

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 217 Films

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**In 1913, why did President Theodore Roosevelt call Cubism “repellent”? Find out at the world premiere of 217 Films’ *“The Great Confusion: The 1913 Armory Show”* at the New Britain Museum of American Art on September 26 at 6:00 PM**

**NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT (September 3, 2013)** – In 1913, The International Exhibition of Modern Art, known as the 1913 Armory Show, changed the face of art in America...for it was where many Americans had their first taste of a kind of art that did not look like anything they had ever seen. By entering through the doors of an armory between 25th and 26th Streets in New York City, they entered through the doors of the Modern Era.

From February 17 until March 15, 1913, Americans by the thousands pushed their way through the doors of the 69th Regiment Armory to experience Modern Art for the first time. What they saw annoyed and infuriated some...and captivated, delighted, and inspired many.

President Theodore Roosevelt, upon visiting the exhibition, called the most modern of these works “repellent”...and that was just the beginning of the controversy surrounding this historic show.

“On September 26th, President Roosevelt will be at the New Britain Museum of American Art to explain himself,” said Connecticut-based filmmaker Michael Maglaras.

Independent filmmakers Michael Maglaras and Terri Templeton of 217 Films will be joined by Roosevelt repressor Joe Weigand at the world premiere of their new film *“The Great Confusion: The 1913 Armory Show”* which will have its first screening anywhere at the New Britain Museum of American Art on September 26.

Armory Show scholar, Laurette McCarthy, also appears in the film and will attend the world premiere.

Excerpts from the film can be viewed at this link: <http://vimeo.com/71219208>.

“The more I dug deeply into the history of the Armory Show,” said director Michael Maglaras, who also wrote the film and narrates it, “the more it became clear to me that, with the Armory Show, we had truly entered the American century: the century of our greatest achievements as a nation and the beginning of our preeminence on the world stage.”

What resulted from these four weeks of mass exposure to European artists such as Cezanne, Renoir, Van Gogh, and the upstart Marcel Duchamp with his “Nude Descending a Staircase” as well as such Americans as Marsden Hartley, John Marin, and Charles Sheeler, changed how Americans came to understand their own times.

“*The Great Confusion: The 1913 Armory Show*” features works by more than 60 American and European painters. The film probes deeply into the history of how the show was organized; examines the critical organizational efforts of American artists such as Arthur B. Davies, Walter Pach, and Walt Kuhn; and explores the impact that the show had on collectors of art as well as ordinary citizens.

**WHAT:** World Premiere of 217 Films’ “*The Great Confusion: The 1913 Armory Show*”  
A special red carpet event.

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 26, 2013 at 6:00 PM (5:30 PM reception)

**WHERE:** New Britain Museum of American Art, 56 Lexington St., New Britain, Connecticut

**COST:** Tickets \$20 (Reservations are required. Seating is limited.)

**FMI:** Heather Whitehouse, TEL: 860-229-0257 Ext. 203, [whitehouseh@nbmaa.org](mailto:whitehouseh@nbmaa.org)

**More about 217 Films:** 217 Films is an independent film company in Ashford, Connecticut devoted to the American artistic experience. “*The Great Confusion: The 1913 Armory Show*” is 217 Films’ fifth film since 2005 about the art born of the profound energy and vigor of the American twentieth century.

In 2005, Michael Maglaras and Terri Templeton released their first film “Cleophas and His Own” about American painter Marsden Hartley's epic narrative of love and loss. Maglaras both directed and played the role of Hartley in this film. In 2008, they released a second film about Hartley called “*Visible Silence: Marsden Hartley, Painter and Poet*” – the first-ever documentary on the life of Hartley. In 2010, with their film “*John Marin: Let the Paint be Paint!*” they established, through the first full-length documentary on this important painter, that John Marin was one of the fathers of American Modernism. All three films, among other distinctions, have been shown to acclaim at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Their fourth film, “*O Brother Man: The Art and Life of Lynd Ward*” was released in 2012 and is currently on tour across the United States and will screen this winter in New York City.

The *Sacramento Bee* called Michael Maglaras a filmmaker of “Bergman-like gravitas.” His films have been described as “virtuoso filmmaking” (*National Gallery of Art*) “alive and fresh” (*Art New England*) and “elegiac and insightful” (*Naples Daily News*). David Berona, author of “Wordless Books” has said of “*O Brother Man*” “This film is stunning.” Judith Regan of Sirius XM Radio called it “Magnificent.”

**On the Web:**

217 Films: [www.two17films.com](http://www.two17films.com)

New Britain Museum of American Art: [www.nbmaa.org](http://www.nbmaa.org)

Excerpts from the film: <http://vimeo.com/71219208>

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