

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JANUARY-MARCH 2006 EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS AT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

(WORCESTER, Mass., Jan. 13, 2006) — The Worcester Art Museum is world-renowned for its 40,000-piece collection of paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from ancient Roman mosaics to Colonial silver, Impressionist paintings and contemporary art.

Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (evening hours sponsored by Commerce Bank), and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc. and National Grid).

The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass. Free parking is available. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

Frontiers: Collecting the Art of Our Time

Through February 12, 2006

Contemporary works broadly explore the times in which we live with a spirit of adventure and discovery. Believing that anything is possible, the artist-visionaries of today wholeheartedly embrace the world's uncertainties as inspiration in their studios. Characterized by a youthful and multicultural personality as well as a diversity of materials, processes, and concepts existing simultaneously, *Frontiers* is a mirror of the formal and cultural hybrids typical of art making today. The exhibition features acquisitions of work by over 30 artists, including Laylah Ali, Tony Feher, Iñigo Manglano-Ovalle, Beatriz Milhazes, Paul Noble, Jenny Scobel, Yinka Shonibare, Kiki Smith.

New to View: Recent Acquisitions in Photography

Through April 15, 2006

This exhibition will showcase the Museum's photographic treasures acquired over the past five years. Many of the photographs will be on view for the first time, including important prints by Alfred Steiglitz, Man Ray and Todd Webb. Also included are the haunting portraits by Bill Jacobson, the dreamlike fantasies of the Norwegian-born photographer Simen Johan, and the image inside a camera obscura by Abelardo Morell.

Flora in Winter

January 26–29, 2006

View creative floral displays alongside the artwork that inspired them. For this unique four-day event, garden clubs and floral designers create botanical masterpieces to interpret their favorite works of art at the Worcester Art Museum. Presented in collaboration with Tower Hill Botanic Garden, **Flora in Winter** features displays, special programs and guided tours at both locations.

Mountain Harvests: Chinese Jades and Other Treasured Stones

March 4, 2006 – March 4, 2007

Nearly 100 objects in jade, amethyst, agate, turquoise, coral, amber, crystal and other colorful stones comprise this exhibition. The works date from the 3000 BC to the 20th century and range from ceremonial objects and pendants from early tombs to desktop accessories, such as brush-pots and table-screens or mountain scenes. Later works, often representing figures, animals, flowers, fruits, vases or old bronze vessels, tend to be decorative in function.

Youth Art Month

March 1-31, 2006

Marvel at the talent and creativity of art students in grades K-12 from all over Central Massachusetts and the MetroWest. Each year, the Worcester Art Museum joins the Massachusetts Art Education Association to celebrate the national Youth Art Month with a salon-style, floor-to-ceiling exhibition of more than 400 student works.

The Biographical Landscape: The Photography of Stephen Shore, 1968 – 1993

March 24-June 25, 2006

Organized by Aperture Foundation, *The Biographical Landscape* exhibition offers an opportunity to revisit the works of Stephen Shore, one of the most prominent and influential American photographers to emerge in the last half-century. Shore's color images of the urban landscape—gas stations, Piggly Wigglys, street scenes and diner fare—remind viewers how their sense of vision changes quickly because of photography.

David Thorpe

April 7-August 13, 2006

This installation of nine works by the young British artist David Thorpe (b. 1972) will be his first solo museum project in the United States. Thorpe uses a traditional medium of intricately cut paper to create visionary landscapes. His works often depict dramatic, imaginary landscapes loosely based on actual places, such as the American West, not necessarily experienced first-hand by the artist. Thorpe has said, "The world of imagination is endless. We can make anything happen. All things are possible. We can make a world that is magnificent, full of adventure... I try to show these adventures, to make a world full of epic yet often modest moments."

