May 6, 2013

EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Title: It Came from the Vault: Rarely Seen Works from MAG’s Collection

When: March 17–June 9, 2013

Description: The Memorial Art Gallery’s storage vaults are home to thousands of objects that, for a variety of reasons, are seldom on public view—light-sensitive drawings, paintings in need of frames or cleaning, the odd but interesting sculpture that simply doesn’t fit any of the gallery story lines. Ranging in date from the 4th millennium BCE to the 21st century, the more than 200 objects in this exhibition were collected under six directors during the Gallery’s first 100 years. Many are coming out of the shadows for the first time in decades. The artists represented include some of the biggest names in art history, as well as local luminaries who played important roles at MAG.

Related events: These include a members’ opening party (March 16), an educators’ inservice (March 20), a collectors’ show and tell (May 16), and a talk by director of exhibitions Marie Via (May 23). Visit mag.rochester.edu/calendar.

Exhibition sponsors: It Came from the Vault is sponsored by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and Dr. Anne-Marie Logan. Additional support is provided by the Herdle-Moore Fund and Dr. Vivian A. Palladoro.

Hours: Wednesday–Sunday 11 am–5 pm and Thursday until 9 pm. Special school break hours Tuesday, April 2, 11 am–5 pm. Closed Mondays and all other Tuesdays.

Admission: $12; senior citizens, $8; college students with ID and children 6–18, $5. Always free to members, UR students, and children 5 and under. During the school break (March 30–April 7), free to age 18 and under if accompanied by an adult. Half-price admission Thursdays from 5–9 is sponsored in part by Monroe County.

Press contacts: Meg Colombo, 585.276.8934 / mcolombo@mag.rochester.edu
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FROM TOP: Unknown Austrian artist, Glass Panel with Classical Male Figure | Carol Acquilano, North River, Marshfield, MA, 2003 | Kikukawa Eizan, Beauties Enjoying the Breeze with Child Treasures, 19th c. | Graham Marks, Untitled, ca. 1980 | Birger Sandzen, In the Nevada Desert, 1917.
February 26, 2013

RARELY SEEN WORKS COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS IN NEW MAG EXHIBITION

It Came from the Vault Celebrates MAG’s Centennial Year

ROCHESTER, NY — A typical museum exhibits 10 percent—or less—of the objects entrusted to its care, and the Memorial Art Gallery is no exception. But beginning March 17, scores of these objects will come out of the shadows, some for the first time in decades, as part of an unusual exhibition that celebrates the Gallery’s 100th anniversary.

It Came from the Vault: Rarely Seen Works from MAG’s Collection liberates more than 200 works selected by curators and staff. Included are light-sensitive drawings that are infrequently shown because of their fragile nature; works that are awaiting conservation or repair or have recently undergone treatment; odd but interesting objects that simply don’t fit any of the Gallery’s storylines; and victims of changing tastes that have been waiting to be rediscovered by another generation of curators.

In recognition of the Gallery’s centennial year, one section of the show celebrates the collecting legacy of MAG’s six directors, from its first director, George L. Herdle, through Grant Holcomb, who has led the Gallery since 1985.

“Some of the work will delight you, some will puzzle you, some will set you on a journey to learn more,” says Marie Via, the Gallery’s director of exhibitions.

It Came from the Vault remains on view through June 9.

A history of collecting

The objects in It Came from the Vault offer a history of collecting at the Memorial Art Gallery. They range across the centuries, from an Egyptian storage jar dating to before 3400 BCE to a 2003 painting by Rochester artist Carol Acquilano. They include works acquired long ago—Eugen Bracht’s painting Morning Star (right) came into the collection in 1913, the year of the Gallery’s founding—and works acquired in the last decade.

The artists represented include a number who played important roles at MAG. Among them (to cite only a few) are Ralph Avery, Peter Berg, Emma Lampert Cooper, E. E. Cummings, George L. Herdle, Robert Marx, John C. Menihan, Luvon Sheppard and Frans Wildenhain. Also on view are works by such major names in art history as Edgar Degas, Walt Disney, Albrecht Dürer, Helen Frankenthaler, Thomas Gainsborough, Keith Haring, David Hockney, Hans Hofmann, Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, Paul Klee, Käthe Kollwitz, Fernand Léger, Roy Lichtenstein, Jean-François Millet, Henry Moore, Robert Motherwell, Georgia O’Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Man Ray, Rembrandt van Rijn, Edward Ruscha, Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, Joyce Treiman and Jerome Witkin.

Exhibition sponsors

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Centennial sponsors

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Winslow Homer, Paddling at Dusk (1892) | Eugen Bracht, Morning Star (ca. 1900) | Edgar Degas, Dancers (ca. 1900)
The Memorial Art Gallery’s centennial year is presented by Lynne Lovejoy, with additional support from ESL Charitable Foundation and Nocon & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Members’ Opening Party
Saturday, March 16, 8–11 pm
Celebrate the opening of It Came from the Vault at this members-only event. Enjoy music by Roses & Revolutions, The Big Wigs Show and lutenist Christopher Wilke, and a performance by sword swallower Riley Schillaci. Purchase cocktails, snacks and dessert by our party sponsor, Max at the Gallery (also serving dinner 5-9 pm). Take home a copy of The Memorial Art Gallery: 100 Years, an illustrated timeline of MAG’s first century that’s available for purchase for the first time that night.
MAG members may reserve free tickets, but reservations are required. For more information, call 585.276.8938.

Lecture and Booksigning
Thursday, May 16 @ 5:30 pm ADULT CONTENT
William Whiting speaks on his new book An Early Work Late in Life: The Art and Life of Danny Allen. Allen’s work Sunny Ducks (1973) is on view in It Came from the Vault. Followed by a booksigning. Included in MAG admission (half price admission beginning at 5 pm).

“It Came from My Attic” collectors’ show and tell
Thursday, May 16 @ 7 pm
Have a quirky item you would like to share or learn more about? Dick Storms, owner of Record Archive; Patricia Tice, curator, John L. Wehle Art Gallery, Genesee Country Village and Museum; and Gallery staff will be on hand to help you. Included in Gallery admission.
Contact Sabrina Moore at smoore7@mag.rochester.edu or 585-276-8970.

What’s Up Lecture
Thursday, May 23 @ 7 pm
Learn about It Came from the Vault from director of exhibitions Marie Via. Included in Gallery admission.

Guided Exhibition Tours included in Gallery admission
Sunday, March 17, 1, 2 & 3 pm  |  Fridays, March 22–June 7, 2 pm  |  Sundays, March 24–June 9, 1 pm

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS
Wednesday, March 20, 4:30–7 pm
“It Came from the Vault.” Gallery staff lead a behind-the-scenes look at how museums design exhibitions and install collections. Use their ideas to plan an exhibit in your own classroom! $30; registration and prepayment are required. Contact Kerry Donovan at kdonovan@mag.rochester.edu or 585-276-8971.

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