EXHIBITION FACT SHEET

Title:  

My America: Art from The Jewish Museum Collection, 1900–1955

When:  

October 24–December 24, 2006

Description:  

Journey through the first half of the 20th century with 40 American Jewish artists. Learn how they reacted to unprecedented freedoms and harsh economic and political realities—and in the process helped shape the direction of American art. The 71 works in this major traveling exhibition are in five sections titled “Becoming American,” “Striving for Social Justice,” “Picturing Ourselves,” “Reacting to Tragedy” and “Moving Toward Abstraction.”

Contents:  

Paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures by such noted artists as Alfred Stieglitz, Ben Shahn, Raphael Soyer, Morris Louis and Weegee (Arthur Fellig).

Preview party:  

Sunday, October 22, 6–9 pm. For ticket information, see attached release.

Special events:  

Lecture by Joan Rosenbaum, director of The Jewish Museum (October 26); educators’ inservice (November 6) and family day (November 19). For details, see attached release.

Sponsors:  

My America was organized by The Jewish Museum, New York. In Rochester, it is underwritten by New York State Assemblyman Joseph D. Morelle, Mr. & Mrs. Harold S. Feinbloom and Dr. Seymour I. Schwartz. Additional support is provided by Laurence & Karen Kessler, Dennis Kessler & Andrea Miller, and the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester.

Hours:  

Tuesday–Friday noon to 5 pm and Thursday until 9 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am–5 pm. Closed Mondays and Thanksgiving Day.

Admission:  

$7; college students with ID and senior citizens, $5; children 6–18, $2. Reduced admission Thursdays 5–9 pm, $2. Prices include My America Acoustiguide and the Director’s Tour Acoustiguide of the collection. Always free to MAG members, UR students and children 5 and under. Reduced general admission, $2, Thursdays from 5–9, made possible by the Democrat and Chronicle/Gannett Foundation, with additional support from ExxonMobil Chemical Company, Thomson West and Monroe County. Your ticket to Georgia O’Keeffe: Color and Conservation also admits you to My America, but please note that there will be special O’Keeffe ticket pricing. (For ticket information, see attached release.)

Information:  

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In the first half of the 20th century, American Jewish artists enjoyed unprecedented freedoms, even as they faced harsh economic and political realities.

A major traveling exhibition at the Memorial Art Gallery speaks to the individualism of these artists as they reacted to their worlds—past and present, social and political, Jewish and secular—and as they claimed this country as their own. *My America: Art from The Jewish Museum Collection, 1900–1955* opens at MAG October 24 and remains on view through December 24. Through paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures, the exhibition explores the reactions of a diverse group of artists during a period of social, political and intellectual upheaval.

The 71 works are by such noted artists as Alfred Stieglitz, Ben Shahn, Raphael Soyer, Morris Louis and Weegee (Arthur Fellig). Some of these artists were born in the US, some came under the influence of European avant-garde influences while studying abroad, and still others were immigrants, particularly from Eastern Europe.

*My America* is divided into five sections:
- “Becoming American” examines the impact of modern life and art on Jewish American artists, particularly through images of New York’s Lower East Side.
- “Striving for Social Justice” reflects the thoughts of artists working to bring about social change.
- “Picturing Ourselves” is devoted to portraits not only of people but also of meaningful places.
- “Reacting to Tragedy” focuses on the devastation of World War II and the Holocaust.
- “Moving Toward Abstraction” examines the post-war emergence of Abstract Expressionism as the preeminent form of modern art.

**Share your own family’s story**

People from all over the world have come to call Rochester “home.” Some of us are new to this area, and some of our families have been here for generations. Yet regardless of nationality, or where we started from, we all have a story that brought us here.

My America features a study area where you can share your family’s story. You’re invited to make photocopies of family photographs, letters and memorabilia; write a few sentences of explanation; and add your page to one of the scrapbooks in the exhibition.

You may also share your story by email. Send your digital image with a short description to mhamann@mag.rochester.edu.

Special events
These include an opening party, a lecture by Joan Rosenbaum, director of The Jewish Museum (October 26), an educators’ inservice (November 6) and a Sunday family day (November 19). For details, see attached release.

