FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition Announcement

HANS HOFMANN: CIRCA 1950
July 3 – October 17, 2010

The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is pleased to present the exhibition *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950*. Hans Hofmann (American, born in Germany, 1880-1966) was an influential figure in post World War II American art. Celebrated for his exuberant, color-filled canvases and renowned as an inspirational teacher to generations of artists, Hofmann played a pivotal role in the development of Abstract Expressionism.

The exhibition *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950* includes an extraordinary body of work created by the artist for the architect Josep Sert’s 1950 city plan for Chimbote, Peru, and a dozen other important works from that year. His nine large-scale Chimbote painting studies form a concise and inspired example of the depth of Hofmann’s strengths as an abstract painter and modernist visionary.
Hofmann turned 70 in 1950, many years past what is often considered an artist's “prime.” Often heralded more for his influence as a teacher than as an artist, this exhibition situates Hofmann firmly at the center of American abstract painting. The art schools that Hofmann led in New York City and Provincetown, Massachusetts are legendary. He taught art for over four decades; his impressive list of students includes Helen Frankenthaler, Red Grooms, Lee Krasner, Louise Nevelson, Larry Rivers and Frank Stella. In 1960, noted art historian Clement Greenberg called Hofmann "in all probability the most important art teacher of our time."

Hofmann was also prominent as a writer on modern art, authoring an influential book, *Search for the Real*, in which he discussed his “push-pull” spatial theories, his reverence for nature as a source for art, his conviction that art has spiritual value, and his philosophy of art in general. In it, Hofmann argues that "any line placed on the canvas is already the fifth."

*Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950* is curated by Michael Rush, former director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University (2005-2009) and Catherine Morris, curator of the Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum. The touring exhibition is organized by the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK. Generous support is provided by the Renate, Hans & Maria Hofmann Trust.

*Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950* is accompanied by a full-color catalogue that includes essays by curators Michael Rush and Catherine Morris, and renowned critic Irving Sandler. The catalogue is available in the Museum Shop for $24.

Images at top: Hans Hofmann, *Sketch for Chimbote (Mosaic Cross)*, 1950, oil on board, 85 1/2 x 37 1/2 in., Collection of the Renate, Hans & Maria Hofmann Trust.

**Related Exhibition opens in August**

**American Art: Circa 1950 – Selections from the Permanent Collection**

August 14 – October 24, 2010

This companion exhibition to *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950* includes paintings, drawings and sculpture made on or around 1950 by notable artists such as Jimmy Ernst, Gertrude Greene, Charles Shaw and others. In the years following World War II, many innovative American painters came to the fore, focusing attention away from the Paris-based art scene that had for so long held a position of authority and influence. It was during this time that American abstraction rose to prominence in the national and international art world.

**Related Education and Public Programming**

**Youth/Family Workshops - Ages: 5-7 with adult**

Tuesdays, July 20 and 27, 10-11:15am, Free

Recipe for fun: one part color; two parts shape; and a dash of imagination! Colors and shapes do surprising things in Hans Hofmann's works. The artist's theory of “push-pull” makes some parts of his paintings look as though they are moving away from you as other parts move toward you. Experience the *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950* exhibition and the opportunity to create a work of art in the gallery using vibrant colors and shapes. Accompanying adult and pre-registration required. Pre-register for either workshop before June 30 by e-mailing t_dowell@uncg.edu or calling 336-256-1449.
Gallery Talk by Mariam Stephan
Thursday, August 26, 2-3 pm
Associate Professor of Art, Mariam Stephan, has been on UNCG's faculty since 2004. She will discuss Hofmann's philosophy and methodology from the perspective of a painter and teacher, in conversation with curator of exhibitions, Xandra Eden.

Film: *Hans Hofmann: Artist/Teacher, Teacher/Artist*
Thursday, September 9, 4 pm
Narrated by Robert De Niro, this documentary film tells the story of one of the 20th Century's most influential artists and teachers—a friend to both Picasso and Pollock. *Hans Hofmann: Artist/Teacher, Teacher/Artist* is directed by Madeline Amgott, 2002, 56 minutes.

