

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Note: Images available on request

***Rockwell's America Brings History to Life at Union Station***  
***Interactive exhibit lets visitors "step inside" the American Dream***

(Kansas City, Mo.) – This summer, Union Station Kansas City will celebrate the art and tradition of famed *Saturday Evening Post* illustrator, Norman Rockwell. The traveling exhibit, *Rockwell's America: Celebrating the Art of Norman Rockwell*, has been delighting audiences around the country and is coming to Union Station from June 22 to September 23 to inspire another generation of viewers.

Tickets for the exhibit are on sale now and are \$8.95 for non-members, \$5.95 for members. Non-members can gain admission for \$5.95 with the purchase of a Round Trip or Express ticket to Union Station. For tickets and more information, call (816) 460-2020 or visit [www.unionstation.org](http://www.unionstation.org). Exhibit hours are 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Beginning the week of July 2, free guided tours will be available at 2 p.m. Friday – Sunday. Please call ahead to confirm availability of tours.

Additionally, two special events will take place over the course of the exhibition. **First, Maureen Hart Hennessey, former chief curator at The Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge, will give a public lecture at 11 a.m. Saturday, June 23, in Town Hall at Union Station.** Second, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, July 28, Norman Rockwell impersonator Sam Harper will chat with visitors about Rockwell's art, while portraying the artist himself. Guests young and old are encouraged to meet this uncanny look-alike.

In *Rockwell's America*, the largest Norman Rockwell exhibit ever created, Rockwell's art comes off of the wall, combining original art and *Post* covers with three-dimensional, life-size depictions of his most beloved characters. Visitors young and old will take a trip back in time as they step inside *Rockwell's America* to experience a dramatic, 3D walk through an interactive and artistic portrayal of the American Dream.

The cultural and technological changes that shaped America in Rockwell's time are apparent in his artwork. Exhibit-goers exploring "Main Street," sitting in a Ford Model T and relaxing in the soda shop will quickly find themselves in the middle of World War II,

**(more)**

## **Rockwell's America page 2**

where they will check out a military Jeep, listen to radio broadcasts and view Rockwell's poignant paintings of G.I. men and the women who built planes and tanks to aid the war effort.

Using educational and entertaining experiences, this exhibit introduces younger viewers to 20th century America and reminds us all of times gone by. By being able to literally "step inside" some of his most famous illustrations, visitors will step inside history. Through his timeless art, Rockwell told the story of ordinary America and reminded us of our best ideals and qualities. Whether of a boy and his dog, a first love, or a walk to church on Sunday morning, his slice-of-life illustrations made everyday moments special and related to everyone who saw them.

**Union Station's exhibit will feature two of Rockwell's original paintings: "Elect Casey," *The Saturday Evening Post* cover from November 8, 1958, and "Downhill Daring," the *Country Gentleman* cover from December 27, 1919. Both paintings are oil on canvas.**

### **About Union Station Kansas City, Inc.**

Union Station is Kansas City's signature historical landmark and a civic asset. Renovated and reopened to the public in 1999, Union Station plays a key role in Kansas City's regional history. A voter approved bistate cultural sales tax, the first of its kind in the country, funded nearly half of the \$250 million renovation. The remaining money was raised through private donations and federal funding. Union Station receives no public funding.

Current operating costs are funded by general admission and theater ticketing, grants, private donations, commercial space leases and facility rental. Union Station is a nonprofit 501c3 organization. The Station is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Union Station Kansas City, Inc. also operates the Kansas City Museum in Kansas City's historic northeast neighborhood.

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