

SELECTED CHRONOLOGY OF JAMES WYETH

1946

6 July. James Browning Wyeth born in Wilmington, Delaware to Andrew Newell Wyeth (b.1917) and Betsy James Wyeth (b. 1921). James, known as Jamie, has one brother, Nicholas (b. 1943).

1959

Leaves school in seventh grade, against the wishes of the Pennsylvania School Board, to devote himself to painting. He is tutored in academic subjects in the mornings and spends afternoons in formal study of drawing with Carolyn Wyeth, his aunt.

1961

Completes first oil of a friend, Jimmy Lynch, *The Soldier* (Stuart Kingston Galleries, Delaware). Works primarily on watercolor landscapes of Brandywine Valley and Maine, where family spends summers. **Completes:** *Luke* (private collection).

1963

Explores portraiture in oil. First acquisition by a museum, *The Capstan*, 1963, (Farnsworth Art Museum). **Completes:** *Shorty* (Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wyeth), *Lester* (private collection), *Portrait of Helen Taussig* (John Hopkins University - commissioned by the University), *Mushroom Picker* (private collection).

1964

Family friend, actor Robert Montgomery, commissions portrait. **Completes:** *The Axe* (private collection), *Record Player* (private collection), *Halloween* (private collection), *Portrait of Deo duPont Weymouth* (private collection), *Portrait of Hamelainen* (private collection).

1965

Enlists in the Delaware Air National Guard, attending boot camp in Amarillo, Texas. Studies with Russian anatomist at morgue in New York City for two months, dissecting and drawing cadavers.

Paints portraits of New York City Ballet founder and family friend, Lincoln Kirstein. Meets other artists with whom he will later work, including Andy Warhol.

Completes: *Portrait of Lincoln Kirstein* (National Portrait Gallery, gift of Lincoln Kirstein), *Draft Age* (Brandywine River Museum).

1966

First one-man show, *James Wyeth Paintings*, Knoedler Gallery, New York City. (Lincoln Kirstein writes foreword to exhibition catalogue.)

Declines commission from Kennedy family for portrait of President John F. Kennedy. Decides to complete portrait on his own. Befriends Jacqueline and other members of family. Sketches brothers, Robert and Edward, as reference for final portrait. **Completes:** *Portrait of Jeffrey* (private collection), *The Squall* (private collection), *Portrait of Governor Charles L. Terry, Jr.* (Bureau of Museums, State of Delaware - completed as part of his duty for Delaware Air National Guard), *Bronze Age* (Farnsworth Art Museum).

1967

Exhibits works at National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; participating artist in the "Eyewitness to Space" program sponsored by NASA (other participants included Lamar Dodd, Peter Hurd, Robert Rauschenberg, and Andy Warhol).

Completes: *Portrait of John F. Kennedy* (private collection).

1968

Purchases home built by artist Rockwell Kent on Monhegan Island, Maine, and begins spending summers there. Focuses on landscapes of island, 11 December. Marries Phyllis Mills **Completes:** *Portrait of Lady* (private collection), *Island Roses* (Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wyeth).

1969

11 July - 8 September. First one-man museum show, *Oils, Watercolors and Drawings by James Wyeth*, Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, Maine.

Elected Associate of the National Academy of Design, one of youngest in institution's history.

Completes: *Portrait of Andrew Wyeth* (Collection of the Artist), *Apollo 11 --One, Two, Three* (National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution), *Wide Load* (National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution), *Median Strip* (private collection).

1970

Completes: *Portrait of Pig* (Brandywine River Museum), *Sea of Storms* (private collection), *Gull Rock* (MBNA America).

1972

Appointed council member National Endowment for the Arts.

Completes: *Pumpkins at Sea* (private collection), *Newfoundland* (private collection), *Kent House* (Brandywine River Museum), *The Red House* (Collection of the Artist), *Portrait of Jean Kennedy Smith* (private collection), *Pumpkinhead - Self Portrait* (private collection).