Teacher Workshop: *Hans Hofmann: Artist/Teacher, Teacher/Artist*
Thursday, September 9, 5 pm
Gallery tour of *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950* and hands-on workshop for educators. Workshop follows the film *Hans Hofmann: Artist/Teacher, Teacher/Artist* at 4pm. Pre-register by e-mailing t_dowell@uncg.edu or calling 336-256-1449.

Noon @ the 'Spoon: Public Tour – *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950*
Tuesday, September 14, 12 noon
20-minute Public Tour: *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950*

Special Lecture: Michael Rush on Hans Hofmann
Tuesday, October 5, 5:30 pm
Michael Rush, curator of *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950*, talks about Hofmann and his legacy as a teacher and an artist. Rush is a museum director, curator and widely published author and critic. He was director of the Rose Art Museum at Brandeis University from 2005-2009, and director of the Palm Beach Institute of Contemporary Art from 2000-2004. Since the early 1990s he has contributed regularly to numerous publications including *Art in America, Art on Paper, The New York Times, artext, Bookforum*, and many others. His numerous award winning curatorial projects have ranged from international exhibitions of video art to Surrealism and monographic exhibitions on artists, both modernist and contemporary, including Hans Hofmann and Sue Williams. A reception follows the lecture.

Fall Community Day
Saturday, October 16, 1-4 pm
Family tours of *Hans Hofmann: Circa 1950* and *American Art: Circa 1950 from the Permanent Collection* along with performances and hands-on activities for youth and adults.

All events are free. For a complete, updated list of programs, visit http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu.
Guided + Self-Guided Visits
School and community groups are invited to visit the museum on their own or via a
docent-led tour. Admission and tours are free. Please contact us at least three weeks in
advance to schedule your visit, 336.334.5770 or weatherspoon@uncg.edu.

About the Weatherspoon Art Museum

Mission
The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro
acquires, preserves, exhibits, and interprets modern and contemporary art for the benefit
of its multiple audiences, including university, community, regional, and beyond. Through
these activities, the museum recognizes its paramount role of public service, and
enriches the lives of diverse individuals by fostering an informed appreciation and
understanding of the visual arts and their relationship to the world in which we live.

History
The Weatherspoon Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
was founded by Gregory Ivy in 1941 and is the earliest of any art facilities within the
UNC system. The museum was founded as a resource for the campus, community, and
region and its early leadership developed an emphasis—maintained to this day—on
presenting and acquiring modern and contemporary works of art. A 1950 bequest from
the renowned collection of Claribel and Etta Cone, which included prints and bronzes by
Henri Matisse and other works on paper by American and European modernists, helped
to establish the Weatherspoon’s permanent collection. Other prescient acquisitions
during Ivy’s tenure included a 1951 suspended mobile by Alexander Calder, Woman by
Willem de Kooning, a pivotal work in the artist’s career that was purchased in 1954, and
the first drawings by Eva Hesse and Robert Smithson to enter a museum collection.

In 1989, the museum moved into its present location in The Anne and Benjamin Cone
Building designed by the architectural firm Mitchell/Giurgola. The museum has six
galleries and a sculpture courtyard with over 17,000 square feet of exhibition space.
The American Association of Museums accredited the Weatherspoon in 1995 and
renewed its accreditation in 2005.

Collections + Exhibitions
The permanent collection of the Weatherspoon Art Museum is considered to be one of
the foremost of its kind in the Southeast. It represents all major art movements from the
beginning of the 20th century to the present. Of the nearly 6,000 works in the collection
are pieces by such prominent figures as Sol LeWitt, Robert Mangold, Cindy Sherman, Al
Held, Alex Katz, Henry Tanner, Louise Nevelson, Mark di Suvero, Deborah Butterfield,
and Robert Rauschenberg. The museum regularly lends to major exhibitions nationally
and internationally.

The Weatherspoon also is known for its adventurous and innovative exhibition program.
Through a dynamic annual calendar of fifteen to eighteen exhibitions and a multi-
disciplinary educational program for audiences of all ages, the museum provides an
opportunity for audiences to consider artistic, cultural, and social issues of our time and
enriches the life of our university, community, and region.
Weatherspoon Art Museum
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