionist Curran exhibited his art and drew inspiration for several of his paintings. **The Gala is the CMA's largest fundraiser of the year** and raises critical funds to support the museum's mission to provide outstanding art and arts education for lifelong learning and community enrichment for all.

Seeking the Ideal is the first-ever museum retrospective of this American impressionist painter, bringing together 58 Curran masterpieces sure to astonish with their jewel-like color, soaring vistas and garden landscapes, and love for beauty. Charles Curran's heart was claimed by women, children, and flowers, and he devoted a lifetime to painting them in the full light of day out of doors. These are wistful images, each one full of optimism and grace. He looked for what was ideal in American life and made it even more so.

The CMA Gala is Columbia's most exciting party of the year. A team of over 80 core volunteers transform the entire museum and Boyd Plaza based on a theme from the current major exhibition. This year is a step back in time to 1893 when America was electrified by innovative changes in the arts and sciences. **Starting December 1, tickets will be available for the regular price of \$150.**

This event would not be possible without the generous contributions of our sponsors. Curran Presenting Sponsor: Jim Hudson Lexus; Ferris Sponsor: Lexington Medical Center; Tesla Sponsors: Hannah and Ron Rogers, Southern Way Catering; Edison Sponsor: Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina; Joplin Sponsors: Julianne Sojourner/ My Friend's Garden, Steven Ford Interiors, Inc.; Olmstead Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Berry, Jr., Steven Ford and Alonso Cuellar, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Mandel; Sousa Sponsors: Becky and Earl Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Richard McCaskill, Mr. and Mrs. Christian Depret-Bixio; and Media

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For information about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Elizabeth Wolfe, development manager, at (803) 343-2210 or ewolfe@columbiamuseum.org <mailto:ewolfe@columbiamuseum.org?Subject=2015%20Gala%20Sponsorship>.

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About the CMA

The Columbia Museum of Art is a charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to lifelong learning and community enrichment for all. Located in the heart of downtown Columbia, SC, CMA ranks among the leading art institutions in the country and is distinguished by its innovative exhibitions and creative educational programs. At the heart of the CMA and its programs is its collection, which encompasses nearly 7,000 works and spans thousands of years of history, representing a range of world cultures. Established in 1950, the CMA now welcomes more than 135,000 visitors annually and is a catalyst for community creativity, engaging people of all ages and backgrounds with a diverse spectrum of programming, from exhibitions and lectures to concerts, which appeal to a wide range of visitors and students. It is the recipient of a National Art Education Association award for its contributions to arts education and an Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Governor's Award for the Arts for outstanding contributions to the arts in South Carolina.

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