1973

Completes: *Portrait of Paul Mellon* (private collection - commissioned by sitter).

1974

James Wyeth Recent Paintings, first exhibition at Coe Kerr Gallery, New York City, which represents him until it closes, 1993.

Commissioned by *Harper's Magazine* to be court artist for Watergate trials. Sketches published throughout special issue, "American Character: Trial and Triumph" *Harper's Magazine*, 249, no. 1493 (October 1974).

First meets Nureyev. Asks dancer to pose for portrait. Nureyev declines.

Completes: *Shark* (private collection), *Scavenger* (private collection), *Angus* (private collection), *Grackles and Angus* (private collection).

1975

Invited by the Soviet government's Union of Artists and Writers to visit U.S.S.R. art centers and speak to members.

Awarded honorary Doctor of Letters from Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania.

Completes: *And Then Into the Deep Gorge* (private collection), *Portrait of Thomas Jefferson* (private collection), *The Islander* (Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wyeth).

1976

Invited by Andy Warhol to paint in Warhol's Broadway studio known as "The Factory."

The two artists paint portraits of each other.

Exhibition, *Portraits of Each Other*, organized by Coe Kerr Gallery, New York City. Travels to Everson Museum of Art, Syracuse, New York; Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center at Cheekwood, Nashville, Tennessee; Brandywine River Museum, Chadds, Ford, Pennsylvania; and Hotel de Paris, Monaco.

Exhibition, *James Wyeth*, organized by Coe Kerr Gallery, New York City, travels to Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska. (Art Historian Theodore E. Stebbins, Jr., writes essay for exhibition catalogue.) *Portrait of Thomas Jefferson* appears in *Time*, (July 4, Bicentennial issue). Completed portrait of President-Elect Jimmy Carter published on cover of *Time* (January 1977), when Carter is named "Man of the Year." Associated pencil studies appear in *The New Republic*, 22 January 1977.

Completes: *Portrait of Andy Warhol* (Tennessee Fine Arts Center at Cheekwood), *Jimmy Carter* (National Portrait Gallery, gift of *Time*), *Man from Boston* (private collection).

1977

Meets Nureyev again. Dancer agrees to pose for portrait. Watches rehearsals from the wings at Uris Theater, New York City. Completes series of over thirty portrait studies and one large oil. Lincoln Kirstein purchases a study.

Completes: *Portrait of Rudolf Nureyev* (private collection), *Portrait of Arnold Schwarzenegger* (private collection - completed in "The Factory"), *Giant Clam* (private collection), *The Rookery* (Pepsico, Inc.).

1978

Completes: *Monhegan Bell* (MBNA America), *Runaway Pig* (private collection), *Looking South* (private collection), *Whale* (private collection).

1979

Illustrates children's book, *The Stray*, written by Betsy James Wyeth, based on life and people in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. Published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Completes: *Angeload* (private collection), *Automaton* (Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Fowler), *Wicker* (Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wyeth), pen and ink drawings for *The Stray* (Collection of the Artist).

1980

First major retrospective, *Jamie Wyeth*, organized by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. Travels to Greenville County Museum of Art, South Carolina; and to Amon Carter Museum of Art, Fort Worth, Texas. Accompanying book published by Houghton Mifflin.

Experiments with etching and lithography.

Completes: *Raven* (Brandywine River Museum), *A Very Small Dog* (MBNA America), series of etchings called *The Farm*, lithographs *To Sail Against the Wind*, and *A Sea Pumpkin*.

1981

Commissioned by President and Mrs. Reagan to paint *Christmas Eve at the White House*, reproduced as White House Christmas card.

Completes: *10W30* (Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wyeth), *30 Dozen* (private collection), *Leghorns*, (private collection).

1982

Completes: *Coast Guard Anchor* (Farnsworth Art Museum), *A Couple of Chairs Sitting Around the Coast of Maine* (private collection), *Feeding Ledge* (private collection), *Mallard* (private collection), *Tide* (private collection), *Coast Guard Issue* (MBNA America), *Island Geese* (private collection).

