

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate release

Tues. March 10, 2015

From: The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main

Contact:

Director Eric Cale - Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum
204 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202

ecale@wichitahistory.org

316-265-9314

**Exhibit Opening Event: “Final Friday” Opening – Fri. Mar. 27th 5-7 P.M.
Free and Open to the Public**

SPECIAL ART EXHIBIT: GEORGE BELLIS

Museum Showing at the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical

in the Lois Kay Walls Gallery
204 S. Main, Wichita, Kansas
March 27th 2015 to March 20th 2016.

George F. Bellis (1865 – 1956) worked from Wichita as an artist for many years until his death in 1956. His introduction to Wichita at the turn of the century was through an assignment to create stage sets for use at the Toler Auditorium.

He worked in a multitude of mediums for a wide range of clients internationally. His work included theatrical scenery, silent movie sets, store windows, circus wagons, mid-way banners, mechanized 3-dimensional figures known as animatrons, as well as production of decorative framed paintings and religious art works. He is best known today for his circus banners. Bellis’ career began in New York City at the age of 12 when he was recruited as an apprentice at a printing company for four hours each day after his interest and ability in drawing was recognized. By the age of 16 he was fully employed as a lithographer, producing commercial illustrations prior to the use of photographs.

Submitted by Eric Cale, Museum Director, contact: ecale@wichitahistory.org

Venue: Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, 204 S. Main, Wichita, KS 67202

Contact for information: 316-265-9314, wschm@wichitahistory.org Website: wichitahistory.org

Museum Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturday & Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 pm.

Regular Admission Charge: Adults \$ 5.00, Children under 12 years \$ 2.00; under 6 free

Supported in part by the City of Wichita and the Board of Commissioners of Sedgwick County Kansas

OUR VISION: To provide a world class Museum experience, advancing the understanding and exploration of the rich historical and cultural heritage of Wichita and Sedgwick County Kansas.