Admission/audiotour
The exhibition is open Tuesday–Friday noon to 5 pm and Thursday until 9 pm; Saturday and Sunday 10 am–5 pm. Closed Mondays and Thanksgiving Day.

Admission is $7; college students with ID and senior citizens, $5; children 6–18, $2; free to MAG members, UR students and children 5 and under. Reduced admission Thursdays 5–9 pm, $2. Prices include Acoustiguide audiotours of My America and the Gallery’s permanent collection.

Your ticket to Georgia O’Keeffe: Color and Conservation (information below) also admits you to My America.

O’Keeffe tickets (October 1–December 31, 2006)
General admission tickets to Georgia O’Keeffe: Color and Conservation are $15, seniors and students $10, children 6–18 $5; five & under free. Thursday evenings 5–9 pm reduced prices of $10, $7 and $3 respectively. All prices include museum admission, admission to My America and audiotours for both shows and the Gallery’s permanent collection. Advance tickets are strongly recommended.

Tickets may be purchased during museum hours at the Gallery’s Admission Desk (in-person sales only). Tickets are also available online at ticketmaster.com and at Ticketmaster outlets including Macy’s/Kaufmann’s stores. To charge tickets by phone, call (585) 232-1900. Service charges apply to phone and online sales.

For information on free or discounted tickets for Gallery members, call (585) 473-7720, ext. 3018 or visit mag.rochester.edu. Please note that member discounts apply only to in-person sales at MAG.

Website
mag.rochester.edu

Exhibition credits
My America was organized by The Jewish Museum, New York. In Rochester, it is underwritten by New York State Assemblyman Joseph D. Morelle, Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Feinbloom and Dr. Seymour I. Schwartz. Additional support is provided by Laurence and Karen Kessler, Dennis Kessler and Andrea Miller, and the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester.

The exhibition was organized by Karen Levitov, associate curator at The Jewish Museum.
OPENING PARTY
My America: Art from The Jewish Museum Collection, 1900–1955

Sunday, October 22, 6–9 pm
MAG supporter members and above free; associate members $8; non-members and guests $15; advance tickets required*

Party sponsored by the Rochester Red Wings and the Democrat and Chronicle

Journey through the first half of the 20th century with 40 American Jewish artists. Learn how they reacted to unprecedented freedoms and harsh economic and political realities—and in the process helped shape the direction of American art.

• In the M&T Bank Ballroom, let the Blue Avengers bring back the feeling with creative interpretations of Motown, blues and R&B.
• In the Vanden Brul Pavilion, grab a drink and jam to sophisticated jazz with the Bob Sneider Trio.
• In the Herdle Fountain Court, enjoy traditional and contemporary songs and klezmer-inspired instrumentals by the Love and Knishes trio.

Help yourself to munchies, or purchase cocktails, coffee and decadent desserts served by our own Cutler’s Restaurant.

Please note that Georgia O’Keeffe: Color and Conservation will not be open during this party.

* For recorded information call 473-7720, ext. 3510. Tickets for nonmembers only are also available at Wegmans Customer Service Counters (surcharge applies).

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October 2, 2006

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
My America: Art from The Jewish Museum Collection, 1900–1955

LECTURE
Thursday, October 26, 7 pm

ESPECIALLY FOR EDUCATORS
Monday, November 6, 4–6:30 pm
Join Gallery educators for exhibition tours, slide presentations, refreshments and classroom materials. The cost is $30.

To register, call Kerry Donovan, (585) 473-7720, ext. 3072 or email kdonovan@mag.rochester.edu.

FAMILY DAY
Sunday, November 19, noon–4 pm
Enjoy art activities, tours, storytelling and music performances. Admission is free to MAG members and children 5 and under; all others $1.

Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Harold S. Feinbloom and the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester.

VIDEO
Wednesdays and Saturdays, October 25–December 23, 2 pm (no showing November 18)

Special thanks to Todd Weinstein Productions and Flow Studios, New York City.