1983

Awarded honorary Doctor of Letters from Dickinson School of Law, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

Exhibition of recent work, *Jamie Wyeth in Alaska*, organized by Coe Kerr Gallery, New York City. Travels to Anchorage Fine Arts Museum, Fairbanks; and Alaska State Museum, Juneau.

Completes: *The Summer in Maine* (Collection of Leslie S. Turchin), *Night Chickens* (private collection), *Chadds Ford Inn Pumpkin Carve* (private collection), *Fall Roses* (private collection).

1984

Second commission by the Reagans, *Christmas Morning at the White House*, reproduced as White House Christmas card.

Exhibition, *Jamie Wyeth: An American View*, organized by Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine. Travels to Columbia Museum, Columbia, South Carolina, and The Oklahoma Art Center, Oklahoma City.

Completes: *Breakfast at Sea* (private collection), *Wolfbane* (Brandywine River Museum), *Kleberg* (Terra Museum of American Art).

1985

Completes: *Sea Star* (Terra Museum of American Art), *New Year's Calling* (private collection).

1986

Exhibition, *An American View: Three Generations of Wyeth Art*, organized by the Brandywine River Museum, and includes works by Andrew and N. C. Wyeth.

Exhibition travels over the next two years to Washington, D.C., Dallas, Texas, Chicago, Illinois, as well as Italy, England, Japan, and Russia.

(Lincoln Kirstein writes essay for exhibition catalogue published by Bullfinch Press.)

Completes: *Newt of Monhegan* (private collection), *Kalounna in Frogtown* (Terra Museum of American Art), *Southern Light* (private collection).

1987

Completes: *Scotia Prince* (private collection), *Connemara* (private collection), *Giuliana and the Sunflowers* (Brandywine River Museum), *The Influence Rose* (private collection).

1988

Awarded honorary doctoral degree from University of Vermont, Burlington.

Completes: *Gull's Egg* (Collection of the Artist), *Russians Off the Coast of Maine* (MBNA America), *Sable* (private collection), *Fog Bound Island* (private collection).

1989

Begins painting Monhegan Island teenager, Orca Bates, who figures prominently in his work of the early 1990s.

Completes: *Sesquicentennial* (Collection of Mr. Daniel K. Thorne), *Love the Giver* (private collection), *Door Wolf* (private collection), *Squirrelling* (Collection of the Artist), *Portrait of Orca Bates* (Farnsworth Art Museum).

1990

Jefferson (private collection), mixed media portrait of the president, on long-term loan at Monticello.

Moves to lightkeeper's house on Southern Island, off Tenants Harbor, Maine.

Completes: *Russian Circus Bear* (private collection), *Islanders* (private collection), *Orca Bates* (private collection), *Orca in Winter* (private collection).

1991

Completes: *Portrait of Richard Paul Mills* (private collection), *Buoy Tree* (private collection), *Connemara Four* (Cawley Family Collection).

1992

Completes: *Bi-Coastal* (private collection), *Michael, 21st Earl of Suffolk and the 14th Earl of Berkshire* (private collection), *The Mainland* (private collection), *The Wanderer* (private collection), *Light Station* (MBNA America).

1993

Exhibition, *Jamie Wyeth: Islands*, works completed on Maine islands, organized by the Farnsworth Art Museum.

6 January. Nureyev dies in Paris.

Three-Quarter Figure, Study for Portrait of Rudolf Nureyev, Study #91 (Collection of Albert, Kathlene, and Catharine Parnell) exhibited at Russian Embassy, Washington, D.C., during memorial service for Nureyev. *White Highlights, Three-Quarter Figure, Nureyev, Study #15* (Collection of the Artist) exhibited in Ambassador's residence in Paris from 1993 to 1997.

Awarded honorary Doctor of Letters from Westbrook College, Portland, Maine.

