EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Title: Wine and Spirit: Rituals, Remedies and Revelry
When: January 30–April 10, 2011
Description: Since its invention eight millennia ago, wine has been considered the elixir of the gods and the tonic of choice for ordinary mortals. Its uses range from religious to social to medicinal, with effects on the body and mind that run the gamut from spiritual elevation to physical and moral dissipation. This traveling exhibition includes more than 100 objects that illustrate the transformative effects of wine.

Contents: The diverse objects range from a Neolithic wine jar dated 5400-5000 BCE to a 2009 painting by New York artist Leonard Porter. In between, works by 17th-century Dutch masters are featured alongside prints, drawings and photos by such artists as Honoré Daumier and Pablo Picasso. The show also includes Greek vases, Roman glassware, Renaissance vessels, rare books and manuscripts.

Credits: Wine and Spirit is organized by the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum. In Rochester, it is underwritten by the Estate of Irving Germanow, with additional support from Bob and Joanne Gianniny, ESL Federal Credit Union, and an anonymous gift in honor of Nancy Holowka and Karen Stolt.

Special events: These include an Exhibition Party (January 29), three lectures (January 30, February 3 and March 31), two wine tastings (March 13 and 23) and an educators’ inservice (February 9). For details, see attached.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am–5 pm and Thursday until 9 pm. Special winter break hours Tuesday, February 22, 11 am–5 pm. Closed Mondays and all other Tuesdays.

Admission: $10; senior citizens, $6; college students with ID and children 6–18, $5. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. Half-price admission Thursdays from 5–9 is sponsored by ExxonMobil Chemical Company, Canandaigua National Bank & Trust, and Monroe County.

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January 20, 2011

NEW SHOW AT MAG EXPLORES CULTURAL HISTORY OF WINE

ROCHESTER, NY — Since its invention eight millennia ago, wine has been considered the elixir of the gods and the tonic of choice for ordinary mortals. Its uses range from religious to social to medicinal, with effects on the body and mind that run the gamut from spiritual elevation to physical and moral dissipation.

A major traveling exhibition that explores the cultural history of wine from an art historical viewpoint opens January 30 at the Memorial Art Gallery. Organized by the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum, Wine and Spirit: Rituals, Remedies and Revelry includes more than 100 works that depict both the use and the abuse of wine.

The earliest object is a Neolithic wine jar dated 5400–5000 BCE; the latest, a 2009 painting by New York artist Leonard Porter. In between, works by 17th-century Dutch masters are featured alongside prints, drawings and photos by such artists as Honoré Daumier and Pablo Picasso. The show also includes Greek vases, Roman glassware, Renaissance vessels, rare books and manuscripts.

Of special interest to MAG audiences is a painting from the Gallery’s collection—a 17th-century Flemish Tavern Scene by David Teniers the Younger which traveled to Mount Holyoke to join the exhibition. In Rochester, the show will also be supplemented with 16 additional objects from the Memorial Art Gallery collection.

Wine and Spirit is arranged by themes including the grape harvest; early vessels; images of the wine god Dionysus/Bacchus; the ancient Greek symposium; Silenus and drunkenness; wine and Christianity; wit and wine; allegory and morality; wine as erotic stimulus; beer, wine and social class; sacred and profane feasting; and wine and medicine.

It remains on view through April 10, 2011.

Credits

Wine and Spirit is organized by the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum. In Rochester, it is underwritten by the Estate of Irving Germanow, with additional support from Bob and Joanne Gianniny, ESL Federal Credit Union, and an anonymous gift in honor of Nancy Holowka and Karen Stolt.

Programs

These include an exhibition party (January 29), three lectures (January 30, February 3 and March 31), two historical wine tasting (March 13 and 23) and an educators’ inservice (February 9). For details, see next page.

Catalog


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Programs and Events

Wine and Spirit: Rituals, Remedies and Revelry

Exhibition Party

Saturday, January 29, 8–11 pm

Dance to blues, jazz and funk with a hint of Broadway with vocalist Alana Cahoon and her band. Purchase cocktails, coffee, snacks and desserts by Max at the Gallery (also serving dinner 5–9 pm). And of course, preview the show before it opens to the public. Tickets are free to MAG supporter members and above; $10 for associate members; and $25 for nonmembers and guests. To reserve, go to mag.rochester.edu (FREE member tickets only), stop by the MAG Admission Desk, or call 585.276.8939.

Thank you to our party sponsors, Constellation Brands and Max at the Gallery.

Lectures

Sunday, January 30, 2 pm, Auditorium / included in Gallery admission

“Wine, Life and Death.” Enjoy an illustrated lecture by John Varriano, professor emeritus of art history at Mount Holyoke College; curator of Wine and Spirit; and author of the new book Wine: A Cultural History.

