

# NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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## **WORCESTER ART MUSEUM LIBRARY CELEBRATES 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY WITH NEW EXHIBITION AND BOOK SALE**

**(WORCESTER, Mass., May 27, 2009)** – Worcester Art Museum celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Library with the opening of the new exhibition *Spies Like Us!* on June 5 and Library Book Sale on June 12 and June 13. Museum members are invited for an exclusive book sale on Friday, June 12 from 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The public book sale will occur on Saturday, June 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The book sale was organized by the Friends of the Library, and all proceeds go directly towards the acquisition of new books. Costs start at \$1, and books cover all topics of art and include hard-to-find exhibition catalogues and magazines, and new and used library duplicates. New this year is a large selection of Asian art books recently donated from a local scholar.

“The library is the largest of its type in Central Massachusetts, so there is something for everybody, regardless of price range or preference,” said Debby Aframe, Head Librarian at Worcester Art Museum. “Many books are out of print and would be impossible to purchase, making the book sale a treasure hunt, and a favorite event among book dealers, art book lovers, and anyone who loves art.”

Also in honor of the library's centennial is the debut of *Spies Like Us!*, an exhibition inspired by the Library's 2007 Book Sale, when a rare book with Nathan Hale's signature was donated to the Museum. As a lieutenant in the Continental Army, Hale is infamously known for his failed mission where he heroically volunteered to secretly gather intelligence from the British. Upon discovery, Hale was interrogated and executed by the British army, leaving few known signatures.

According to Aframe, finding the book was an unexpected surprise. "A box of books was donated to the Library along with a host of art books from a friend of the Museum," she said. "I looked through the box and found a very old book inscribed "Nathan Hale, 1769." I was delighted to learn that the book belonged to America's most famous spy. You never know what you'll find at the Book Sale," she said.

*Spies Like Us!* also features a sculpture of Hale and two famous depictions of the capture of Major André, the revolutionary spy for the British that led to the exposure of Benedict Arnold as a traitor. The exhibition will be on view through September 20, 2009.

*Located on Salisbury St., in Worcester, Massachusetts, the Worcester Art Museum opened in 1898 and is one of America's most respected art museums. The museum is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. For more information, visit [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org).*

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