

NEWS



from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUMMER AT WAM

JULY, AUGUST SEPTEMBER 2008 EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS AT THE WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

(WORCESTER, Mass., June 11, 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

Inky Tributaries: Contemporary Chinese Prints

Through August 3, 2008

Printmaking was invented in China. During the Tang period (617- 907 CE), Buddhist images were carved in stone and wood and then were printed on paper and fabric. However, printing and illustration in China were aimed at a comparatively small and sophisticated audience. The graphic arts reached an apogee of refinement during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), but there was no printing industry to bridge the gulf between the fine art and folk traditions. It was a different situation in Japan and Europe, where printmaking developed as an economical way to communicate without words to large, widely-dispersed audiences. *Inky Tributaries* presents a selection of prints from contemporary China that reflects the changing face of China under different political climates over the last thirty years. They are works of art that project a fascinating glimpse of far-away cultures with surprising virtuosity and elegance.

Two Chinas: Chen Qiulin & Yun-Fei Ji

Through September 21, 2008

This exhibition considers the rapidly changing conditions in China through the lens of new acquisitions created by two young Chinese artists, Chen Qiulin (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 Qiulin uses video in *Bei 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.

Heavenly and Earthly Delights: The Essence of Nature in Brush and Ink

Through October 26, 2008

Folding screens have long offered Japanese artists a challenge to create large-scale painting compositions. These works highlight the differences between subdued Chinese-inspired ink paintings favored by samurai, monks and literati—depicting the spiritually symbolic tiger-and-dragon and idealized landscape scenes—and colorful, decorative Japanese-style paintings, commissioned by wealthy middle-class patrons—depicting pleasurable pursuits, seasonal customs and stylish kimono. Making a dramatic appearance across the expanse of a pair of folding screens, the dragon and tiger both confront and complement each other. Respectively symbolic of heavenly and earthly power, the beasts were often depicted on screens that were used as backdrops for powerful warlords and Buddhist abbots, when receiving guests in castles and temples.

Sepia Memories: Nineteenth-Century Photographs

August 30 – November 30, 2008

Since we are all surrounded constantly by photographic images, modern viewers relate effortlessly to photography. It is exciting to see old photographs, for the subjects' relationships to the camera are so well known to us. Glimpses of a schooner's deck, a busy street in Canton, and the deserted commons of New England towns will reveal worlds long vanished. Some of the earliest photographic landscapes of the Egyptian desert and the jungles of India will hang near views of Boston, New York, and Paris. There will be images from the Crimean front along with those of the American Civil War, the first conflict to be extensively documented in photographs. Authors were among the celebrities of the era, and the show will include portraits of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Walt Whitman. This installation of about sixty works from the Worcester Art Museum collection, created from about 1840 to 1900, will transport visitors to times gone by and exotic places. The exhibition will include many of the earliest photographic media, from daguerreotypes and paper prints from calotype negatives, to albumen prints from wet collodion negatives, the photographs that give these images their distinctive sepia hue.

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.

July

Youth Classes Summer Session Begins

July 7 – July 18

A wide range of classes are offered for children this summer. Parents and children ages 3-5 use painting materials and artful imaginations in *Experi-paint*. Come explore art, culture, and architecture in the galleries and experiment with paint, collage and more in *Draw, Paint, Create* for 5-7 year olds. Students ages 8-10 years old can choose from *Drawing in the City* or *Art that Pops*. Exciting computer art and cartooning classes

are being offered for 11-13 year olds, and students ages 14-17 will have a chance to build their portfolio with fashion, painting or photography classes. 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

Reception: Tom Lewis Memorial Exhibition

Thursday, July 10, 5:30-7pm

Artist, anti-war activist, Catholic worker and longtime WAM faculty member Tom Lewis, will be honored with a retrospective exhibition of prints, drawings, and paintings. Tom died unexpectedly in April. Exhibition on view June 23–August 8. Free. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

August

August Workshops for Adults and Youth

August 4-15

Join us in August to explore new approaches, new projects, and even new art forms. There are classes for novices as well as for students with an art background. Plus, if you've been looking for a class but not sure what your kids will be doing, bring them along! We've got a great selection of concurrent workshops for children as well. 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

Art and Language Week at WAM!

August 11 – 15, 10am—noon

Take one last trip this summer—head to the Spanish-speaking world, France or Japan, right here in Worcester at WAM! Spend a week exploring the art, culture, and language of these diverse and exciting cultures. **Let's Go To France!** for kids 5-7, **The Art, Culture, and Language of Japan** for 8-10 year olds, and **Spanish Art, Culture, and Language** for 11–13 year olds. 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

September

A Conversation with Chen Qiulin and Yun-Fei Ji

Thursday, September 4, 6:30pm

Working in radically different formats—video and watercolor—and from distinct points of view, Chen Qiulin and Yun-Fei Ji engage in a dialogue between China's history and its future, responding to the altered landscapes and human displacement caused by China's Three Gorges Dam Project. Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear both artists speak about their work. In connection with the exhibition *Two Chinas*. Reception will follow. Free with Museum admission. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

Adult Classes Open House

Wednesday, September 10, 5:30–7pm

Higgins Education Wing/Lancaster Lobby

Meet with our faculty, attend demonstrations, and find out all about our exciting fall offerings. Discuss your artistic interests and goals, sign up for classes, and enjoy light refreshments. 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

WAM 101: College Student Night

Wednesday, September 17, 5:30–8pm

FREE for all college and graduate students from any discipline who are interested in finding out about all the great things happening at the Worcester Art Museum. The Museum is closed to everyone else, but the doors are opening just for you! Venture off campus and join Museum Director Jim Welu as he takes you on a tour of special exhibitions. Enjoy munchies, beverages, and free museum stuff! No RSVP required. Registration in Lancaster Lobby, through the Lancaster Street entrance. Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, 508.799.4406, www.worcesterart.org

September Third Thursday: LIVE MUSIC with Johnny Dollar Experiment

Thursday, September 18, 5:30-8pm

The Museum is open late the third Thursday of every month until 8pm. In September, enjoy the sounds of [Johnny Dollar Experiment](#) in the courtyard. Also enjoy a tour with Museum Director Jim Welu. 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

Adult Fall Classes Begin

Starting September 22

Join the Museum for new classes and workshops, or sign up for an old favorite. The fall session of classes offers something for everyone, and all of our adult classes are offered for PDPs. Dynamic program combines viewing authentic art objects in the galleries with art-making experiences in the studios. Workshops and classes in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, computer arts, creative writing as well as exciting off-site programs here and abroad. 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

Of Note

BE GREEN! Worcester Art Museum Green Memberships

Introducing our paper-free, eco-friendly Green Memberships! Our new Green Memberships allow guests to receive Museum communication via e-mail. The best part (aside from reducing the amount of mail in your mailbox) is that a portion of your membership helps to fund green initiatives at the Museum. To find out more, visit www.worcesterart.org.

Don't worry, we still have traditional memberships! 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.

Announcing our New Barrier-Free Garden Entrance

For easy access to the Museum, park in the Tuckerman Street lot and enter the Stoddard Garden Court through the cream colored fence. Follow the pathway to the outdoor Café and enter the Museum via the ramp on the right. Convenient elevator access to the galleries and the second floor of Higgins Education Wing is straight ahead and to the left. The Garden Entrance is open during Museum hours and while classes are in session.

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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