MEMORIAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS: 2007–08

GRAND GALLERY

January 20–March 16, 2008

Wild By Design: 200 Years of Innovation and Artistry In American Quilts

For at least 200 years, American artists have made quilts in which offbeat color placement and manipulation of printed textile patterns have combined with bold experimentation in block formation and appliqué. This lively exhibition presents quilts from the early 1800s to the present day that explore innovations in color, abstraction, figuration, and other modes of expression. 

Reinventing Quilts in a Digital Age, a companion exhibit of seven quilts by contemporary master Michael James is on view throughout the exhibition, and 

MAGnificent Inspiration: The Art Quilt, a show and sale inspired by works in the permanent collection, is on view in the galleries through February 17.

Wild By Design was organized by the International Quilt Study Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In Rochester, it is underwritten by Lynne Lovejoy.

Reinventing Quilts in a Digital Age is sponsored in part by the Humanities Project at the University of Rochester, with additional funds from The Gallery Council. 

MAGnificent Inspiration is sponsored by The Gallery Council and underwritten by Carol Crossed and the Gouvernet Arts Fund of The Community Foundation.

April 13–June 15, 2008

American Impressionism: Paintings from The Phillips Collection

This exhibition showcases 54 rarely-seen paintings from the golden age of American Impressionism, from one of America’s premier museums. Among the artists represented are William Merritt Chase, William Glackens, Lilian Westcott Hale, Childe Hassam, Maurice Prendergast and John Twachtman. Members of the first American generation to absorb the aesthetics of French Impressionism, these artists shifted the focus of American painting to atmospheric landscapes, cityscapes and interiors.

Made possible in Rochester by Presenting Sponsors M&T Bank and Riedman Foundation. Additional support provided by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery; the Gouvernet Arts Fund at the Community Foundation; Dorothy Centner in memory of her husband, William; Mrs. Frederick D. Berkeley III; Nancy G. Curme; and Jane W. Labrum.
July 13–September 14, 2008
Third Rochester Biennial

For the third Rochester Biennial, the Gallery’s director and curators have selected six exceptional regional artists, each of whom will present about half a dozen works. They are Ronald Gonzalez of Johnson City (mixed media sculpture), Susan Lakin of Rochester (photographs), Sue Huggins Leopard of Rochester (artist’s books), Todd McGrain of Ovid (bronze sculpture and drawings), Juan Perdiguer of Oswego (drawings) and Melissa Sarat of Preble (oild paintings).

Organized by the Memorial Art Gallery.

LOCKHART GALLERY

Through March 2, 2008
Thinking on Paper: Preparatory Drawings from the MAG Collection

Stuart Davis, Ralston Crawford, David Smith, George Bellows and John Koch are among the artists in this exhibition of preparatory works for some of MAG’s best-known American paintings, sculpture and prints. Included are 22 drawings, three watercolors, a photograph and a maquette for works on view in the main galleries; each is accompanied by a scaled-down color reproduction of the final work.

Presented in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Gallery docents.

March 14–June 29, 2008
In Pursuit of Light and Leisure: Impressionist Masterpieces from the Permanent Collection

Edgar Degas’s Dancers, Claude Monet’s Towing a Boat, Honfleur and Mary Cassatt’s Young Mother, Daughter and Baby are among the treasures in this exhibition that includes 25 paintings and works on paper by Impressionist masters, as well as by artists of the period who influenced and were influenced by the Impressionist movement. Many of the works demonstrate an intense interest in the visual effects of atmospheric changes, particularly the ephemeral nature of the reflection of light on water; others depict popular leisure activities of the era—the dance, theater, music and outdoor bathing.

Made possible in part by a gift from Dorothy Centner in memory of her husband, William.

LUCY BURNE GALLERY

Pedestrian Photographs

Forty photos of street life in New York City show the keen eye of Larry Merrill, longtime director of the Gallery’s Creative Workshop. The exhibition coincides with the University of Rochester’s publication of a book of Merrill’s photos, with essays by noted author Wendell Berry and MAG chief curator Marjorie B. Searl.

LONG-TERM INSTALLATIONS

Protected for Eternity: The Coffins of Pa-debehu-Aset

This interactive exhibit for all ages showcases a rare pair of lavishly decorated nesting coffins that once held the mummy of an Egyptian official. Learn how the coffins were restored, write your name in hieroglyphics and follow the fascinating process of mummification.

This installation is made possible by funding from Dan and Dorothy Gill. Additional support is provided by the Museum Loan Network, a program administered by MIT’s Office of the Arts, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts; and by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Council for the Humanities and the Davenport-Hatch Foundation, Inc.

Seeing America

Spanning four centuries and occupying 7,000 square feet on the Gallery’s first floor, this new installation brings together some of the finest works in the collection as it constitutes what chief curator Marjorie Searl calls "a journey in space and time." The 114 works range from treasures of the Colonial era to politically charged mixed-media pieces by contemporary artists.

Italian Baroque Organ

It was national news in 2005 when the only full-size antique Italian organ in North America was installed in the Memorial Art Gallery’s Fountain Court. Two years later, the organ—on permanent loan from the Eastman School of Music—has become an integral part of Rochester’s musical life. Weekly Sunday concerts show off the magnificent sound of the instrument. Surrounded by Baroque paintings and sculpture, it’s a feast for the eyes as well. For a concert schedule, visit http://mag.rochester.edu/calendar.

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