

NEWS



from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SPRING AT WAM APRIL-JUNE 2008 EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS AT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

(WORCESTER, Mass., March 14, 2008)—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 Permanent Collection spans fifty-one centuries of art and culture. View paintings by Cassatt, Gauguin, Goya, Monet, Sargent and Whistler; admire mosaics from the ancient city of Antioch; see cutting-edge contemporary art; and discover the Museum's many other treasures. **Special exhibitions** showcase masterworks, seldom-seen gems, and important works on loan. Enjoy a delectable lunch in **The Museum Café**, and browse **The Museum Shop** for unique gifts and exhibition catalogues.

Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a **year-round studio art and art appreciation program** that enrolls over 7,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11am and Sundays at 1pm, September through May. Audio tours featuring highlights from the Permanent Collection are available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11am-5pm, Third Thursdays of every month, 11am-8pm, and Saturday, 10am-5pm. **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, 10am-noon (co-sponsored by Fidelity Investments and The TJX Companies, Inc., with additional support provided by National Grid.).

The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, visit the Museum website at www.worcesterart.org or call 508.799.4406.

EXHIBITIONS

An American Vision: Treasures from the Winterthur Museum

Through April 6

Winterthur Museum and Country Estate, located near Wilmington, Delaware, was founded by the great American collector Henry Francis du Pont. By acquiring many of the finest and rarest items made or used in America between 1640 and 1860, he chronicled American history through the objects Americans owned. This exhibition presents du Pont's preferences, the greatest strengths of Winterthur's collections, in both thematic and chronological groupings: *Early Settlement and Sophistication, A Passion for Rococo, East Meets West, The Arts of the Pennsylvania Germans*, and *American Classicism*. An exhibition not to be missed!

Textile Heirlooms from the Indus Valley

Through May 11

Experience this rare opportunity to view seldom seen hand-made textiles from the Indus Valley Region, at the crossroads of the Middle East and South East Asia. The women of diverse, often nomadic ethnic and cultural groups living in the Indus Valley region (in present-day Pakistan, western India and southeastern Afghanistan) have traditionally infused their heart and soul into their elaborately embroidered garments and functional textile objects. Such vibrant textile heirlooms celebrated important family events, formed dowries and added color to daily domestic life. The exhibited works, dating from the late 19th to the first half of the 20th century, were assembled by the former Ambassador to Pakistan and his wife, Tom and Peggy Simons, collectors who care about conserving and honoring this folk-art tradition.

Two Chinas: Chen Quilin and Yun-Fei Ji

Through September 21

This exhibition considers the rapidly changing conditions in China through the lens of new acquisitions created by two young Chinese artists, Chen Quilin (b. 1975) and Yun-Fei Ji (b. 1963). Both artists have responded to the altered landscapes and human displacement caused by flooding, which is a result of China's Three Gorges Dam project. Chen Quilin uses video in *Bie Fu* (Farewell Poem), from 2003, to revisit her childhood memories and China's past amidst the rubble of Wanzhou, her hometown and one of the cities flooded by the dam project. In Yun-Fei Ji's monumental scroll-like painting, *Below the 143 Meter Mark*, from 2006, allusions to classical landscape painting are transformed by grim contemporary details - houses and hillsides crumbling, a ghost town littered with abandoned bundles and bicycles.

Wall at WAM: Alexander Ross

Through October

Known for paintings that are uniquely hybrid in nature, Alexander Ross produced a project for the Museum's Wall at WAM series that adapts his imagery and technique for the second-story setting and grand scale of the Renaissance Court. The result is a new kind of hybrid based on clay elements, photography, drawing and inkjet, which creates a frieze-like expanse activating the entire sixty-seven foot wall. You have to see it to believe it!

Inky Tributaries: Contemporary Chinese Prints

May 10 - August 3

In the 1980s, when sweeping political and cultural changes came to China, a new practice of fine printmaking began to emerge, for new domestic and international audiences. This work merged Chinese academic painting styles and longstanding craft traditions, with western-style limited edition artists' prints. Some of the prints employ the clear, heroic naturalism of Socialist Realism to convey themes of social and political propaganda. Others employ a folksier voice to criticize life under Communism. Many reflect the aesthetics of the folk painting, and design ideas adapted from folk arts like papercuts and naive craft objects. All these streams flow together into a thriving new tradition of Chinese printmaking. Among the artists whose work will be included are Cong Zhiyuan, Dong Jiansheng, Li Yangpeng, Wang Wei, and Zhang Minjie. *Inky Tributaries* presents a selection of prints from contemporary China that reflects the changing face of China under different political climate over the last thirty years. They are works of art that project a fascinating glimpse of far away cultures with surprising virtuosity and elegance.

