A Word from the New Director

The Wright Museum of Art is delighted to revive the tradition of a newsletter. During the 1980s, the Beloit College Museums published a biannual newsletter that succeeded the older Theodore Lyman Wright Art Center’s newsletter. Now after a hiatus of many years, we are bringing the Wright newsletter back. As the new director, I hope this will be one of many changes taking place here at the museum. Some additional new happenings include the transformation of the Art League into the Friends of the Wright. We are also looking forward to a new May opening for the Annual Beloit and Vicinity Exhibition. Our “Adopt a Plaster Cast” program is underway with the Parthenon Frieze and the Discobolus already being sponsored for restoration in the spring. Other significant events include upgrading our facilities with completion expected early in 2008. Through the reorganization of space and a generous donation through a bequest from Richard’43 and Gloria Nystrom, the Wright will have a museum education room to better accommodate our campus and Gloria Nystrom, the Wright will have a museum education room to better accommodate our campus programming and expanded climate-controlled storage facilities to relieve our overcrowded collections room. Our spring exhibitions will focus on art and politics, and an updated calendar can be seen on our new Web site. I hope you will take time to visit the Wright Museum of Art, located on the Beloit College campus.

Joy Elizabeth Beckman
Director

Wright Museum of Art

Acquisitions

In 2006 the Wright Museum of Art received a generous donation from the family of Gibson Byrd (1923-2002). Byrd was a native of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who moved to Wisconsin in the 1950s to teach at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as a professor in the Department of Art. He worked mostly with figures and landscape, primarily in oil, but also with the mediums of gouache and pastel. Byrd’s early work focused on social realism, but by the 1980s he turned his attention to the rural landscape.

The Wright Museum holds two oil paintings by Byrd in its collection: End of Summer, 1956, and a portrait of Col. Robert Morse, 1968. After Byrd’s death in 2002, the family donated four pieces from the artist’s personal collection to the Wright Museum including a large oil painting titled The Window; a print titled A Burying (above); a pencil and ink on paper titled Night Visitor; and a charcoal on paper titled On the Front Porch.

The Wright Museum staff is grateful to the entire Byrd family for their generous donation.

Art League Members Become “Wright Friends”

For more than 75 years, the Art League of Beloit has been an important institution in the cultural life of the Beloit community. Now, with a new name and a renewed focus on the future of the Wright Museum of Art, the organization has renewed its mandate as it continues to work to bring exposure to the visual arts in this region.

“The Wright Museum continues to grow in its collections and its programs and is in need of a ‘Friends’ organization,” says Wright Museum Director Joy Beckman. The focus of the new “Friends of the Wright Museum of Art” will continue to be the exhibitions, programs, and the collections of the Beloit College art museum and, in particular, the expanded Beloit and Vicinity Show, Wisconsin’s longest-running regional art show.

“It is important that an organization such as this examine its role occasionally so that it remains fresh and vibrant,” says MaryAnn White, president of the reconstituted board that includes members of both the College and the greater Beloit communities.

Wright Museum of Art

Gallery Hours: Tuesday - Sunday 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Sponsor a Sculpture

This spring, art conservator Tony Rajer will work with Beloit College students to begin to restore The Wright Museum’s collection of plaster casts. The majority of the casts were acquired from the Chicago Columbian Exposition in 1893.

The Wright needs your help. The Museum is seeking information on the plaster cast collection and invites you to share your personal stories or photographs. You may also adopt one of these sculptures with a full restoration gift of $500. Please call the Wright Museum at 608-363-2151 or email museum@www.beloit.edu for more information.