

## 76 FACES OF THE FIRST

### *Contemporary Civil War Portraits of Minnesota's First Regiment*

JAMES J. HILL HOUSE, APRIL 30–OCTOBER 2, 2011



Cpl. J. McDonald and First Lt. S. Raquet, 18" × 14" each, oil on board (COURTESY THE ARTIST)

**S**T. PAUL PAINTER JAY WITTENBERG incorporates momentous historical events into his artmaking. In 2007 he set for himself an ambitious goal of bringing to life through portraiture hundreds of Minnesota Civil War soldiers. Researching historic photographs and related material, Wittenberg painstakingly created hauntingly beautiful portraits for this project. Included in the painted frame that surrounds each face are symbols that identify the individual's army status and achievements, such as company, rank, promotions, and battlefield injuries.

When viewed together, Wittenberg's portraits become a reflection on public service, personal sacrifice, and Minnesota's pivotal role in the Civil War.

In recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and Minnesota's participation in it, this exhibition presents seventy-six of Wittenberg's portraits—all of members of the legendary First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Also included in the exhibition is a selection of Civil War artifacts from the Minnesota Historical Society's permanent collection, including photographs, letters, and military objects.

—Brian Szott, curator of art



#### About the Cover

Wealthy, Haralson, Honeycrisp: Behind every successful apple stands a strong tree. Since the 1850s, Minnesotans have patiently worked with Mother Nature to develop apple trees that would flourish under challenging growing conditions. For a twentieth-century trend that transformed the look, work, and economics of the state's orchards, see the article beginning on page 191. Cover views: "Laurine and an apple tree," 1939, photographed by Norton & Peel; label from "the home of the Wealthy Apple," about 1930 (both in MHS collections); and visionary horticulturist Gordon Yates with a 1955 display (courtesy Ralph Yates).



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