Wright Museum of Art

A Word from the Director

Beloit College are required to read, both the Logan and Wright museums have exhibitions that the Wright Museum of Art with a full exhibition schedule. Currently, Joy Elizabeth Beckman located on the Beloit College campus, and enjoy all that it to curate a show of important collection of the Wright Museum's to acknowledge the Stella Waitzkin Memorial Library Trust for initiating and its sincere thanks to the foundation for its interest and support. We also wish to acknowledge the Stella Waitzkin Memorial Library Trust for initiating and facilitating this donation.

New Holленsteiner Gallery

Wanda and Jim Hollenessiner, of Barrington, Ill., have generously provided funds to renovate the main gallery at the Wright Museum of Art. Upgrades to the gallery will allow the museum to move towards the professional standards set by the American Association of Museums. Renovations will include the installation of a new climate-control system, a new security system, as well as museum-quality pedestals and movable walls. These additions will greatly enhance the museum’s exhibition potential, as it will provide a stable environment in which to exhibit more delicate works of art from the permanent collection. It will also enable the Wright Museum to borrow works of art from peer institutions for exhibition purposes.

Wanda Hollenessiner, with the permission of her husband, graduated from Beloit College in 1954. The Wright Museum of Art gratefully acknowledges the Hollenessiners' significant contribution to the Wright and to Beloit College.

Notes from the Collections

By Jamie Merkel, Former Collections Manager

Andy Warhol

American Pop artist Andy Warhol moved to New York in 1949 to work as an illustrator for magazines such as Vogue and The New Yorker. During the 1950s, he began to produce iconic paintings of American products such as Campbell's Soup and Coca-Cola. Throughout his career, Warhol explored a variety of media including film, television, and photography. In honor of its 20th anniversary, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., gifted 153 original photographic prints to the Wright Museum of Art.

In seeking to provide greater access to Warhol's artwork and artistic process, the Andy Warhol Foundation recently donated portions of Warhol’s work to 183 college and university art museums. The Wright Museum is honored to be included among the recipients, and to augment its permanent collection with fine examples of Warhol’s Polaroids and gelatin-silver prints. The museum extends its sincere gratitude and thanks to the Warhol Foundation for its generous donation.

Stella Waitzkin

The Wright Museum of Art recently acquired a cast resin sculpture by the late artist Stella Waitzkin (1920-2003). Waitzkin spent the last 35 years of her life residing at the Chelsea Hotel in New York and, over time, transformed the apartment with large installations of her work. Her signature pieces include installations of bookcases filled with resin casts of ornamental Victorian books. Using a wide range of colors, translucency, and hues, Waitzkin sought to capture the feeling of a painting in her work.

The Wright Museum welcomes the addition of an untitled work depicting five birds by Waitzkin to its permanent collection. It is a superb example of Waitzkin's use of cast resin and found objects, and is the Wright Museum's first piece of its kind. Generously gifted by the Kohler Art Foundation, Inc., the museum offers its sincere thanks to the foundation for its interest and support. We also wish to acknowledge the Stella Waitzkin Memorial Library Trust for initiating and facilitating this donation.

Ginsberg Artist-in-Residence

Established through a generous gift from Stuart S2 and Lisa Ginsberg, the Ginsberg Family Endowed Artist-in-Residence Program brings to campus young artists in the prime of their artistic careers.

The Wright Museum of Art and the department of art and art history are delighted to host David Opdyke as the 2009 Ginsberg Family Endowed Visiting Artist-in-Residence. Based in Brooklyn, N.Y., Opdyke received the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art’s Emerging Artist Award in 2004, and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in sculpture in 2005. Opdyke’s work has been shown in numerous exhibitions across the country and abroad, and he has had solo exhibitions at Roebling Hall in Brooklyn, N.Y., the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art in Ridgefield, Conn., and at Ronald Feldman Fine Arts in New York, N.Y., where he is currently represented. His politically charged sculptures, drawings, and installations address complex social and political systems, often through meticulous models and dioramas that suggest epic, overwhelming scale. Opdyke’s vision is grotesque and dystopian, with an edge of satire that skewers mass consumption and waste. Opdyke will be on campus March 17-20, 2009, and will give a public lecture on Wednesday, March 18. An exhibition of his work will be on view at the Wright Museum in February and March.

Cast Conservation Program

By Anton Rajer, Fine Arts Conservator and Visiting Instructor

It is hard to get people excited about old, broken plaster casts in a museum basement. But we tried and succeeded.

Plaster casts are exact copies of three-dimensional sculptures, usually from the antique world. As technology improved throughout the 18th and 19th century, progressively more sophisticated copies were made and casting techniques spread to dozens of European firms, including many that had royal patronage. The copies were viewed as being essentially identical to the original and such firms provided a growing market in plaster casts. The study of these sculptures served several purposes. The casts were history lessons in themselves; artists would copy drawing from the antique sculptures, furthering a study of the art in a way that would enhance it at a time long before slides or illustrated art history books were known or available. Collecting and exhibiting the casts became a standard practice for museums and colleges such as Beloit.

The Beloit College collection is unique because of its provenance. The body of the collection came to the College by way of the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893, (which was held in Chicago, Ill.), which was brought directly from Greece. It is our hope that our efforts to restore and protect these pieces will produce a positive and lasting impact.

In the spring of 2008, we conducted an educational experiment at the Wright Museum. With a class of 12 students, we cleaned and conserved eight plaster casts from the museum’s collection. In the 1970s, many pieces had been painted with white latex paint, which obscured the casts’ original surface and decoration. We spent many weeks removing the overpaint. What surprised us was how each sculpture’s original surface varied. None were pure white—instead, colors ranged from pale ochre to light umber. Remarkably, the casts resembled the original sculptures made of marble, which remain in European collections. A number of them had been sealed, as a part of the original manufacturing technique, with a lacquer or linseed oil. In several cases, such as a growing market in plaster casts. The study of these sculptures served several purposes. The casts were history lessons in themselves; artists would copy from the antique sculptures, furthering a study of the art in a way that would enhance it at a time long before slides or illustrated art history books were known or available. Collecting and exhibiting the casts became a standard practice for museums and colleges such as Beloit.

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To join our listserve of announcements on openings and events at the Wright Museum of Art, send an email to museum@beloit.edu.
Calendar 2008 - 2009

Palates and Palettes
Neese Gallery
Aug. 18 - Dec. 5

Women and Shakespeare
South Gallery
Aug. 29 - Nov. 14

The Fabric and Characters of Beloit College
North Gallery
Aug. 29 - Dec. 7

Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition
South Gallery
Nov. 25 – Dec. 7

David Opdyke
February – March

Japanese Modern Prints
February – March

Annual Senior Art Exhibition
April 17 – May 16

52nd Annual Beloit and Vicinity Exhibition
June 12 – July 24

Wright Museum of Art
Beloit College
700 College Street
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

Inside:
Hollensteiner Gallery
David Opdyke
Andy Warhol

Kawano Kazuki, Child with Two Birds, woodblock print, circa 1959


James Trissel, Seated Man with Flowers, oil on canvas, 1960.

Wright Museum of Art
Gallery hours: Tuesday - Sunday, 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Visit us on the Web: www.beloit.edu/wright