Charles Willson Peale, Renaissance man and artist, served as a catalyst for the creation of American citizenhood, grounded in education, ambition, and the desire to make a better life for his family.

Peale has long been identified with the city of Philadelphia where he painted Revolutionary War figures and established his museum. However, it was his home city of Annapolis that fostered the start of his artistic career. In Maryland’s capital city Peale formed strong friendships with members of the landed gentry. These men provided funds for him to study in London under Benjamin West in one of the earliest examples of art patronage in America, setting a precedent for future artists.

The exhibition will follow Peale’s Annapolis commissions chronologically with 25 portraits, including eight loans from institutions like Yale University Art Gallery, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and the state of Maryland. The show will include important private loans, two of which have never been on public display. The exhibition will be the first to focus on the career of Peale in Annapolis.

Hammond-Harwood House Museum

Ambition:
Charles Willson Peale in Annapolis

Charles Willson Peale, c. 1789
Hammond-Harwood House Collection

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April 1, 2022 - December 31, 2023

Members’ exhibition opening:
Thursday, March 24, 2022
6 to 8 p.m.

Sponsors:
Cathleen H. Farr
Sharon Kennedy and Joe Budge
Dr. Charles Webb
Four Rivers Heritage Area

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