



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Joyce Linehan (617) 282-2510 X 1, [joyce@ashmontmedia.com](mailto:joyce@ashmontmedia.com)

**THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM PRESENTS  
John Storrs: Machine-Age Modernist  
May 12—Sept. 3, 2010**

First exhibition of Storrs's work in 20 years debuts at The Boston Athenæum

(BOSTON – Feb. 18, 2009) The Boston Athenæum presents “John Storrs: Machine-Age Modernist,” May 12 through Sept. 3, 2010, in the Athenæum’s Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery, located at 10 ½ Beacon Street on Beacon Hill near the State House. There is no admission fee and the exhibition is open to the public. Gallery hours are Mondays and Wednesdays 9 a.m. – 8 p.m., Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (617) 227-0270 or visit [www.bostonathenaeum.org](http://www.bostonathenaeum.org).

This, the first exhibition of Storrs's work in over 20 years, will be comprised of approximately 40 sculptures, drawings, and paintings drawn from various national collections, including those of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Des Moines Art Center, the Munson-Williams-Proctor Art Institute, the St. Louis Art Museum and the Corcoran Museum of Art, among other institutions and private lenders.

One of America's foremost modernists, John Storrs (1885 - 1956) produced a remarkable body of sculpture that helped invigorate a largely academic medium with dynamism previously unknown in the United States. As a figure situated at the forefront of both European and American avant-garde movements, Storrs became part of a vibrant, early-20th-century culture enthralled with invention and stretching the visual parameters of art. During the early 1920s, he studied with Auguste Rodin in Paris and then became acquainted with members of Katherine

Dreier's *Societe Anonyme*, a circle of artists that included Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, Charles Demuth, Joseph Stella, and Morton Schamberg among others.

After its debut at the Boston Athenæum, the exhibition will travel to the Norton Museum of Art, West Palm Beach, Florida, and the Grey Art Gallery, New York University. It will be accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue of approximately 150 pages, published by the Athenæum and distributed by the University Press of New England. This exhibition is guest curated by Debra Bricker Balken, an internationally-known curator and specialist in modernism, and organized at the Boston Athenæum by David B. Dearinger, Susan Morse Hilles Curator of Paintings & Sculpture.

Major funding for this project has been provided by the Henry Luce Foundation, the Florence Gould Foundation, Furthermore: a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, and Cushing Academy. Additional support has been provided by the Susan Morse Hilles Bicentennial Fund for Exhibitions, donors to the Richard Wendorf Bicentennial Fund for Exhibitions, and the following generous patrons: Elizabeth and Robert Owens, Anne and Joseph P. Pellegrino, Sandy and Jim Righter, and two anonymous donors.

### **About the Boston Athenæum**

The Boston Athenæum, founded in 1807, is one of the oldest and most distinguished independent libraries in the United States. The building's first floor is always free and open to the public. The Library's Norma Jean Calderwood Gallery features new exhibitions several times a year, and works of art from the Athenæum's collection are on display on a rotating basis in the public areas. New members are always welcome. In addition to library borrowing and research privileges, members enjoy access to beautiful reading rooms with wireless internet access and many events, including concerts, lectures, book groups, children's story hours, and a delightful bi-weekly Athenæum afternoon tea. The Library offers fellowships and research opportunities for scholars who wish to use the Athenæum's special collections. For information about membership, including discounted membership for young people, visit [www.bostonathenaeum.org](http://www.bostonathenaeum.org).