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October 2, 2006

LIST OF ARTISTS
My America: Art from The Jewish Museum Collection, 1900–1955

Saul Baizerman  Chaim Gross  Louis Ribak
Ben-Zion  Sydney Gross  Larry Rivers
Theresa Bernstein  Hananiah Harari  Mark Rothko
Ilse Bing  Stefan Hirsch  Ben Shahn
Albert Bloch  Lotte Jacobi  Morris Shulman
Hyman Bloom  Nathaniel Kaz  Aaron Siskind
Peter Blume  Henry Koerner  Joseph Solman
Arnold Eagle  Irving Kriesberg  Moses Soyer
Sir Jacob Epstein  Rebecca Lepkoff  Raphael Soyer
Philip Evergood  Jacques Lipchitz  Alfred Stieglitz
Herbert Ferber  Morris Louis  Abraham Walkowitz
Isac Friedlander  Louis Lozowick  Max Weber
Aaron Goodleman  William Meyerowitz  Weegee (Arthur Fellig)
Adolph Gottlieb  Robert Motherwell  Dan Weiner
Gertrude Greene  Elie Nadelman
William Gropper  Arnold Newman

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October 2, 2006

ALSO ON VIEW AT THE MEMORIAL ART GALLERY: FALL 2006

GRAND GALLERY
Through December 31
Georgia O’Keeffe: Color and Conservation

MAG is the only northeast venue—and the last stop—for a major Georgia O’Keeffe exhibition organized by the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson. It’s your opportunity to see 27 rarely­seen oil paintings and pastels—among them landscapes, flowers, still­lifes and abstractions—from all periods of O’Keeffe’s prodigious career. It’s the first O’Keeffe exhibition ever in Rochester, where it will also include photographs of O’Keeffe on loan from George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film. It’s also the first exhibition ever to focus on O’Keeffe’s painstaking choice of color, her studio methods and her involvement in conservation issues.

This exhibition is made possible in Rochester by a major gift from Presenting Sponsor M&T Bank. Supporting Sponsors are Riedman Foundation, University of Rochester Medical Center/Strong Health, Wendy’s Restaurants of Rochester, Inc. and Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP. The Media Sponsor is the Democrat and Chronicle. Additional support is provided by New York State Assemblyman Joseph D. Morelle and New York State Senator Joseph E. Robach.

LOCKHART GALLERY
Through October 15
Romanticism and the Politics of Taste

Yearning for the natural world, longing for the past and emotional intensity—all are characteristics of European Romanticism, a general term encompassing many artistic movements of the late 18th and 19th centuries. This exhibition includes such varied works as picturesque landscapes by Turner, east­ward­looking works by Delacroix and the tortured inner visions of Goya.

Sponsored by Eastman Kodak Company.
October 27, 2006–January 21, 2007

**Calling Every Man, Woman and Child: American World War I Posters**

The United States government called upon the power of the poster to mobilize the country for entry into the Great War. Playing on cultural roles of gender and family and utilizing the power of symbols and personification, the posters of the First World War are striking works of art and propaganda.

*Dedicated to David Hochstein (1892–1918), violin prodigy after whom Hochstein School was named; killed at the Battle of the Argonne.*

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**LONG-TERM INSTALLATIONS**

**Protected for Eternity: The Coffins of Pa-debehu-Aset**

This interactive exhibit for all ages showcases a rare pair of lavishly decorated nesting coffins that once held the mummy of an Egyptian official. Learn how the coffins were restored, write your name in hieroglyphics and follow the fascinating process of mummification.

*Made possible by funding from Dan and Dorothy Gill. Additional support provided by the Museum Loan Network, a program administered by MIT’s Office of the Arts, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts; and by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Council for the Humanities and the Davenport-Hatch Foundation, Inc.*

**Italian Baroque Organ**

When the only full-size antique Italian organ in North America was installed at MAG in summer 2005, it was national news. A year later, the organ—on permanent loan from the Eastman School of Music—has become an integral part of Rochester’s musical life. Monthly showcase recitals, as well as student recitals every Sunday at 1 pm and 3 pm, show off the magnificent sound of the instrument. Surrounded by Baroque paintings and sculpture, it’s a feast for the eyes as well.

*For a concert schedule visit mag.rochester.edu.*

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