

NEWS



from the Worcester Art Museum

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORCESTER ART MUSEUM HONORS ARTIST TOM LEWIS WITH A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

(WORCESTER, Mass., June 26, 2008) – 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, on view June 23 through August 8, 2008 in the Higgins Education Wing. Tom died unexpectedly in April. Opening reception will be held on July 10, 5:30-7pm.

The work on view spans Tom's fifty-two years of art making and range in media from painting and drawing, to print making. Tom used his art as an expression of his political and anti-war beliefs and activism. He was a founding member of Artists Against the War during the Vietnam War and served a three-year prison term during that period for destroying draft files in Catonsville, Maryland. His political themes were his life themes.

Tom taught at the Museum and other local institutions of learning for many years while continuing his passionate quest to make America a more just and peaceful place for all of us to live. He piloted non-toxic printmaking techniques in his classes at the Worcester Art Museum, knowing that they were better both for the environment and for his students.

As Daniel Berrigan, S.J., once wrote of Tom's work, "... [it is] a poignant and powerful witness to the survival of endangered conscience ... his art rides the edge, it hurts and heals ... best of all, this art is one with conscience. In the courtroom and jails Tom Lewis heals the ancient killing split between ethics and imagination. I celebrate this art, a rare joy and gift. But the highest art of Tom Lewis, is his own life."

RELATED EVENTS

Opening Reception

July 10, 5:30-7pm

Higgins Education Wing

Music by Johnny Dollar Experience

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. View paintings by Cassatt, Gauguin, Goya, Monet, Sargent and Whistler; admire floor mosaics from the ancient city of Antioch; see cutting-edge contemporary art; and discover the Museum's many other treasures. Special exhibitions showcase the masterworks, seldom-seen gems, and important works on loan. Enjoy a delectable lunch in the Museum Café, and browse the Shop for unique gifts and mementos.

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 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, 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 (sponsored by Fidelity Investments, The TJX Companies, Inc. and 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, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

Electronic images available.

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