

## **Appraisal Day to Benefit the Mercer Museum**

*A Day of Appraisals and Conservation Estimates at  
Doylestown's Gratz Gallery & Conservation Studio*

Appraisal Day is returning again to the Gratz Gallery & Conservation Studio, recently relocated to Doylestown from New Hope, Pennsylvania. People travel from near and far to this annual event, with paintings and frames in-tow, to get guidance from two of the region's foremost fine art experts. If you've always wondered what that painting is worth that your grandparents gave you, or what it would take to repair the rip in the painting that fell off the wall last year, Gratz Gallery & Conservation Studio will be offering a day of appraisals and conservation estimates on Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, from 1 pm to 5pm. This year, to make the event even more exciting, we are encouraging a donation of \$20, which will directly benefit the Mercer Museum of Doylestown. Bring your great-aunt's portrait for a fair-market appraisal; find out what's underneath that soot-darkened painting in your attic; bring your Bucks County art for a cleaning and repair estimate. Bring in your paintings and old frames for insight and guidance from the gallery's owner and lead conservator, Paul Gratz with Cindy Charleston, ISA CAPP, one of the nation's foremost appraisers. Due to the popularity of this annual event, patrons are requested to limit their inquiries to two pieces per family. The appraisers will get to all the paintings they possibly can in the day.

Your donation at the Gratz Gallery Appraisal Day Event will help support much needed conservation work on artifacts and artwork in the Mercer Museum's collections. Operated by the Bucks County Historical Society, the Mercer Museum contains one of the most extensive collections of materials associated with everyday life, art and work in early America. It is especially renowned for its collection of tools and other artifacts associated with pre-industrial trades, agricultural labor, and domestic work, much of which was assembled by founder Henry Chapman Mercer in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Inspired by Mercer's founding vision, and his dramatic architecture, the Historical Society and Museum seek to cultivate a broad appreciation and awareness of our past, helping audiences find stories and meanings to sustain them in the present and aid them in approaching the future. To learn more about the Mercer Museum, including its upcoming Auction Fundraiser on the evening of Friday, April 16, 2010, go to [www.mercermuseum.org](http://www.mercermuseum.org)

Cindy Charleston Rosenberg, ISA CAPP, is the founder and President of The Art Appraisal Firm, an independent appraisal company dedicated exclusively to the appraisal of fine art. Ms. Rosenberg has distinguished the firm within the industry by removing potential bias from the appraisal process. Art Appraisal Firm appraisers do not sell, broker, or represent fine art for sale in any capacity. For this reason, prominent auction houses, prestigious galleries, national museums, financial advisors, attorneys and private collectors from around the country rely confidently upon her expertise as an unbiased independent appraiser and art consultant. A fully Accredited Member of the International Society of Appraisers (ISA), Cindy utilizes her more than twenty years experience in the marketplace to evaluate collections of American and European paintings and sculpture. In 2007, Ms. Rosenberg was awarded the ISA CAPP distinction by completing the experience, continuing education, report writing, and qualifying examination requirements for ISA Certification to Appraise Fine Art (CAPP). CAPP status is the highest level of recognition ISA can bestow. As of this writing, there are fewer than 25 individuals holding the ISA CAPP designation in Fine Art in the United States and Canada. Certification to appraise personal property issued through this program is the result of a several year process of study that includes instruction, research, testing and peer review. ISA Certified membership also requires continuing education and a re-qualification examination every five years.

Specializing in the conservation of oil paintings and gilt frames for twenty-five years, Paul Gratz's formal training began at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and was developed through various apprenticeships with some of the nation's most respected art conservators. Today, Paul leads a team of skilled artisans in combining modern techniques with Old World craftsmanship to offer the finest in treatment for oil paintings, murals and gilt objects. Since 1982 Gratz has provided his services to museums, historical societies, universities, churches and many private collections. "Truly skilled conservation of your art", says Gratz, "preserves as much as is possible of the original art itself, and therefore preserves its utmost value. Conservation treatment restores original radiance, color and detail to your treasured oil paintings, adding years of life and maximum value to even the most damaged artwork. Our dedication to the quality of care for your investment is surpassed only, perhaps, by our passion for the beauty of the craft itself."

Located at 68 S. Main Street in Doylestown, the Gratz Gallery & Conservation Studio specializes in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century American paintings, with a focus on painters from the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. In addition to art investment Gratz Gallery also offers custom framing, and run a conservation studio specializing in the treatment and stabilization of oil paintings. The gallery is open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and Sundays, 12:00 noon – 6:00 p.m., as well as by appointment. Call 215-348-2500 or visit the Gratz Gallery and Conservation Studio website at [www.gratzgallery.com](http://www.gratzgallery.com).