PRESTIGIOUS AWARD WILL HELP GALLERY CONSERVE
AMERICAN ART COLLECTION

ROCHESTER, NY — Director Grant Holcomb today announced that the Memorial Art Gallery has received a $40,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation. The grant, awarded as part of the American Art Program Conservation Initiative, will be used to conserve 15 paintings from the Gallery’s American collection.

The works to be conserved include an 1863 portrait of Rochester mill owner Gideon Burbank, who endowed a philosophy chair at the new University of Rochester, and Colette by Kathleen McEnery Cunningham (1885–1971), a well-known Rochester artist who studied with Robert Henri. All have been off view in recent years. A complete list is attached.

“This prestigious grant recognizes that the conservation and preservation of works of art are at the core of any art museum's mission,” says Holcomb. “Once again, we are grateful to the Luce Foundation for enabling us to enhance the Gallery’s distinguished collection of American art.”

The Gallery was one of 48 museums of all sizes selected from 100 applicants as part of the one-year, $1,750,000 initiative. Other museums that received grants include the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica; and the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo.

This marks the fourth time that the Memorial Art Gallery has been recognized by the Luce Foundation. The Foundation provided major support for two nationally touring exhibitions organized by MAG—Head, Heart and Hand: Elbert Hubbard and the Roycrofters (1994) and Leaving for the Country: George Bellows at Woodstock (2003). Another major grant, in 1999, made possible the Gallery’s collections database.

About the Luce Foundation
The Henry Luce Foundation was established in 1936 by the late Henry R. Luce, co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time Inc. Since its creation, the Foundation has awarded more than $600 million in grants, with $350 million of these in the past decade. In 1980, the Foundation established the Luce Fund for American Art, now known as the American Art Program. To learn more about the Foundation and its programs visit www.hluce.org.

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ABOVE: These portraits of Angeline Wildey Dixon and Hiram Westley Dixon, by itinerant painter Jefferson Gaunt, are among the works slated for conservation. The couple, who lived in Tarrytown, NY, sat for their portraits in the late 1830s. Among the issues to be addressed are cracking, hazy varnish, frame damage and distracting old repairs. Note the canvas pulling away from the stretcher in the portrait of Hiram. The works were the gift of Mrs. George B. Penny.
Paintings from the American Collection Selected for Conservation  
Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester  
January 2008

Ezra Ames, 1768–1836  
*Portrait of Gideon Granger*, early 19th c.  
Bequest of Antoinette Pierson Granger

Unknown American artist, 19th c.  
*Portrait of a Lady*, 19th c.  
Anonymous gift

Unknown American artist, 19th c.  
*Portrait of a Gentleman*, 19th c.  
Anonymous gift

Jefferson Gauntt (attributed), 1806–69  
*Portrait of Angeline Wildey Dixon*, 1835–40  
Gift of Mrs. George B. Penny

Jefferson Gauntt (attributed), 1806–69  
*Portrait of Hiram Westley Dixon*, 1835–40  
Gift of Mrs. George B. Penny

Unknown American artist, 19th c.  
*Portrait of a Man*, ca. 1840  
Bequest of Pauline Wagner

Unknown American artist, 19th c.  
*Portrait of a Woman*, ca. 1840  
Bequest of Pauline Wagner

Philip Morsberger, born 1933  
*Newark*, ca. 1970  
Marion Stratton Gould Fund; General Acquisitions Fund

William Cogswell, 1819–1903  
*Portrait of Mary Burbank*, 1863  
Gift of Conrad Cobb

William Cogswell, 1819–1903  
*Portrait of Gideon Burbank*, 1863  
Gift of Conrad Cobb

Unknown American artist, 19th c.  
*Portrait of Ebenezer Smith*, mid-19th c.  
Gift of Mr. Robert C. Miller in memory of Sophia Miller

Chester Harding, 1792–1866  
*Portrait of a Young Woman*, ca. 1840  
Gift of John McMath, in memory of Ralph Mather Cole and Elsie McMath Cole

Unknown American artist, 19th c.  
*Portrait of Allen Tobias Lacey*, ca. 1840  
Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Dunn in memory of Ruth Hanford Munn and James Buell Munn

Unknown American artist, 19th c.  
*Portrait of Children with Dog*, 19th c.  
Bequest of Peter Barry Estate

Kathleen McEnery Cunningham, 1885–1971  
*Colette*, ca. 1905  
Gift of Mrs. Murat Williams, Peter Cunningham, and Mrs. Michael Cunningham