

THE HELGA PICTURES

Painstaking care taken to deliver, display paintings



WHITE-GLOVE TREATMENT. George Samay and Lynnda Arrasmith of the Canton Museum of Art unpackage Andrew Wyeth's 1975 "Easter Sunday" painting. The painting is part of "The Helga Pictures," Wyeth's world-famous collection on exhibit at the museum from Sunday to Sept. 19. Arrasmith has handled the museum's paintings and other pieces of art since 1989.

CANTON/Art exhibit

Canton Museum of Art staff enjoys unwrapping 'presents'

By **ED BALINT**
Repository staff writer



Andrew Wyeth's Helga: An intimate study

Show dates:
Aug. 8 through
Sept. 19

Admission:
\$8 for adults and
\$5 for seniors and
children 6-12

Museum hours:
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through
Saturday,
7 to 9 p.m.
Tuesday through
Thursday;
1 to 5 p.m.
Sunday

Lynnda Arrasmith handled the fine painting the way she would a newborn baby.

Gripping a large cardboard box with white gloves, Arrasmith and Kathy Flecher, both employees of the Canton Museum of Art, placed the container on top of a table.

They turned the box on one side, then upside down, gently resting it on a piece of carpet.

Three other people helped. Tape was peeled off the box. Plastic was slowly removed, revealing the masterpiece, titled "Braids" — one of "The Helga Pictures" by Andrew Wyeth.

No wonder the museum employees are so careful. Part of a world-famous collection, the 70 paintings will be on display from Sunday until Sept. 19.

"It's the most prestigious exhibit that we've ever brought to Canton," said Robb Hyde, the museum's marketing and development manager.

"It's just a rare opportunity, not only for Canton, but for Northeast Ohio."

"I got a call from a woman ... who is taking a train from Chicago to Canton" to see the paintings, he said.

The precious cargo rolled into Canton on Thursday afternoon. Museum

employees tracked the truck by phone.

Paintings arrived on a tractor-trailer with special suspension. Paintings were strapped to

Ticket

LEARN MORE about the history and mystery of Andrew Wyeth's "Helga" pictures in Friday's Ticket.

the inside of the climate-controlled trailer. Cardboard boxes and wooden crates labeled "FRAGILE" and "HANDLE WITH CARE" were lowered on a hydraulic lift.

Inside the containers, plastic foam corners cushioned picture frames. Crates were opened with power drills.

Security also is a concern. The