MEMORIAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS: 2013–2014

Through December 29, 2013 in the Grand Gallery
Memory Theatre 2013

This exhibition, which celebrates MAG’s centennial, includes both historical and contemporary works that explore how memory shapes both personal and cultural identities, and the ways in which museums function as “memory theatres.” The exhibition will include loans from public and private collections, as well as key objects from MAG’s own collection. The works, in a broad range of media, are by such artists as Barton Benes, David Maisel, Will Barnet, William Christenberry, Nathan Lyons, Armelle Le Roux, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Ori Gersht, Robert Polidori and Judith G. Levy.

Sponsored by Richard F. Brush and Riedman Foundation, with additional support provided by Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP and the Gallery Council of the University of Rochester.


Through January 19, 2014 in the Lockhart Gallery
Connoisseurs Around the Corner: Gifts of Art from MAG’s Founding Family

Three generations of MAG’s founding family, the Watsons, have enriched the Gallery’s collections with art, ancient to modern. From Emily and James Sibley Watson came the most diverse group of objects, reflecting the encyclopedic nature of their tastes. Their son and his wife, James Sibley Watson, Jr. and Hildegarde Lasell Watson, built a collection of contemporary works by artists including E.E. Cummings, Gaston Lachaise, and William Gropper—all of whom were featured in the avant-garde magazine, The Dial, in the 1920s. More recently, Michael Watson and his wife, Nicoleta, shepherded the family collection and gave a number of important pieces to MAG. Don’t miss this exhibition that pays tribute to a remarkable family legacy.

Presented in Honor of the Watson Family.

Pictured: E.E. Cummings, James Sibley Watson, Jr.

Long term installation in the Dorothy McBride Gill Discovery Center
Renaissance Remix: Art & Imagination in 16th-century Europe

See the world of the Renaissance through the eyes of a young boy growing up in mid 16th-century Europe—a time of political, cultural, religious and social change. At the center of this long-term installation is MAG’s much-loved Portrait of a Boy of the Bracciforte Family, but it also showcases 30 other works from the Gallery’s collection, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Corning Museum of Glass. Hands-on activities, videos, touch screen displays and listening posts explore the Renaissance “spirit of change.”

Made possible by funding from Dan and Dorothy Gill. Additional support has been provided by the Thomas and Marion Hawks Memorial Fund, the Mabel Fenner Lyon Fund, the estate of Emma Jane Drury, and an anonymous donor.

January 19–March 16, 2014 in the Grand Gallery

Redefining the Multiple: 13 Contemporary Japanese Printmakers

By definition, most of the processes used by printmakers lend themselves to the creation of multiple impressions. This exhibition features work by 13 contemporary Japanese artists, ranging in age from their mid-twenties to mid-sixties, who are today “redefining the multiple” in new and exciting ways. All 13 are formally trained in printmaking, which has a long and rich history in Japan, and the production of multiples remains at the core of their creative process. But many have transitioned to other media—both two- and three-dimensional—to explore subjects ranging from the traditional to the abstract. Among the results are a room-size installation composed of etchings on cotton wool; compositions of acrylic ink squeegeed onto glass; 3-D works of cast resin; and woodblock prints that cast familiar food items in a new light. Also on view is New Beginnings: Japanese Prints of the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, a companion show of works from the Gallery’s collection.

Sponsored by Nancy G. Curme, the John D. Greene Endowment for Contemporary Exhibitions and the Elaine P. and Richard U. Wilson Foundation, with additional support provided by Jane W. Labrum and Mann’s Jewelers.


January 31–May 5, 2014

Eduardo Paolozzi’s General Dynamic F.U.N.

From across the ocean, British Pop artist Eduardo Paolozzi (1924–2005) absorbed American popular culture with delight and dismay. His 1970 portfolio of screenprints and photolithographs General Dynamic F.U.N. featured fifty dizzying images drawn from the artist’s personal collection of American magazines and comics. Influenced by the collage aesthetic of the Surrealist and Dada movements, Paolozzi poured iconic images of 1960s America—Liz Taylor, television sets, robots, motorcycles, Mickey Mouse and Mr. Peanut—into the blender of his unconscious mind and set it to spin.

This exhibition is presented in honor of the Averell Council of the Memorial Art Gallery.

Pictured: Llalla Pallooza... Image fades but memory lingers on.

April 6–June 8, 2014 in the Grand Gallery

Matisse as Printmaker: Works from the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation

Henri Matisse may be best known as a painter and sculptor, but this exhibition sheds light on his prolific and innovative career as a printmaker. Drawn from the extraordinary collection of Matisse prints that once belonged to the artist’s son Pierre, Matisse as Printmaker includes approximately 63 etchings, monotypes, aquatints, lithographs, linocuts in black and white, and two-color prints—examples of every printmaking medium that Matisse utilized. The exhibition, which the Washington Times said “refreshes the typical view of Matisse,” underscores the importance of his work in series, as well as the standing, seated, and reclining nude. On view concurrently will be an exhibition of contemporary ceramics by the painter’s great-grandson, Alex Matisse.

The exhibition is organized by the American Federation of Arts and the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation.

Pictured: One artist in each Biennial is chosen from the most recent Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition. This year, the honor goes to Jeff Kell. Shown above is his ceramic Hero or Zero? (2013), from that show.

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