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### **American Art Being Discussed in Dec. 8 Program at Cultural Heritage Center**

PIERRE, S.D. – American Art will be discussed in a program on Sunday, Dec. 8, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The program, hosted by the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at 2 p.m. CST in the center's education room, will feature a webcast presentation by Adam Gopnik entitled "What Makes American Art American?," part of the Clarice Smith Distinguished Lectures from the Smithsonian Institution's American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

Gopnik is an American critic, essayist, commentator and journalist. A writer for *The New Yorker*, he has published widely and produced several collections of essays and nonfiction books. Gopnik, the recipient of three National Magazine Awards for Essays and Criticism and a George Polk Award for Magazine Reporting, will reflect on the common threads that connect American Art in his lecture.

"This is a great opportunity to enjoy a scholarly presentation that explores American Art in its many forms," said Jay Smith, director of the Museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society. "We are pleased that The American Art Museum has offered to make this presentation available to the public and we are interested in knowing if our audience agrees with Mr. Gopnik's unique perspective."

There is no fee to view the program, but standard admission fees apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries.

The presentation was originally broadcast on Oct. 10, 2012, at the Smithsonian American Art Museum as part of the Clarice Smith Distinguished Lecture series.

The State Historical Society became a Smithsonian Affiliate in January and is the only one in South Dakota.

#### **About Smithsonian Affiliations**

Established in 1996, Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. The long-term goal of Smithsonian Affiliations is to facilitate a two-way relationship among Affiliate organizations and the Smithsonian Institution to increase discovery and inspire lifelong learning in communities across America. More information about the Smithsonian Affiliations program and Affiliate activity is available at <https://affiliations.si.edu>.

*The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit [history.sd.gov](http://history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*