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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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UNPACKED

A show by Peter J Hoffmeister
Presented at the Morris-Jumel Mansion
October 10, 2013 through February 9, 2014
Opening: Thursday, October 17, 2013, 6-9 PM

The Morris-Jumel Mansion and The Historic House Trust of New York City are pleased to present “Unpacked”, an exhibition of recent work by New York-based artist Peter J. Hoffmeister. Hoffmeister’s work uses a variety of sources, including historical text, maps, architecture, and found imagery, to create paintings, drawings, prints and sculptural installations. For this exhibition, the artist views the Mansion as an artifact symbolizing the founding of the United States, it having served as George Washington’s headquarters at the start of the Revolutionary War. Using this fact as a departure point, Hoffmeister has created site-specific installations in the Mansion’s period rooms, informed by the history of the Mansion and its inhabitants, as well as American history and current events.

Hoffmeister’s artworks challenge various societal phenomena and ideologies, both historical and current. “Home-style”, installed in the Mansion’s Dining Room, addresses the status of our food supply and the prevalence of genetically modified crops, by using corporate food logos to create dilapidated wallpaper. The piece becomes particularly compelling when considering George Washington, as president, hosted a dinner with his presidential cabinet in this same room. “Ball and Chain (Per Capita)”, composed of the silhouettes of all fifty US States, are placed across the floor of the Mansion’s Front Parlor Room, in a sense becoming the carpet. Made of black felt, the piece addresses the per capita prison population of the United States, which is the highest of any other country in the world. For the upper level of the Mansion, Hoffmeister continues his installations by manipulating roadmaps, as well as found text and photographic slides, to investigate the construction of history and national memory. Collectively, Hoffmeister’s artworks are a meditation on our existence as individuals and American citizens living within the boundaries of our national power and cultural structures.

Born on Long Island, New York in 1985, Hoffmeister graduated with a BFA from the Fashion Institute of Technology in 2007, with a concentration in painting. He has exhibited and curated widely in New York, including at Maurizio Cattelan’s gallery Family Business. He is a former editor of SW!PE Magazine, and is currently working on The Moonshiner, a newspaper project he co-founded with artist Jack Laughner. Most recently Hoffmeister attended a residency at Vermont Studio Center, where he prepared for this exhibition.

RSVP: marketing@morrisjumel.org

Saturday, January 25, 2014, 1-3 PM: Workshop led by the artist, exploring the technique of collage. Ages 10+, free to the public

Support provided by: Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance, Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, JP Morgan & Chase, and The West Harlem Local Development Corporation Fund of Tides Foundation

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