Recent Acquisitions and Conservation Treatments

By: Craig Hadley'06, Collections Manager

During the past year, the Wright Museum conserved several works of art at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Through the generosity of donors including the Smith family of Flint, Michigan, and the Wanda Peterson Holleitner '54 endowed conservation fund, the museum has begun to restore many of its works for study and exhibition. Recently conserved works will be on display in the Wanda Holleitner gallery during the 2010-11 academic year.

Watercolor of a Turkey by Fernando Botero

Robert S. Williams '50 and William O. Williams '50, brothers and Beloit College graduates of the geology department, recently gifted a watercolor painting of a turkey by renowned Colombian artist Fernando Botero. The artist is famous for his abstract exaggeration of figures both through painting and bronze sculpture. The turkey (cover image) is an example of Botero's earlier works executed during the 1950s.

The watercolor has already been the subject of study by one of the art department's recent graduates. Abigail Kabaker '10, elected to study the painting as part of a senior special project. Her findings will become part of the museum's research files for the painting.

Self portrait with Saskia by Rembrandt Harmenz van Rijn

Through the continued generosity of the Wanda Holleitner '54 endowed conservation fund, the Wright Museum was able to conserve its 1636 Rembrandt print at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota this last year. Prior to conservation, the lower half of the print was saturated with discolored rubber cement adhesive. Paper conservators removed the rubber cement, reduced the paper's acidity through a series of chemical baths, and mended tears with Japanese mulberry paper.

As part of the annual conservation fund, the Wright Museum will host a Rembrandt lecture during the spring of 2011. The print will be on exhibition in the Wanda Holleitner gallery during Homecoming Weekend and for the spring lecture. Announcements regarding the lecture series will be made through our electronic mailing list and on the College event calendar.

Volunteering at the Wright

By: Becky Moffett'85, Museum Coordinator

The success of the Wright Museum depends not only on faculty and staff, but community members who give of their time. Docents are essential to our gallery openings, as they greet and converse with guests, making our openings more vibrant and engaging. The Wright Museum would like to thank Sandy and Chuck Kincaid, Shari Strohm, John Watrous, and Danielle Clifton, who have been docents this past year.

The Wright Museum holds over 6,000 works of art in its collections with little information on the artists who created them. Rick Dexter, retired from the Wisconsin Historical Society, has joined our volunteer staff. He is currently researching biographies of the artists whose works are held in our collection. The Wright would like to recognize his dedication and hard work.

If you are interested in being a part of the Wright Museum events and or have an interest in helping behind the scenes please call 608-363-2671 or e-mail moffetts@beloit.edu.

Notes from the Collection

By: Craig Hadley'06, Collections Manager

Last November of 2009, the Wright Museum of Art underwent two peer reviews through the Museum Assessment Program (MAP). Sponsored by the American Association of Museums (AAM), these assessments evaluated all aspects of the Wright Museum's operations from storage practices to educational programming.

As a direct result of the program and its reviewers, the Wright Museum developed a strategic plan and received Board approval for its mission statement and collections policy.

These are necessary steps required as the Wright works towards museum accreditation by AAM.

This past summer, the Wright Museum also completed the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) through Heritage Preservation Association. Conservator Neil Cockerline and historic architect Philip Hamp spent two days at the Wright reviewing the building architecture and the exhibition and storage spaces. The assessment report provided by these professionals will aid the Wright as it begins long-term conservation planning and building renovation.
Exhibitions Calendar 2010 - 2011

Highlights from the Permanent Collection and Andy Warhol: Polaroid Portraits
Wanda Hollensteiner’54 Gallery

Censorship of Art: Are You Offended?
August 16 - October 7, 2010

The History of Art History
August 20 - November 12, 2010

Studio Faculty Show
October 7 - December, 2010

Esther K. Smith
October 19 - December 2010

Annual Juried Student Art Show
November 18 - December, 2010

Alan Governar: Documentary Arts
February - March, 2011

Artletics: Artwork from Student Athletes
March 16 - March 30

Annual Senior Art Exhibition
April 15 - May 15, 2011

54th Annual Beloit and Vicinity Exhibition
June 11 - July 23, 2011

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