

For Immediate Release:

Media Contacts:

Danforth Museum of Art: Katherine French
508.620.0050x11; kfrench@danforthmuseum.org
Davis Museum and Cultural Center: Barbara Levitov
781.283.2034 blevitov@wellesley.edu

**An Educational Partnership:
Danforth Museum of Art and the Davis Museum present
Family Day in Framingham**

Framingham, MA The Danforth Museum of Art and the Davis Museum and Cultural Center at Wellesley College join forces to create a full day of educational family activities on Sunday, January 21, from 1-4 pm for children of all ages. Featured activities will include docent tours and other programming in the Museum, as well as hands-on activities in the Museum School. With the Davis Museum currently closed for renovation, the Danforth Museum opens its doors to Museum Education students from Wellesley College, who are planning this day of learning and fun for the MetroWest community and beyond. All activities are free with the price of admission, or to members of the Danforth Museum of Art and Davis Friends of Art.

This Family Day event is a final project for a new course at Wellesley College, *Museum Education and the Art Encounter*, taught by Alexa Miller, Curator of Education at the Davis Museum. The course is an in-depth study of how visual art is encountered in a museum environment, and explores the question of how we learn through art. Students will work directly with family audiences, planning this day of activities related to the galleries, and creating the studio art project in the Danforth Museum School.

Family Day activities will take place in conjunction with an exhibition of children's book illustration by Mordicai Gersten, as well as the exhibition *Hyman Bloom: A Spiritual Embrace*, an exhibition of nearly 50 paintings, drawings and prints by renowned Boston Expressionist painter Hyman Bloom. His paintings provide families with an understanding of the immigrant experience, as well as an understanding of the artistic process. Many of Bloom's paintings focus on the act of painting itself, as he scrapes away at the surface,

changes the placement of the figure and draws over what seems to be finished work. Also unique to the partnership is the fact that Hyman Bloom, among other distinctions, once taught at Wellesley College and has work in the Davis Museum's permanent collection.

The Danforth Museum of Art has long welcomed collaborations with Wellesley College, as well as other educational institutions, including Framingham State College, MassBay Community College, Tufts University and Boston University. The Danforth also has an active internship program. During this past summer, Wellesley College students Erica Kim and Patrice Payne interned in the curatorial department, followed by Kara Hadge during the fall semester. As a junior in Wellesley's art history department, Kara Hadge completed the checklist for the Hyman Bloom exhibition and helped proof the exhibition catalog during various stages of production. "We are thrilled to be working with students from Wellesley College," remarks Danforth Director of Education Pat Walker, who has twice been named Massachusetts Museum Art Educator of the Year. "This collaboration reflects our mutual belief that education is fundamental to the missions of both the Danforth and the Davis museums."

Danforth Museum of Art

The Danforth Museum of Art was established thirty years ago in 1975 when a group of community activists, educators and art lovers got together and planned to organize what is still the only fine art museum in the MetroWest region of Massachusetts. Today, the Danforth Museum maintains a collection of nearly 3,000 pieces of American art from the 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries, as well as runs a Museum School. Both the Museum and School are admired for its exhibitions and education programs that connect people to the Museums mission, which is dedicated to the *celebration and creation of art*.

Address:	123 Union Street, Framingham, MA 01702
Museum hours	Wednesday and Thursday 12 noon to 5 pm Friday and Saturday 10 am to 5 pm Sunday 12 noon to 5 pm
Admission	\$8 for adults, \$7 for students and senior citizens, free for children under 12 and members of the Danforth Museum of Art and Davis Friends of Art.
Ed Programs /Tours	508.620.0050 x 24

For more information visit www.danforthmuseum.org

Davis Museum and Cultural Center, Wellesley College

The museum's collection spans the history of art from ancient Greece to the present, with approximately 10,000 objects of diverse cultures and media.

The Davis Museum and Cultural Center will be closed through Fall 2007 for repairs to the roof. While there will be little change to the museum's historic Rafael Moneo design, the repairs will provide the museum with more consistent humidification and temperature controls required to protect works of art in our care. **For more information visit www.davismuseum.wellesley.edu**