Surrealist Works on Paper

May 6 – August 19, 2006

Surrealism was a literary and artistic movement that flourished in European literature and the visual arts between World War I and II and strove to give pictorial form to the subconscious mind in fantastic images and incongruous juxtapositions of subjects and motifs. Drawn from the permanent collection of the Worcester Art Museum, this exhibition will include photographs by such Surrealist photographers as Man Ray, Claude Cahun, and Raoul Ubac. Drawings by Jacques Lipchitz, and Matta, collages by André Racz and Bruce Conner, and prints by such Surrealist masters as Salvador Dalí, Man Ray, Joan Miró, Stanley William Hayter, and Alfonso Ossorio.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

JANUARY

Adult Student Exhibition

Through January 29, 2006

This exhibition showcases drawings, paintings, photographs, prints, mosaics, sculpture, computer art, and more. A reception honoring these artists will be held January 12, 5:30-7PM. Free. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Artist Talk: Jenny Scobel

Saturday, January 14, 2pm

Join New York artist Jenny Scobel at the Museum for a discussion of her art and her artistic process. Following the talk, come see her graphite and gesso drawing, *March* (2003), in the exhibition *Frontiers: Collecting the Art of Our Time*. Free with museum admission, but seating is limited. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Young Friends – January Third Thursday

Thursday, January 19, 5:30-8PM

Join the Young Friends of the Worcester Art Museum, art lovers between the ages of 21 and 45, for an evening featuring a gallery tour of *Frontiers: Collecting the Art of Our Time* led by Curator Susan Stoops, appetizers from the Flying Rhino, cash bar, and spirit tastings from KJ Barron's Wine and Spirits. Admission is free for members, \$10 nonmembers. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

January Tour of the Month: Finding Photography

Wednesday, January 18, 2pm

Saturday, January 21, 2pm

Curious about photography? Interested in seeing what the Museum has been collecting in recent years? Join us on this special trip through recent acquisitions in the Museum's collection of photographs. Museum docent Pat Peterson will lead this tour. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Adult Winter Classes

Starting January 23

Join us for new classes and workshops, or sign up for an old favorite. The winter/spring session of classes offers something for everyone, and all of our adult classes are offered for PDPs. Learn more by calling 508.799.4406 x3129, or browse the Classes brochure online. Register early as classes fill quickly! Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Flora Euphoria!

Thursday January 26, 5–8pm

Celebrate *Flora in Winter* at this reception at the Worcester Art Museum with hors d'oeuvres, music and a cash bar. Special appearance by sponsor WCRB's Laura Carlo. Free for WAM Members, \$7 for THBG Members; \$15 Nonmembers. No RSVP required. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Mosaic Interpretive Challenge Demonstration at the Worcester Art Museum

Friday, January 27, 3-5pm

As part of *Flora in Winter* watch four arrangers interpret the same mosaic in the Renaissance Court using the same materials, resulting in four different floral creations. Free for WAM Members and free with general admission. No RSVP required. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Sunday Concert at the Worcester Art Museum

Sunday, January 29, 3PM

The Performing Arts School will provide ambience for the final afternoon of *Flora in Winter*. Free for WAM Members and free with general admission. No RSVP required. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

FEBRUARY

Black History Month Celebration

Sunday, February 5, 1–3pm

To commemorate the achievements of African Americans, the Museum hosts a special reception in celebration of Black History Month. There will be a viewing of artworks created by Worcester youth participating in the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. *Keeping the Dream Alive* Essay Contest. Don't miss Tina Gaffney perform her interpretation of an African American female figure from history, at 2pm. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Anthropological Institute of America (AIA) Lecture Series

From Antioch to Worcester: A 65-Year History of the Largest Ancient Mosaic in America

Sunday, February 12, 3pm

Paula Artal-Isbrand, Objects Conservator at WAM, will take the audience back to the well-documented excavation of the *Worcester Hunt* mosaic during the 1930s, describing how the mosaic was removed from the ground and how it was prepared for transport across the ocean. Measuring over 800 square feet, this stone mosaic was the floor of a reception hall of a luxurious villa on the outskirts of Antioch. The presentation will include 10 minutes of original excavation footage and a guided look at the *Worcester Hunt* mosaic at the Museum. This event marks the completion of four years of conservation treatment of the *Worcester Hunt* mosaic, and also celebrates the publication of *The Arts of Antioch: Art Historical and Scientific Approaches to Roman Mosaics and a Catalogue of the Worcester Art Museum Antioch Collection* (2005), edited by Lawrence Becker and Christine Kondoleon. Free. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

February Tour of the Month: *Sin and Seduction*

Wednesday, February 15, 2pm

Saturday, February 18, 2pm

Join Museum Docent Antonella Doucette once again for an exploration of sinful images of women throughout the Museum's collection. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Young Friends- February Third Thursday

Love is in the Air Night!