Completes: *Lighthouse* (private collection), *Iris at Sea* (private collection), *Meteor Shower* (Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wyeth), *Black Background, Three-Quarter Figure, Nureyev*, (Collection of Artist), *White Highlights, Three-Quarter Figure, Nureyev* (Collection of the Artist), *Nude, Three-Quarter Figure, Nureyev* (Collection of the Artist), *Yellow Leotard, Three-Quarter Figure, Nureyev* (private collection).

1994

Receives commission to create portrait of Eunice Kennedy Shriver for 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games Commemorative Coin (May 1995, Philadelphia Mint).

Completes: *Cat and Mouse* (private collection), *Screen Door to the Sea* (Farnsworth Art Museum), *Black Spruce* (Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art).

1995

Completes: *Cat Bates of Monhegan* (private collection), *Other Voices* (private collection), *Dome Room* (Warner Collection), *Sunset, Southern Island* (private collection).

1996

5 January. Lincoln Kirstein dies.

Completes: *Vice President's House* (private collection), *Nine is a Secret* (private collection), *If Once You Have Slept on an Island* (private collection), *The Thief* (MBNA America), *Sophomore at Bowdoin* (private collection), paintings for *Cabbages and Kings* (Collection of the Artist).

1997

Illustrates children's book, *Cabbages and Kings*, published by Viking, text by Elizabeth Seabrook.

Exhibition, *N. C. Wyeth and his Grandson: A Legacy*, organized by the Terra Museum of American Art, Chicago, Illinois. Travels to Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Completes: *Saltwater Ice* (private collection), *Comet* (MBNA America), *Wolfgang of Monhegan* (private collection), *Lighthouse Dandelions* (MBNA America).

1998

Wyeth Center opens, Farnsworth Art Museum. Includes gallery spaces, archive storage, and research library. Inaugural exhibition, *Wondrous Strange*, also features works by Howard Pyle, N. C., and Andrew Wyeth. Exhibition travels to Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington.

Completes: *Ice Storm, Maine* (private collection), *Katie on Southern* (private collection), *Maine Coon Cat* (MBNA America), *Harbor, Monhegan* (MBNA America).

1999

Exhibition, *Dead Cat Museum, Monhegan Island*, organized by James Graham and Sons, New York City.

Completes: *Drink* (Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wyeth), *Eat* (Farnsworth Art Museum), *The Church* (MBNA America), *The Wind* (private collection), *The Tempest, a Triptych* (MBNA America), *Julia on the Swing* (Cawley Family Collection), *Dead*

Cat Museum, Monhegan Island (Cawley Family Collection).

2000

Exhibition of political theme paintings, *One Nation: Patriots and Pirates Portrayed by N. C. Wyeth and James Wyeth*, organized by the Farnsworth Art Museum. Travels to Russell Rotunda at the Capitol, Washington, D.C. (coincides with inauguration of George W. Bush, January 2001). Additional venues include: New Britain Museum of American Art, Connecticut; Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania; and Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota, Florida.

Completes: *Dawn, The White House, 2000* (The White House Historical Association), *Fogbank* (MBNA America), *Hillgirt Farm* (Brandywine River Museum), *Final Approach Into Philadelphia* (MBNA America), *The Island's Schoolteacher* (Collection of Bebe and Crosby Kemper).

2001

Awarded honorary Doctor of Letters from the University of Maine, Orono.

Completes: *The Raven and the Girl* (private collection), *Iceberg* (private collection), *Portrait of Nureyev* (Collection of Jim and Jocelyn Stewart), *Nureyev - Purple Scarf* (Collection of the Artist), *Nureyev - Don Quixote - Yellow Background* (Collection of the Artist), *Nureyev - Don Quixote - White Background* (Collection of the Artist), *Nureyev - Swan Lake* (Collection of the Artist), *Mort de Nureev* (Collection of the Artist), *Curtain Call* (Collection of the Artist).