Recent Acquisitions
By: Craig Hadley '06, Collections Manager

The Wright Museum would like to thank Charlotte Fergusson, Dr. Robert J. Poor, and the Kohler Foundation, Inc. for their continued support and interest in the Wright Museum and Beloit College. Their generous donations continue to strengthen the permanent collection and our ability to provide students with a learning experience that is truly unique to Beloit.

Fergusson Collection of Napoleonic Art

Charlotte Fergusson recently donated a large collection of Napoleonic-era art and reference materials to the Wright Museum. Her late husband, Major General Robert G. Fergusson, attended Beloit College from 1929 until he joined the Wisconsin National Guard in the spring of 1932. After serving almost 35 years in the United States Armed Forces, Fergusson retired and entered civilian work as group vice president at Manpower Planning and Dart Industries. In addition to a distinguished military and civilian career, Fergusson was also an avid collector of Napoleonic battlefield lithographs, sculpture, paintings, and books. Several battlefield lithographs are currently on display in the south gallery until late November as part of a teaching exhibition.

Dr. Robert J. Poor and Geraldine Smith Collection

An art history professor of more than 30 years at the University of Minnesota — and a passionate collector of Chinese and Japanese art — the Dr. Robert J. Poor Collection is an outstanding addition to the Wright Museum’s permanent collection of Asian art. The gift includes Chinese rubbings, Peking glassware, Li-ising ceramics, Chinese robes, and Japanese kimonos, as well as prints and scroll paintings. One of Dr. Poor’s gifts was recently on display in the Wright Museum’s spring exhibition Unexpected Riches: Masters of the Japanese Print. The woodcut, entitled Yun Kang Cave Temple, was produced by prominent “creative print” leader Hiratsuka Unichi. The print complemented a second piece by the same artist in the exhibition and further strengthens the Wright Museum’s significant collection of modern Japanese prints.

Schomer Lichtner and Ruth Grotenrath

The Wright Museum is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of 47 works of art by the late Schomer Lichtner (1905–2006) and Ruth Grotenrath (1912–1988). Throughout their careers, the Milwaukee-based couple produced sculpture, drawings, portraiture, still life, and abstract pieces. Their artistic styles evolved over the decades as they painted post office murals during the Great Depression, studied Mexican social realism, and later made numerous trips to Japan.

Many of Schomer’s later pieces incorporate Wisconsin themes such as corn and Holstein-patterned cows in whimsical scenes with ballerina dancers. Schomer and his wife also adapted many stylistic elements from Japanese printmaking and infused them with their own painting methods. This is perhaps most evident in many of Grotenrath’s still life paintings and landscapes. In Willows, she incorporates gold leaf and thick sweeping brush strokes to produce a Japanese-inspired Wisconsin landscape.

Notes from the Collection
By: Craig Hadley ‘06, Collections Manager

St. Jerome in His Study by German printmaker Albrecht Dürer, recently underwent conservation treatment at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. Prior to conservation, the 16th century print was marred with brown adhesive and attached to an acidic support. Paper conservationists separated the print from its backing, repaired tears, removed adhesive residue, and neutralized any remaining acid in the paper. The print is currently on display in the Wanda Hollensteiner’54 Gallery at the Wright Museum. Conservation work was generously funded by the Wanda Hollensteiner’54 Conservation Fund.

A Word from the Director

This year should prove to be one of the most exciting since I joined the staff here at the Wright. Over the past year, we have been working to renovate the main gallery, and this October we will unveil the Wanda Hollensteiner’54 Gallery. On exhibition will be many important works that have long been stored in the museum vaults, including our recently restored etching by Albrecht Dürer entitled St. Jerome in His Study. Also on display will be paintings by American artists such as Alexander Wyant and William Merritt Chase, and from our European collection, works by artists such as Thomas Heeremans.

Over the last year, the Wright staff has also been working to complete a full inventory of our collections. There have been many interesting finds, including the discovery of a print by Joan Miro. A number of paintings were wrapped and stored during the 1995 renovations of the Wright, and until this last winter remained so. As part of the inventory, we were able to unwrap the works. None of these pieces had been seen in more than 12 years, and in some cases no photographs were on file, so we didn’t know what we would find. Among these rediscovered paintings, we found Venus at the Forge of Vulcan, belonging to the school of Bruegel, and a work by Amado Peña.

Several important donations came into the Wright Museum last year, which have strengthened our Asian art collection, as well as our collection of Wisconsin artists. We appreciate those who have contributed to the Wright, making it a better educational resource.

Our partnerships with Doodles’ Junior Masters program and the Beloit International Film Festival have proved very successful, and we look forward to strengthening our ties with Beloit’s arts community.

I invite you to take time to visit the Wright Museum of Art, located on the Beloit College campus.

Joy Elizabeth Beckman
Director

For programs and events at the Wright Museum of Art
email us at wright@beloit.edu
Illustrations, Illuminations and the Bound Images
Neese Gallery
September 3 - November 15

Object Literacy in a Digital World
South Gallery
September 3 - November 10

Asian Icons
North Gallery
September 4 - December 11

Highlights from the Permanent Collection
Wanda Hollensteiner’54 Gallery
Opens October 22

Annual Juried Student Art Show
South Gallery
November 19 - December 6

Regina Benson
North Gallery
January - March

Annual Senior Art Exhibition
April 9 - May 9

53rd Annual Beloit and Vicinity Exhibition
June 12 - July 23

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