Thursday, February 16, 5:30-8pm

Are you an art lover between the age of 21 and 45 who enjoys socializing? If so, please join us for the Young Friends of the Worcester Art Museum event featuring an "adults only" gallery tour of "Sin and Seduction" led by Antonella Doucette, cash bar, appetizers generously provided by The Sole Proprietor and One Eleven Chop House, and spirit tastings courtesy of KJ Baaron's Wine and Spirits. Plus, enjoy music compliments of the Worcester Trombone Consort under the direction of Director, Douglas G Weeks. Admission is free for members, \$10 nonmembers. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, MA 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org.

February Fun Week

Tuesday–Friday, February 21–24

Sign up now—these fun workshops during the school break fill quickly! Register for one two-hour workshop, or make a day of it and register for two workshops along with extended day and supervised lunch. Children can come to the Museum for a morning of creativity or a whole day of fun! This year's theme for the popular program is *Folk Tales, Fables, & Fantasy*, focusing on stories both real and imaginary that the art in our collection tells! Children ages 3 to 17 will enjoy experimenting in different media. In addition to two-hour workshops, full-day classes in computer art will be offered. Learn more by calling 508.799.4406 x3129. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

MARCH

Anthropological Institute of America (AIA) Lecture Series

Travels in Archaeology: Athens, Crete, and Santorini

Thursday, March 2, 7pm

Our archaeological travel series continues this year as we explore the famous Ancient Agora and Acropolis in Athens, the beautiful site of Knossos on Crete, and mysterious Ancient Akrotiri on the island of Santorini. Alexandra Cleworth, who serves on the Governing Board of the Archaeological Institute of America, will offer travel tips for how to see these destinations at their best, and discuss archaeological tourism issues for the independent traveler. Presented by Alexandra Cleworth. Free. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

March Tour of the Month: *Color It Bright*

Wednesday, March 15, 2pm

Saturday, March 18, 2pm

Join Museum docent Bruce Plummer in exploring the history, invention and use of color in art. From the use of natural pigments in the birth of painting, to the development of synthetic colors in the 1850s, you will see the dramatic ways the use of color in art has changed. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Young Friends- March Third Thursday

Thursday, March 16, 5:30-8pm

Join the Young Friends of the Worcester Art Museum, art lovers between the ages of 21 and 45, for an evening featuring a gallery tour of Jades led by Curator Louise Virgin, appetizers from the Flying Rhino and spirit tastings from KJ Barron's Wine and Spirits. Plus, enjoy a cash bar and music generously provided by the WPI String Quartet and Woodwind Quartet under the direction of Director Douglas G. Weeks. Admission is free for members, \$10 nonmembers. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Spring Youth Classes

Starting March 18

See the artistic opportunities that pop up when spring reaches WAM! Sweep the snow away and welcome warmer, sunnier days while exercising your creativity in classes designed to encourage children of all ages. There is something for everyone, but classes will fill quickly, so sign up today for the best selection! Learn more by calling 508.799.4406 x3129, or browse the Classes brochure online. Register early as classes fill quickly! Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Family Day: World of Wonder

Sunday, March 19, 1–4:30pm

Flex your creative muscles, as we explore the world around us! Celebrate the arts by creating art in Museum studios, participating in gallery activities, and more. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Artist Talk: Stephen Shore

Sunday, March 26, 2pm

Meet Stephen Shore and hear about his process for creating his groundbreaking photographs. Following the talk, delve further into his work in the exhibition *The Biographical Landscape: The Photography of Stephen Shore, 1968–1993*. Free with Museum admission. Call 508.799.4406, x3073 for information. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Docent Lead Tours, Free with Museum admission

Saturday 11AM-Noon

Sunday 1-2PM

Free Saturdays

Admission to the Worcester Art Museum is free for all every Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Free for Kids

Admission to the Worcester Art Museum is always free for ages 17 and under. Free, guided tours are available by reservation for youth and school groups of 10 or more.

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Editors: Why typeset when you can copy and paste from the 'net? Find this release online at:

http://www.worcesterart.org/Information/press_release.html

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from ancient Roman mosaics to Colonial silver, Impressionist paintings and contemporary art. Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

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