MEMORIAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS: 2009–10

Through January 3, 2010
Paint Made Flesh

This exhibition brings together 34 powerful American and European works, all created since the 1950s, that explore the biological, psychological or spiritual volatility of the human figure. The works, by such painters as Georg Baselitz, Hyman Bloom, Willem de Kooning, Eric Fischl, Lucien Freud, Alice Neel, Pablo Picasso, Jenny Saville and Julian Schnabel, employ a wide range of painterly effects to suggest the carnal properties of human flesh, as well as its metaphorical significance. MAG is one of only two tour stops for this show.

Paint Made Flesh has been organized by the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville, Tennessee. This exhibition is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and Humanities. In Rochester, it is made possible by Victoria and William Cherry, with additional support from the George D. and Freida B. Abraham Foundation.

January 31–April 4, 2010  (exhibition party January 30)
Fashioning Kimono: Art Deco and Modernism in Japan

Nearly 100 extraordinary examples of kimono created between the 1890s and the 1950s tell the story of how Japan’s traditional national dress was influenced by technological advances in silk production and exposure to Western cultures. Included are everyday garments; intricately embroidered ceremonial robes; boys’ kimono stenciled with cars, airplanes and battleships; and colorful examples with Art Deco patterns that heralded the emergence of Japan’s “new woman.” All are drawn from the famed Montgomery Collection in Lugano, Switzerland.

This exhibition is organized and circulated by Art Services International, Alexandria, VA. Support for the national tour and catalog has been provided by The E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation. In Rochester, the exhibition is made possible by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and the Robert L. and Mary L. Sproull Fund.

May 2–June 27, 2010  (exhibition party May 1)
Albert Paley in the 21st Century

Internationally known for his large-scale commissions, Albert Paley is the first metal sculptor to receive the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Institute for Architects, the AIA’s highest award to a non-architect. This exhibition organized by the Memorial Art Gallery will bring together recent sculptures, drawings and maquettes, as well as a video of the Rochester-based artist at work.

This exhibition is made possible by Presenting Sponsors Bank of America and the Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Horowitz Foundation for the Arts, Inc. Additional underwriting is provided by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, the Gouvernet Arts Fund of Rochester Area Community Foundation, Nancy G. Curme and Nancy Turner. Support is also provided by Deanne Molinari, Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Gianniny, the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation and Mann’s Jewelers.

Fourth Rochester Biennial

This biennial invitational showcases recent work by six regional artists—Ted Aub of Geneva (bronze sculpture), Anne Havens of Rochester (mixed media installations), Rick Hock of Rochester (digital imaging), Alberto Rey of Fredonia (painting and video), Lawrence M. “Judd” Williams of Spencerport (assemblage sculpture) and Julianna Furlong Williams of Spencerport (painting). They were selected by director Grant Holcomb, director of exhibitions Marie Via and curator of education Marlene Hamann-Whitmore. In keeping with recent tradition, Havens was chosen on the strength of her entry in last summer’s Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition.

This exhibition is made possible, in part, by the Rubens Family Foundation.

Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art Since the 1960s

From Op Art in the 1960s to the current explosion of dazzling abstraction, this nationally touring exhibition traces the development of a “psychedelic sensibility” in the art of the past 40 years. Organized by the San Antonio Museum of Art, Psychedelic showcases figurative and abstract works characterized by intense color and vivid imagery. The artists include such modern masters as Frank Stella, Deborah Remington, Robert Williams, Fred Tomaselli, Victor Vasarely and Ray Rapp.

Art from the Arctic: Inuit Prints and Sculpture

With its stark simplicity and strong form, the art of the Inuit people of Canada is sought by collectors all over the world. Acting as a record of the “old ways,” Inuit sculptures and prints often depict Arctic animals or activities such as seal hunting and fishing which were once critical to survival. While ivory and stone carvings have been traded with Europeans for centuries, prints have been a major source of livelihood only since the mid-20th century, when the Inuit began resettling in government communities. This exhibition of 11 prints and 20 sculptures from the Gallery’s collection is offered in conjunction with the opening of the new Traditions and Encounters gallery.

Rembrandt. Master Etchings from the Collection of Dr. Morton and Tobia Mower

This exhibition showcases more than 40 rare etchings loaned by Baltimore cardiologist Dr. Morton Mower and his wife, Tobia Mower, whose fascination with Rembrandt’s innovative techniques and mastery of printmaking led to the formation of their extraordinary private collection. The selection explores the versatility of Rembrandt’s style as well as the breadth of his subjects, which range from scenes of daily life, portraits, landscapes, and historical and biblical narratives. As Dr. Mower has noted, “Etching was the photography of Rembrandt’s day, and he gives us a window into both the everyday life and cosmopolitan themes that captured his imagination.”

Sponsored by the Georgia O’Keeffe Society and the Claude Monet Society of the Gallery’s Director’s Circle