Mission Statement

Last year the Board of Trustees approved the Wright Museum's new mission statement, which clarifies the museum's role in the community as forwarding art education. The new mission statement reads as follows:

As a teaching museum, the mission of the Wright Museum of Art advances the educational goals of Beloit College. Our principal purpose is to provide the college and local community with diverse opportunities to appreciate, interact with, and understand the visual arts through exhibitions, collections, and programming. The Wright promotes experiential learning through an engagement with art that is both visual and tactile. It also endeavors to promote a critical reading of art as it shapes our cultural and intellectual history.

Notes from the Collection

By: Craig Hadley '06, Collections Manager

Three Artworks by Frank Boggs Return to Beloit

Beloit College recently received three works by former faculty member and artist Franklin Boggs. Boggs, named one of America's leading young artists by LIFE magazine in the 1950s, taught art at Beloit College from 1945 - 1977.

The most recent gift is a large painting depicting the founding of Beloit, donated by Peggy Maiken. According to Peggy, Frank referred to the painting as "The Birth of Beloit" (back cover). This oil on canvas depicts the French trapper and first European settler to Beloit, Joseph Theibault in front of his log cabin at the confluence of the Rock River and Turtle Creek.

Last winter, two works of art by Boggs were gifted to Beloit College by the Beloit Clinic. "Energy" (1983), a large oil on canvas was purchased in 1988 by the Clinic as public art. The work is installed at Beloit College's Science Center.

The Wright Museum curates a modest collection of icons from both Europe and Asia. This collection recently saw the addition of two Russian icons, generously donated by Danielle and Muriel Clifton. These important Eastern Orthodox representations provide excellent comparative examples to the Wright's collection of Western Madonna and Child images. Students studying Russian language and literature, religion, and art history will benefit by the addition of these panels. Both works are Tikhvin Mother of God icons, which replicate one of a handful of images that were believed to have been painted by the Apostle Luke. The Clifton family gift will be on exhibit in the Hollensteiner Gallery during the 2011-12 academic year.

The Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis was responsible for performing the conservation treatments. Both paintings are on display in the Hollensteiner Gallery during fall 2011.

Le Revue Blanche by Toulouse-Lautrec

The Wanda Hollensteiner '54 endowed conservation fund continues to support the restoration of significant works from the permanent collection. This year the Wright Museum will receive the 1950s "Le Revue Blanche" by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec (cover image) at the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis.

Prior to conservation, the large 4' x 3' lithograph was becoming increasingly brittle due to the acidic nature of the thin paper support. This winter, conservators will remove surface grime, tape adhesives, and old molding strips. The work will then undergo deacidification and inpainting to fill any missing elements where the paper has delaminated.

One of the prized works of the Wright's collection, "Le Revue Blanche" is used frequently in art history courses to discuss lithography and the role of artwork in marketing. Conservation will make the work more accessible to students. The print will be on display in the Hollensteiner Gallery this February and March, 2012.

Asian Lantern Slides

By: Rick Dexter, Museum Volunteer

Rick Dexter spent most of this past summer working on the lantern slide collection of about 5,000 slides. These were the visual aids of their day in the period before 35 mm slides and were used extensively to teach art and architectural history. Dexter has been working on a small sub-set of these, which was donated to the art department by Mary Ripley as part of a larger gift of Asian art and artifacts. The lantern slides in the Ripley Collection are all images of China, many of them hand tinted. While the collection largely consists of temples and tombs there are a number of portraits and street scenes as well. Dexter has worked with museum staff to properly clean, scan, and re-house the slides in museum quality enclosures and boxes. The scanned images will be placed online this fall as part of Beloit College's CONTENTdm digital collections. The slides will be available at: http://www.beloit.edu/library/bccd/
Exhibitions Calendar 2011 - 2012

TINY: Art From Microscopes at UW-Madison
August 12 - September 11

Utopia, Dystopia, and Imagined Worlds
curated by Beloit College students
August 26 - November 13

Imaging Others: Cultural Intersections in the Colonial Period
September 9 - October 14

American Japonisme: A New Perspective
October 27 - December 2

Good Wood, curated by Beloit College students
October 27 - December 14

Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition
November 17 - December 14

Seasons, curated by Beloit College students
December 15 - March 7

Jason Yi: Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
January - March 7

Steam Punk, curated by Beloit College students
February 2 - March 30

3rd Annual Artletics Exhibition
March 14 - March 30

Annual Senior Art Exhibition
April 13 - May 13

55th Annual Beloit and Vicinity Exhibition
June 11 - July 22

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