Thursday, February 3, 7 pm, Auditorium / included in Gallery admission

“Wine and the Therapeutics of Age-Related Diseases.” A tiny molecule found in wine may someday help us live longer. Dr. David Goldfarb discusses new research into the health benefits of wine and his own lab’s efforts to use these findings to develop drugs that target age-related diseases. Goldfarb is professor of biology at the University of Rochester. Bring your questions!

Thursday, March 31, 7 pm, Auditorium / free to MAG and AIA members, included in admission for all others

In “Uncorking the Past: the Archaeological and Chemical Hunt for the Origins of Viniculture,” Patrick McGovern tells the compelling story of humanity’s ingenious, intoxicating quest for the perfect drink. Dr. McGovern is scientific director of the Biomolecular Archaeology Laboratory for Cuisine, Fermented Beverages and Health at the University of Pennsylvania Museum, where he is also an adjunct professor of anthropology. Following the lecture, he will sign copies of his new book Uncorking the Past: The Quest for Wine, Beer, and Other Alcoholic Beverages, as well his award-winning Ancient Wine: The Search for the Origins of Viniculture.

Cosponsored with the Archaeological Institute of America, Rochester Society.

Wine Tasting Events

Sunday, March 13, 4 pm at MAG / $50 per person (members $40), reservations required (585.276.8971)

“Wine in Ancient Times: A Historical Tasting.” Curator of education Marlene Hamann-Whitmore gives a brief overview of Wine and Spirit; and Lorraine Hems, a Certified Sommelier and full-time instructor at RIT who also teaches at the New York Wine and Culinary Center, leads a tasting of 6–8 wines with historical connections. Repeats 3/23 at NYW&CC in Canandaigua (next page). More about Lorraine

Cosponsored with the New York Wine & Culinary Center in cooperation with Max at the Gallery.
WINE TASTING EVENTS  (cont.)
Wednesday, March 23, 6 pm, New York Wine & Culinary Center, Canandaigua (nywcc.com)
$50 per person (MAG members $40), reservations required (585.276.8971)
“Wine in Ancient Times: A Historical Tasting.” Curator of education Marlene Hamann-Whitmore gives a brief overview of Wine and Spirit; and Lorraine Hems, a Certified Sommelier and full-time instructor at RIT who also teaches at the New York Wine and Culinary Center, leads a tasting of 6–8 wines with historical connections. Repeat of March 13 event at MAG (previous page). More about Lorraine

MAX AT THE GALLERY TAPAS NIGHTS
Thursday evenings. 5 to 8 pm
Visit the Gallery (open until 9 pm) and enjoy live music, wine and beer for purchase, and $4 tapas plates. During “Wine and Spirit,” look for special wine offerings.

GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS  included in Gallery admission
Sunday, January 30 (opening day), 1, 2 & 3 pm
Fridays, February 4–April 8, 2 pm
Sundays, February 6–April 10, 1 pm

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS
Wednesday, February 9, 4:30–7 pm / $30*
“Wine and Spirit.” Area educators are invited to journey through history with more than 100 objects that illustrate the role of wine in religious ceremonies, rites of passage and secular occasions both private and grand. Links to the existing tour, Passport to the Past. (Art, social studies, 6-12)
Preregistration is required; contact Kerry Donovan, 585.276.8971 (kdonovan@mag.rochester.edu).

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January 20, 2011

ALSO ON VIEW

December 22, 2010–March 21, 2011
Great Impressions: The Print Club of Rochester Turns 80

Founded in the early winter of 1930, the Print Club of Rochester has had an 80-year love affair with the fine art of printmaking. Club members—ranging from practitioners to collectors to enthusiasts—all share an appreciation for the aesthetic characteristics of the medium and its critical ability to produce images in multiples. This anniversary show presents a selection of the original prints commissioned each year by the Club and distributed to its members as a benefit.

Sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company

COMING SOON

May 1–July 3, 2011 in the Grand Gallery (exhibition party April 30)
Fiberart International 2010

Every three years, fiber artists from around the world submit their best recent work to Fiberart International, a juried exhibition organized by the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh. In 2011, MAG will be one of only three tour stops for the prestigious show, which brings together work rooted in ancient techniques and materials, non-traditional textiles made possible by technological advances, and art made from such unexpected materials as cable ties and X-ray film.

Underwritten in Rochester by the Estate of Irving Germanow, the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery, and HSBC Bank USA, N.A. Additional support is provided by Frontier Communications Solutions.

Emily Dvorin, Magnificent Obsession. Straws and cable ties.

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