November 5, 2014

MEMORIAL ART GALLERY EXHIBITIONS: 2014–15

Through January 4, 2015 in the Grand Gallery

Golden Legacy: 65 Years of Golden Books

The launch of Little Golden Books in 1942 made high-quality children’s picture books available for the first time at a price that nearly everyone could afford. This nationally touring exhibition is the most extensive public showing ever of original artwork for the series. The 57 works, from the vast Random House archive, are by such gifted artists as Mary Blair, Tibor Gergely, Elizabeth Orton Jones, J. P. Miller, Martin Provensen, Feodor Rojankovsky, Richard Scarry, Bob Staake, Gustaf Tenggren, Eloise Wilkin and Garth Williams. Included are iconic illustrations for such classics as Tootle, Home for a Bunny, Five Little Firemen, The Color Kittens and I Can Fly.

Golden Legacy is organized by the National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas. In Rochester, it is sponsored by the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and Nocon & Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Additional support is provided by the Child Care Council, Inc., FULL MEASURE, Michael & Joanna Grosodonia, and COMIDA.


Infinity Boxes by Matt Elson

As seen at Burning Man! Nine “infinity boxes” created by California artist Matt Elson use color, light and mirrors to create optical illusions that envelop viewers who peer inside. Elson has said, “They are a form of contemporary portraiture that is tuned to social media. Typically, two people will walk up, look in from each side, put their heads in the box, be surprised/get happy, then spontaneously take out their phones, photograph each other and publish those pictures via the web.” Engage your inner artist!

Sponsored by the Averell Council.


Through November 30, 2014 in the Lockhart Gallery

New Ghosts for a New Age: Yoshitoshi’s New Forms of 36 Ghosts

Japanese Prints from the Arthur R. Miller Collection

This exhibition showcases the series New Forms of 36 Ghosts by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839–1892), the most important Japanese woodcut artist of the Meiji period. Trained in centuries-old artistic traditions, Yoshitoshi was also an eyewitness to the conflict and change in Japanese culture after the country opened to the west in 1868. Created near the end of his life, the dramatic, sometimes terrifying prints in this series are linked only by the inclusion of a supernatural being—ghost, demon, or monster—drawn from the ancient legends in Japanese history and theater.

Presented in honor of Grant Holcomb (Director, Memorial Art Gallery 1985–2014).

Pictured: Kiyomori Sees Hundreds of Skulls at Fukahara (1890).
December 12, 2014–April 12, 2015 in the Lockhart Gallery

Robert Kirschbaum’s The 42-Letter Name

Fusing Judaic concepts of sacred space with forms derived from traditional South Asian religious art, Robert Kirschbaum’s The 42-Letter Name is a meditation upon divinity, creation, and faith. Each page of the folio references a letter of one of the secret names of God. Kirschbaum’s invented language of mystical symbols evokes Hebrew letters, the sacred space of the Temple, and Jewish ritual objects. The artist has said “many layers of memory are invested in this work,” including preparations for his bar mitzvah, an industrial arts class in high school, and a 1966 visit to MAG as an undergraduate that sparked his life-long love affair with Indian art.


January 24–March 29, 2015 in the Grand Gallery

Infinite Place: The Ceramic Art of Wayne Higby

World-renowned ceramist Wayne Higby gained national attention in the early 1970s for innovative raku-fired vessels based on the Colorado landscapes of his childhood. After a visit to China in 1991, his work underwent a dramatic shift; he began working with slabs of glazed porcelain that continued to reference landscape, but as a focal point of meditation. This first retrospective of Higby’s work includes 55 ceramic pieces from 1967 through 2012, including his studies for the largest hand-cut architectural installation in the world—the monumental Earth Cloud wall sculpture at Alfred University. A longtime professor at Alfred’s NYS College of Ceramics, Higby is currently director and curator of that institution’s Ceramic Art Museum.


April 25–June 28, 2015 in the Grand Gallery

The Human Touch: Selections from the RBC Wealth Management Art Collection

Over the past two decades, RBC Wealth Management has collected more than 400 works of art that reflect the diversity of the society in which we live and work. The 35 paintings, drawings, prints, and photographs selected for this exhibition all focus on the human body because, as collection curator Don McNeil points out, the age-old need to understand the human condition is still vital and the human form remains its most direct manifestation. Among the artists represented are Kerry James Marshall, Elizabeth Peyton, Vic Muniz, Hung Liu, Roy Lichtenstein, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith and Alex Soth.


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.”

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