MEMORIAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS: 2011–12

Through January 15, 2012 in the Grand Gallery
Extreme Materials 2

In the hands of today’s artists, even the most mundane of materials—from blood to Band-aids to bicycle parts—can be repurposed as art that is sometimes beautiful, often challenging and always thought-provoking. This sequel to Extreme Materials, MAG’s wildly popular 2006 exhibition, showcases 41 artists from the US, Canada, England and Germany. Their spectacular works, most from the past five years, include a room-sized structure built of Neutrogena soap; an installation created entirely from preserved insects; a nighbgown made of condoms; and a Byzantine mosaic recreated in breakfast cereal. Like its precursor, Extreme Materials 2 invites you to exercise your imagination and open your mind.

This exhibition is sponsored by M&T Bank, MVP Health Care, the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and an anonymous donor.

February 3–May 6, 2012 in the Lockhart Gallery
Modern Icon: The Machine as Subject in American Art

The American lifestyle and landscape are continuously altered by innovations in technology, and artists have responded with both awe and ambiguity to the machines in our midst. This exhibition includes works from the permanent collection, by such 20th-century masters as Charles Sheeler, Louis Lozowick, Charles Burchfield, John Marin, and Richard Estes.

Sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company.

February 26–May 20, 2012 in the Grand Gallery (exhibition party February 25)
Crafting Modernism: Midcentury American Art and Design

The years following the Second World War saw an explosion of craft art in America. Men and women from all walks of life and corners of the globe rediscovered and reinvigorated such traditional media as ceramics, fiber, glass, metal and wood. In our own region, Rochester Institute of Technology and Alfred University became major creative centers. This survey of the studio craft movement includes works by such masters as Harry Bertoia, Anni Albers, Isamu Noguchi, Wendell Castle, Albert Paley, Peter Voulkos, Harvey Littleton and Maria Martinez. Today, the work of these “midcentury modern” artists is highly sought by collectors.

This exhibition is made possible through the generosity of the National Endowment for the Arts; the Henry Luce Foundation; and the Craft Research Fund of the Center for Craft, Creativity and Design. In Rochester, it is sponsored by Harter Secrest & Emery LLP, with additional support from the Mabel Fenner Lyon Fund, the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, Ron and Cathy Paprocki and Mann’s Jewelers. Support is also provided by the friends of Grant Holcomb in honor of his tenure as Director of the Memorial Art Gallery.
June 10–August 5, 2012 in the Grand Gallery (exhibition party June 9)

5th Rochester Biennial

Summers at MAG are dedicated to the art of upstate New York. On alternating years, the Gallery presents juried and invitational exhibitions that showcase regional artists working in a variety of media. For the fifth Rochester Biennial, the Gallery’s director and curators will select six exceptional artists, including one from the 2011 Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition. Each of these artists, whose names will be announced in fall 2011, will present about half a dozen works.

Organized by the Memorial Art Gallery.

August 26–October 28, 2012 in the Grand Gallery (exhibition party August 25)

In Company with Angels: Seven Rediscovered Tiffany Windows

Removed from an Ohio church in 1964 and subsequently stored in parishioners’ garages, basements and sheds, these magnificent Tiffany windows have been professionally restored and will be on view for the first time in nearly five decades. The windows stand eight feet tall and depict seven angels from the Biblical book of Revelation. Nearly half of all Tiffany church windows have been lost, so the rediscovery of this masterful grouping is a boon to the study of art, history and religion.

High Voltage: The Eccentric World of the Chicago Imagists

This humorous and sometimes manic work was produced by a group of idiosyncratic artists affiliated with the Art Institute of Chicago in the 1960s and 70s. Chicago Imagism is characterized by punning titles, high-key color, and references to comic books and advertising. The exhibition is drawn from the extensive collection of the Krannert Art Museum in Illinois.


November 18, 2012–February 10, 2013 in the Grand Gallery (exhibition party November 17)

Changing Hands: Art Without Reservation 3

This exhibition, the third in a series organized by the Museum of Arts and Design in New York City, showcases contemporary Native and First Nations artists from the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast USA, as well as Northeastern Canada. Exciting new work in ceramics, glass, metal, wood, fiber, and mixed media demonstrate how traditional cultural values and aesthetics are being renewed and debated by artists caught between traditional and dominant cultures.