EVENTS & PROGRAMMING

Around every corner of the Museum there are stunning masterpieces spanning 5,000 years of human creativity. Enhance your Museum experience by joining a tour, lecture, gallery talk, concert, performance, family day, party or other event offered throughout the year.

April

Family Day: Fun & Games

Sunday, April 6, 1-4:30pm

The Museum is a fun & exciting place to be. Take part in this adventure for all ages through art-making activities, performances, games, and much more! While here, don't miss your last chance to view [An American Vision: Treasures from the Winterthur Museum](#). Free with Museum admission. Youth 17 and under always free! Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

WAM Faculty Art Exhibition

April 11-May 4

Admire original works of art by the Museum's esteemed faculty, many of whom show and sell their work in museums and galleries throughout the United States. The selection includes drawings, paintings, sculpture, mixed media, digital photography, and more. Free. Learn more by calling 508.793.4333 or 508.793.4334. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

The Grand Tour Gala Auction

Saturday, April 12, 5:30-10:30 pm

The Grand Tour was a European travel itinerary that flourished from the 17th-19th centuries that served as an educational rite of passage for the upper class. Its primary value lay in the exposure both to the cultural artifacts of antiquity and the Renaissance and to the aristocratic and fashionable society of the European continent. Many of the Museum's founding members traveled on a Grand Tour, and some of the works in our Permanent Collection were either commissioned or purchased while on Tour. Be swept back to a time gone by for [WAM's Gala Auction](#) held in glamorous Mechanics Hall. Help support the Museum while celebrating our rich and diverse permanent collection that was established "for the benefit of all." Silent auction with complimentary cocktails, live auction with elegant plated dinner and fine wine. This event happens only once every three years, so don't miss it! Co-sponsored by Fidelity Investments and Unum. Individual ticket-\$125, Tables of 8-\$1,000. RSVP by calling 508.799.4406 x3125 or online at www.worcesterart.org. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

April Tour of the Month: Worcester County in the 17th-19th Centuries Tour

Wednesday, April 16

Saturday, April 19, 2pm

Worcester was, and is, an exciting place for artists. Join Museum Docent Pat Peterson as she takes a trip back in time, through Worcester County's vibrant past. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Faculty Art Exhibition Reception & Adult Classes Open House

Thursday, April 17, 5:30-7pm

Meet our instructors, discuss your artistic interests, and enjoy light refreshments. Learn all about what's new this summer! Admire original works of art by the Museum's esteemed faculty, many of whom show and sell their work in museums and galleries throughout the United States. Free. Learn more by calling 508.793.4333 or 508.793.4334, 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

April Third Thursday: George Munoz & Tour of *Two Chinas: Chen Quilin and Yun-Fei Ji*

Thursday, April 17, 5:30-8pm

The Museum is open late the third Thursday of every month until 8pm. In April, enjoy the sounds of latin guitar with [George Munoz](#). Also enjoy a tour of the exhibition [Two Chinas: Chen Quilin and Yun-Fei Ji](#) given by Contemporary Art Curator Susan Stoops. Always great company. Wine tastings and a cash bar. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Youth Vacation Workshops: April Art Break - ASI: Art Scene Investigation

Tuesday-Friday, April 22-25

Youth ages 3-17 (3-5 Special Agents with Adult) join the world of mystery and discovery at the Worcester Art Museum this April Vacation week. A selection of two-hour workshops each day along with extended day activities, gives kids a morning of discovery, a whole day of fun, or an entire week of adventure! This year's theme is **ASI: Art Scene Investigation**, focusing on the many secrets and mysteries within the Museum. Young investigators will engage in exciting workshops exploring WAM's diverse collection and will have the opportunity to create their own works of art to take home! *Don't miss this excellent adventure!* Learn more by calling 508.793.4333 or 508.793.4334, 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

May

May Third Thursday: Salsa Storm

Thursday, May 15, 5:30-8pm

The Museum is open late the third Thursday of every month until 8pm. In May, the Museum welcomes Ray and Annette Gonzalez, co-founders of [SALSA STORM Dance Instructors, Inc.](#). Always great company and a cash bar. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Concert: Duo Divertimento

