



## NEWS

### From the National Canal Museum

**For more information, please contact:**

Kelly Prentice

Community Engagement Manager

Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor

2750 Hugh Moore Park Rd. Easton, PA

610.923.3548 ex: 246 or [communications@delawareandlehigh.org](mailto:communications@delawareandlehigh.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**November 5, 2018**

## **National Canal Museum debuts *Frank Wyso: The Coal Connection* exhibition on Nov. 10**

**Easton, PA** - The National Canal Museum will debut an exhibition of the works of folk artist Frank "WYSO" Wysochansky (1915-1994) on Saturday, November 10 as part of its participation in the region-wide 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the first documented use of anthracite coal in America.

The exhibition *Frank Wyso: The Coal Connection* will showcase some of the Blakely, PA native's compelling work depicting the lives of coal miners. Having lost his father in a mining accident, WYSO was familiar with the harsh realities of coal miners' lives, as well as the strong community ties these dangerous conditions fostered. It was this intimate knowledge which would influence his art throughout his life. His evocative paintings and sculptures document the tools and working conditions of the anthracite coal mines of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the modest means and lifestyles of the coal miners' families. *Frank Wyso: The Coal Connection* can be viewed on Saturdays and Sundays at the museum from 11:30-4:30 through December 23.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, at 1:00 p.m., Steven Lichak of the WYSO Foundation will give a talk on the eccentric life and innovative works of WYSO at the National Canal Museum to celebrate the exhibition's opening. Family-friendly art activities held in the museum's Welcome Center will also allow children and adults to explore WYSO's artistic techniques. The talk and activities are free as part of museum admission.

Other upcoming events include a book signing and talk by Vince Hydro, author of the *Mauch Chunk Switchback*, on Saturday, Nov. 17 at 3:00 pm and a holiday swag-making workshop with Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Executive Director Elissa Garofalo on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 1:00-3:30 p.m. The museum's other special exhibition, *Powering America: Pennsylvania's Anthracite Railroads*, also continues through Dec. 23. This exhibition features a working model railroad platform with a coal mine and patch town as its centerpiece. *Powering America* and the National Canal Museum's extended opening in November and December this year are generously supported by a grant from the County of Northampton's Hotel Tax Program.

Located in Easton's Hugh Moore Park, the National Canal Museum is open on weekends through December 23, 11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Museum admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors (65 and above), \$6 for children (3-15), and free for children under three. Additional information about the National Canal Museum is available by phoning 610-923-3548 x400 or by visiting [www.canals.org](http://www.canals.org). Learn more about WYSO and the work of the WYSO Foundation at [www.frankwyso.org](http://www.frankwyso.org).

### **ABOUT THE DELAWARE & LEHIGH NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR**

*The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that preserves the historic pathway that carried coal and iron from Wilkes-Barre to Bristol Borough. Today, the D&L Trail connects people to nature and the environment, industrial heritage, health and wellness and economic development.*

###