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Concord Museum Welcomes *The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated* Exhibition

Multimedia art of one of the Nation's most recognizable monuments on display until February '23

(CONCORD – September 5, 2022) The Concord Museum is pleased to announce [The Lincoln Memorial Illustrated](#) exhibition will be on view from September 30 through February 26, 2023.

One of the most famous sites in the country, the Lincoln Memorial is now a century old. Dedicated in May 1922, it was designed by architect Henry Bacon and Concord sculptor Daniel Chester French, and it has served as a gathering place for some of the most significant and symbolic events of the past one hundred years. It has become an almost sacred space for civic expression focusing on race relations and human rights.

Created by the Norman Rockwell Museum in collaboration with [Chesterwood](#) (the historic summer home and studio of [Daniel Chester French](#)), the exhibition will highlight the work of noted artists who have incorporated the instantly-recognizable icon as a symbolic element. More than 50 historical and contemporary multimedia artworks will showcase and contextualize the Lincoln Memorial's cultural significance, including original paintings and illustrations, archival photographs, sculpture, artifacts, ephemera, and more.

Daniel Chester French, the sculptor of the Lincoln Memorial, moved with his family to Concord in 1867, where he became a neighbor and friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson. In 1875, French sculpted The Minute Man statue in Concord, where it still stands today as an American icon. French is buried at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord.

“At The Concord Museum, we are constantly trying to challenge our audiences to view their world in unique and diverse ways,” said Lisa Krassner, Executive Director. “As the iconic Lincoln Memorial celebrated its centennial birthday earlier this year and there’s a direct tie-in with the sculptor having lived and worked in Concord - it is such a privilege to host this significant exhibit with our community and beyond.”

Featured moments in the Lincoln Memorial's history include contralto Marian Anderson's iconic 1939 performance, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech during the 1963 March on Washington, and the 2018 Women's March, highlighting the significance of this site to the civil rights movement and other rallies focused on social justice. A media installation by RLMG will feature sketches, photographs, and films to narrate the story of the Memorial's construction and offer insight into the monument's history and prominence in popular culture.

"The iconic seated figure of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Memorial is notably the crowning achievement of Daniel Chester French's artistic career," stated Donna Hassler, Executive Director, Chesterwood. "We are pleased to have this opportunity to celebrate the centennial of America's most beloved monument."

The exhibition will be on view from September 30, 2022 to February 26, 2023.

RELATED PROGRAMS

The Living Memorial: Daniel Chester French's Lincoln at 100 with Harold Holzer Wednesday, September 28, 2022

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Churchill and Janet Franklin Lyceum and Livestreamed

Free Member | \$10 Non-Member | Free Virtual

Harold Holzer, leading historian of Abraham Lincoln and author of the award-winning *Monument Man: The Life and Art of Daniel Chester French*, explores the 50-year career of the great American sculptor, and his greatest achievement: the iconic Lincoln statue on the National Mall. How did French prepare for his biggest challenge? And how has the Lincoln Memorial achieved immortality in American art, iconography, history, and tradition? A book sale and signing will follow the program in partnership with the Concord Bookshop.

Monuments of Concord Walking Tour

Saturday, October 1, 2022

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Free Member | \$15 Non-Member

Join us for a guided walk of monuments in Concord's town center. What do they commemorate? Who built them? And what is their legacy today? In the town where Daniel Chester French received his first commission, there are many monuments to explore.

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About the Concord Museum

The Concord Museum educates visitors of all ages about the history of Concord and its continuing influence on American political, literary, and cultural life. The Museum's nationally significant collection serves as a catalyst for changing exhibitions, extended classroom learning, dynamic programs, and publications relevant to an ever-changing world. Founded in 1886, the Museum is a center of cultural enjoyment for the region and a gateway to the town of Concord, Massachusetts for visitors from around the world. In 2021, the Museum completed a *New*

Museum Experience initiative that funded the complete redesign and fabrication of all new dynamic and multi-media installations of the permanent galleries. www.concordmuseum.org

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IMAGE CREDITS

Istvan Banyai, *Set in Stone*.
The New Yorker, October 13, 2008
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Chad Gowey
Martin Luther King, Jr. delivering the "I Have a Dream" speech to over 250,000 civil rights supporters, August 28, 1963, 2014
Book illustration for *Lincoln Memorial* by Jay Sachel, Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2014
Watercolor on paper
Collection of the artist
Image © 2014 by Chad Gowey. All rights reserved.