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***Two Republics: 17th Century Dutch & 19th Century
American Art
for the Common Man Exhibit Opens Early***

Columbus, GA – The Columbus Museum is pleased to present *Two Republics: 17th Century Dutch & 19th Century American Art for the Common Man*, on view in the Hardaway Galleries now through January 11, 2015. This exhibition is made possible through generous funding by Aflac and Synovus.

The featured works illustrate cultural parallels found between the Dutch Golden age of the 17th century and 19th century America. Both societies emphasized notions of freedom, the common man, love for the land, and pride in national identity. Everyday scenes of life are depicted through elaborate still lifes with colorful natural and man-made objects, landscapes showing the Dutch and American citizens' regard for their land, and pendant portraits of husbands and wives with full-length portraits of their children. Symbols of daily life capture the rise of the middle class as two republics emerged.

Two Republics is the first display of Old Masters paintings at the Museum since the 1970 exhibition *Old Masters from the Metropolitan Museum of Art*. It is also the first show to emphasize Dutch painting. This exhibit places American works from the Museum's collection with Dutch works on loan from various collections side by side. Lenders include The Columbia Museum of Art (South Carolina), the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens (Florida), Lawrence Steigrad Fine Art (New York), Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Mint Museum of Art (North Carolina), Betty Krulik Fine Art, Ltd. (New York), and the North Carolina Museum of Art.

The public is invited to view this exhibit and attend the related programs. The Museum's newly-formed Teen Advisory Group will host *Afternoon in Amsterdam*, November 8; 2-5 P.M. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore Dutch culture through music, food and trivia. The Museum's Director of Collections and Exhibitions, Kristen Miller Zohn, will explore the exhibit's featured works in an in depth discussion during the Lunch and Lecture program: *Ruffles and Ruffs- Discovering Hidden Meanings in Dutch and American Paintings*, November 14; Noon-1 P.M. Programs will continue with Third Thursday, November 20; 6-8 P.M., featuring live music, guided tours of the exhibit, and food. Dance instruction will be provided at 5:15 P.M. for those interested in learning English Country dance. Each listed program is free to attend and open to the public.

For more information about *Two Republics* and its related programming, visit: <http://www.columbusmuseum.com/exhibition/two->

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The Columbus Museum is the second largest general museum in Georgia and is unique for its dual concentration on American art and regional history. While carrying forth its mission to bring American art and history to life for the communities of the Chattahoochee Valley, the Museum serves as a hub of community learning and enjoyment. Through an educational approach, the Museum strives to ignite creativity, inspire critical thinking, and spark conversation.

Pictured:

1 *Grigsby Eskeridge Thomas, Sr.*, 1838, oil on canvas, 30 ¼ x 25 ¼",
C.R. Parker, American, 1799-1849,
Collection of the Columbus Museum; Gift of Dr. William L. Sibley III
and his wife, Ruth F. Sibley G.2005.36.1

2 *Mary A. Shivers Thomas*, 1838, oil on canvas, 30 ¼ x 25 ¼", C.R.
Parker, American, 1799-1849,
Collection of the Columbus Museum; Gift of Dr. William L. Sibley III
and his wife, Ruth F. Sibley G.2005.36.2

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