



The Museum Collects Showcases Five Years of Acquisitions at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, June 30 – September 9, 2012

The Museum Collects highlights five years of acquisitions from the departments of American and European Art, American and European Decorative Arts, Contemporary Art, and Costume and Textiles. The accompanying series of gallery talks, "[Conversations With Curators](#)," explores how decisions are made to balance newly acquired works with works already in the collection. In addition to the special exhibition on the ground floor, other new acquisitions on view in galleries throughout the museum will be highlighted.

Thursday, July 12: Natural Beauty

Erin Monroe, Assistant Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture

Alyce Perry Englund, Associate Curator of American Decorative Arts

New acquisitions create opportunities to interpret and compare themes and designs across collections, time periods, and cultures. Curators Alyce Perry Englund and Erin Monroe discuss the theme of natural beauty in modern art with a focus on newly acquired Arts and Crafts furniture, ironwork, a pastel by Georgia O'Keeffe and a drawing by Dorothea Tanning.

Thursday, July 26: Three Centuries in Europe

Linda Roth, Charles C. and Eleanor Lamont Cunningham Curator of European Decorative Arts

Eric Zafran, Susan Morse Hilles Curator of European Paintings and Sculpture

European decorative arts and paintings recently acquired range from a 17th-century German ivory, narwhal, silver-gilt covered cup decorated with precious stones to a twentieth-century surrealist work painted in Connecticut by the French artist André Masson, the first painting by this artist to enter an American collection. Join Curators Linda Roth and Eric Zafran for a look at these and other European masterpieces recently added to the collection.

Thursday, August 16: Contemporary Dialogues with the Past

Patricia Hickson, Emily Hall Tremain Curator of Contemporary Art

Collecting contemporary art in an encyclopedic museum provides opportunities to make connections between the art of different cultures and time periods. Curator Patricia Hickson will discuss recent contemporary acquisitions that resonate with the Wadsworth's various collections.

Thursday, August 23: Symbol and Enigma

Susan L. Talbott, Director and CEO

The most compelling works of art are often also the most enigmatic. Artists have always reveled in the mysterious and disquieting aspects of the human condition. In the contemporary works collected over the past five years, we see the use of symbols and mystery as a central theme. Atheneum Director, Susan L. Talbott, will focus on some of her favorite contemporary acquisitions and perhaps reveal their mysteries.

About The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is located at 600 Main St. in Hartford, Connecticut.
For more information please visit wadsworthatheneum.org.

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