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Davison Art Center

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FRIENDS OF THE DAVISON ART CENTER,
WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, PRESENT

The Big Draw: Middletown

Saturday, April 16, 1:00–4:00 P.M.

(MIDDLETOWN, CT) – The Friends of the Davison Art Center present the fifth annual **The Big Draw: Middletown**, a community celebration of drawing with workshops designed for all skill levels, from beginning drawers to accomplished artists. The Big Draw will take place at four locations on the Wesleyan University campus: the Davison Art Center, the Center for the Arts, Beckham Hall, and Usdan University Center. The event is free and open to the public, from adults to children ages five and up. The Big Draw is modeled on the successful British program that promotes interactive activities designed to break down the “I can’t draw” syndrome and to celebrate the visual arts. Registration is on site at the day of the event.

This year the Big Draw features a special Koinobori Project workshop led by Japanese artist Taichiro Takamatsu. Takamatsu founded the Koinobori Project in 2012 and has led workshops creating carp flags in Australia, Austria, Germany, Japan, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Uganda. This will be the United States premiere of the project. The Koinobori Project is inspired by a Chinese folktale about a carp which was the only fish to succeed in swimming up a waterfall on the Yellow River. For his success, the carp was magically transformed into a dragon. The story symbolizes the carp’s courage, perseverance, and accomplishment, and in Japanese culture it has come to represent the wish for the wellbeing of children. On May 5th, the tradition in Japan is to fly flags in the image of a carp to celebrate children and express hope for their success. The flags created at the Big Draw workshop will later fly at *Feet to the Fire: Riverfront Encounter*, organized by Wesleyan University’s Center for the Arts, on Saturday, May 7, 2016.

The Big Draw will also include eight additional workshops throughout the Wesleyan campus. These will be facilitated by Wesleyan University professors of studio art and art

students. The wide range of activities will include developing narrative through drawing, drawing with inked feet to music, drawing from elaborate still lifes of taxidermy and skeletons, using giant Spirograph-style drawing tools, face painting, and more. Drawing study of nude models will be open to adults and to minors with parental permission. The Big Draw will take place rain or shine.

For more information, workshop details, and a map of drawing sites, please visit:

<http://fdac.wesleyan.edu/bigdraw>

The Big Draw: Middletown is organized and hosted by the Friends of the Davison Art Center.

Grant support from the Middletown Commission on the Arts.



Special funding for the Koinobori Project from the Community Foundation for Middlesex County in conjunction with the Center for the Arts, *Feet to the Fire: Riverfront Encounter*.

Gold Sponsors: Blick Art Material; Community Health Center; CT Yoga Center; and Middletown Framing.

Silver Sponsors: Anonymous; It's Only Natural; Kidcity Children's Museum; Middletown Toyota; Mondo Pizza; Munkittrick Associates; Nobul Apparel; Tesoro Artisan Gift Boutique and Gallery; and Ursel's Web.

Additional support from Wesleyan University Division I: Arts and Humanities; Davison Art Center; Art & Art History Department; and the College of East Asian Studies.

Davison Art Center gallery hours are Tuesday–Sunday, 12–4 P.M. The gallery is open to the public free of charge. The Davison Art Center is located at 301 High Street on the campus of Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT. The exhibition *Philip Trager: Photographing Ina* features 40 works by this internationally renowned photographer. For more information about the exhibition, phone (860) 685-2500 or visit the DAC website at www.wesleyan.edu/dac.

The Davison Art Center was established at Wesleyan University with the founding gifts of George W. Davison (B.A. Wesleyan 1892). Today it holds approximately 18,000 prints and 6,000 photographs in one of the foremost collections of prints and photographs at an American college or university.

The Friends of the Davison Art Center (FDAC) has been devoted to the growth and public enjoyment of the DAC collection since its founding in 1962. The primary mission of the FDAC is to expand and promote the Davison Art Center Collection at Wesleyan University through a wide variety of events for both its members and the greater community.

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