Sunday, May 18, 3pm

Violinist Shelia Reid and classical guitarist Cark Kamp perform in the Renaissance Court. Diverse repertoire of music with featured composers including Cuban Jacquin Nin, and Italian guitarist Mauro Gulliani, a friend of Beethoven. Audiences enjoy a sparkling pastiche of musical styles that delight. Seating is limited, but standing room plentiful! Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

May Tour of the Month: Religion through Art

Wednesday, May 14

Saturday, May 17, 2pm

The Museum houses objects from many cultures and eras. In this Tour of the Month, you will view some breathtaking religious objects with Museum Docent Faith Lang, and learn about their meaning. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

21st Annual Art All-State

Friday and Saturday, May 30-31

Exhibition & Reception: Saturday, May 31, 3-5pm

Sixteen professional contemporary artists actively engage 140 sixteen-year-old artists as the 21st annual Massachusetts Art All-State program converges on Friday and Saturday, May 30 and 31. The students, competitively selected from around the state, will collaborate to create group installations inspired by the Museum's collections. The public is invited to attend and honor this year's Art All-State students at a reception and celebration. An exhibit of artwork by the 16 professional artist/mentors will be on view during Art All-State. Art All-State is collaboration between the Museum and the Massachusetts Art Education Association. Free. Learn more by calling 508.793.4333 or 508.793.4334. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

June

Adult Summer Art Institutes

June 24–30 (daytime)

Serious art students can pursue studio art, creative writing, or teacher education in intensive three-, four-, and five-day workshops during the Summer Art Institute. In addition to our daytime classes in June, we are offering evening intensives in July. Undergraduate and graduate credit is available for many classes. The Sally Riley Bishop Education Fund supports the Summer Art Institute. For more information or to register, stop by the Education Desk, www.worcesterart.org or call 508.799.4406, x3007 or x3129. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Of Note

New Café Menu

Whether you're visiting the Museum's galleries or stopping in just for lunch, The Museum Café is sure to pleasantly surprise. Choose from a delectable selection of daily specials, appetizers, soups, salads, sandwiches and desserts. The Museum now offers a Kid's Menu. Dine indoors or experience one of Worcester's few outdoor courtyard cafés. Take-out orders and reservations for parties of eight or more may be made by calling 508.799.4406 x3068. The Museum Café is also available for events and meetings. Call 508.799.4406 x3077 or e-mail specialevents@worcesterart.org for more information.

The Museum Café operates on summer hours June through September. During these months, enjoy lunch in our air-conditioned dining room or alfresco in the Stoddard Garden Court, 11:30am-2pm Wednesday through Friday. Café open Saturday's in April and May.

NEW – RequestAPrint

Order Prints from the Permanent Collection online at www.worcesterart.org. . This is an on demand service where reproductions from the Museum's Permanent Collection can be ordered. Prints are available standard or with a protective laminate and may be matted and framed. Browse our web site and order today!

Gift Cards Now Available

Gift cards from the Worcester Art Museum make special gifts that inspire and enrich the whole year through! Museum gift cards may be purchased onsite, online at www.worcesterart.org, or by phone. They may be purchased in any denomination and are good for Classes, Memberships, Special Events, The Museum Shop, The Museum Café, and Museum admission. Questions, please call 508.799.4406 x3125.

Great Gifts at the Shop

From Mother's Day to birthdays or if your looking for a unique gift for someone special, the Museum Shop offers a wide variety of merchandise inspired by art in the permanent collection and in museums worldwide. Browse the shelves where scores of just-right items will catch your eye. From note cards, framed and matted prints, silk scarves and ties, umbrellas, decorative boxes to an irresistible collection of tree ornaments, picture frames, glassware, pottery, purses, clocks, and art inspired jewelry and watches to complement any outfit. Our children's selection of gifts encourages learning, laughter and play. Baby toys, children's books, art-making kits, puzzles and games will please any child.

Membership at WAM

Don't forget! Membership to the Worcester Art Museum is a gift that enriches and inspires the whole year through. Members receive special benefits including 10% off at the Museum Café and at the Museum Shop throughout the year and a 20% holiday shopping discount in December, discount rates on Classes, and many more benefits. For more go to www.worcesterart.org information call 508.799.4406 x3122.

Electronic images available.

Editors: Why typeset when you can copy and paste from the web?
Find this release online at <http://www.worcesterart.org/Information/press.html>

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