MEMORIAL ART GALLERY PUBLISHES FIRST-EVER CATALOG OF AMERICAN COLLECTION

ROCHESTER, NY — Rochester’s art museum, the Memorial Art Gallery, has just published the first-ever catalog of its acclaimed American collection.

*Seeing America: Painting and Sculpture from the Collection of the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester* examines 82 objects and their connections to American history, culture, literature and politics. “The publication of *Seeing America* underscores both the quality and the breadth of our collection of American art,” says MAG director Grant Holcomb. “We are delighted to be able to share these treasures with a wider audience.”

The 336-page, coffee-table size book is available in hardcover ($65) or softcover ($40) and is available in the Gallery Store (585-473-7720, ext. 3057).

For editor-in-chief Marjorie Searl, the Gallery’s chief curator, *Seeing America* represents a tour of the collection: “The tour ranges from Colonial times to the 21st century, from Maine to Florida to the far west, from mighty historical subjects to intimate byways, from august figures and events to the humblest and most anonymous.”

The 73 essays, by MAG scholars and outside authorities, explore works by some of America’s best-known artists, among them Thomas Cole, Winslow Homer, John Sloan, George Bellows, Georgia O’Keeffe, Jacob Lawrence and Andy Warhol. The earliest work, by John Singleton Copley, was painted in the 1760s; the most recent is a 2001 work on paper by Lorna Simpson. The earliest to come into the collection is a painting by Jonas Lie which was one of the first works acquired by the new Memorial Art Gallery in 1913, and the newest acquisition is the mid-19th century view of the Erie Canal which appears on the cover.

*Seeing America* is underwritten by the Gallery Council of the MAG in honor of Director Grant Holcomb’s 20 years of service. Additional support is provided by the Henry Luce Foundation,
the Herbert W. Vanden Brul Fund, the Thomas and Marion Hawks Memorial Fund, the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and by gifts in memory of Florence Macomber, Eleanor McQuilkin and Eleanor Searl. In-kind support is provided by Monroe Litho. It is dedicated to Holcomb and to the memory of two women who were instrumental in building the collection—Gertrude Herdle Moore (director 1922–1962) and Isabel Herdle (chief curator 1932–1972).

Online catalog
An online version of Seeing America is available at http://mag.rochester.edu/seeingAmerica/

About the printing of the catalog
Seeing America was designed by Kathryn D’Amanda of Mill-Race Design Associates. It was printed on acid-free recycled paper by Rochester-based Monroe Litho, which in 2004 became only the seventh graphics communications firm to be certified by the nonprofit Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC). Recently, Monroe Litho made headlines again when it announced that as of June 5, 2006, 100 percent of its electricity will come from clean, renewable, wind-generated sources. The company has signed a contract to purchase approximately 1.8 million kilowatt hours of power each year.

To learn more, visit http://www.monroelitho.com/news.asp.