



Celebrating P.T. Barnum's 200th Birthday!

**“Celebrating the Spirit of P.T. Barnum! Energy, Vitality, Balance”
An Exhibition by sculptor David Millen opens July 25 at
The Barnum Museum**

On Sunday, July 25 David Millen of North Haven CT and a member of the Society of Connecticut Sculptors (SCS) and the New Haven paint and Clay, will open an exhibition at The Barnum Museum entitled, “*Celebrating the Spirit of P.T. Barnum! Energy, Balance, Vitality.*” There will be nearly 20 of Millen’s cirque themed creations on display, and most of them have been created in the past three years. The exhibition will be up through January 2, 2011 with the free open house running from 1 to 4 p.m. on July 25.

“This fabulous array of Millen’s sculptures is most suitable for the 200th anniversary year celebration of P.T. Barnum’s birth,” declared Kathy Maher, executive director and curator of the Barnum Museum. “We had a few of his pieces on display two summers ago and determined back then that in 2010 a complete Millen sculpture exhibit would fit the cirque theme in honor of one of Bridgeport’s most eccentric citizens.”

“My work is a celebration of the human spirit and the body in action,” remarked Millen, “it is a timeless combination of old and new, rooted in classical structure, yet stylized in its simplicity of form. My biggest inspirations for this series of sculptures were the dance troupe Pilobolus® and the acrobats of Cirque du Soleil®.”

Millen uses modern construction materials beginning with a steel support framework which is layered with a special epoxy sculpting material. His finished surfaces are marbled or bronzed and often embellished. The works range in size from 40” tall to life size figures.

David Millen studied with Figurative Sculptors Sabin Howard and Chaim Gross at New School in New York, NY. He is a practicing Periodontist having earned his DDS from Tufts School of Dental Medicine following obtaining his B.A. at Tufts College of Liberal Arts. He does private instruction in the art of figurative sculpting and he is also a skilled ceramic artist.

Millen’s work has been seen during exhibitions at Jacob’s Pillow in MA, Philadelphia Museum of Jewish History, the University of New Haven and the University of Connecticut as well as Connecticut Hospice in Branford CT. He has many works in public and private collections throughout the country, including Yale New Haven Hospital and Smilow Cancer Center.

– more –

Celebrating the 200th birthday of Phineas Taylor Barnum, born July 5, 1810 in Bethel CT, during 2010 The Barnum Museum will chronicle the life and times of this extraordinary showman and the history of Bridgeport where Barnum served as Mayor. For a complete listing of anniversary year events celebrating this amazing – and sometimes outrageous – showman, civic leader and politician, visit www.barnum-museum.org. The original museum building, owned by the City of Bridgeport is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about David Millen and his work visit www.millensculpture.com. For Barnum Museum information, please visit www.barnum-museum.org or call 203-331-1104.

What: *“Celebrating the Spirit of P.T. Barnum—Energy, Vitality, Balance”*

Where: The Barnum Museum, 820 Main Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

When: July 25, 2010 through January 2, 2011

Open House: Sunday, July 25 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Cost: The exhibit will be free during this time when the core exhibitions are closed due to damage from the June 24 tornado, but donations of any amount are truly appreciated.

Regular museum hours: Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.,
Sunday noon to 4:30 p.m. Last admission at 3:45 p.m.