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Exhibition Announcement

THE DOROTHY AND HERBERT VOGEL COLLECTION:
FIFTY WORKS FOR FIFTY STATES
February 26 – May 8, 2011

The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is proud to present The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States. In the middle of the last century, the Kress Foundation placed Old Master paintings in museums across the country. In 2009, the Vogels decided to share their enormous holdings of contemporary art in similar fashion. Beginning in 1991, the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. acquired more than 1,000 pieces from the Vogels’ collection through a combination of gift and purchase. The Gallery then worked closely with the Vogels, with support from both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, to distribute 2,500 artworks to fifty selected institutions—one in each state. The Weatherspoon was the very fortunate North
Carolina recipient of their generosity with a gift that includes drawings, collages, and paintings by 24 individual artists.

Collectively, the works offer a window into the Vogels’ lifelong collecting activity, demonstrating their wide interests and personal involvement with numerous artists. Included are cool minimal works from the 1970s by Robert Barry and Lucio Pozzi, gestural abstractions by Lynda Benglis and Charles Clough, and figurative works by Michael Lucero and Stephen Kaltenbach. The Vogels collected certain artists’ works almost by volume, one of which is Richard Tuttle, whose process-driven drawings and watercolors came straight out of his notebooks. A number of works have personal inscriptions from the artists on the occasion of the Vogels’ birthdays or as thanks for their great support.

The Vogels’ story is extraordinary and has been captured beautifully in the film, Herb and Dorothy, by Megumi Sasaki. Herbert Vogel worked as a United States Postal Service employee for most of his life, and Dorothy Vogel was a reference librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library. They began collecting soon after they were married, when they purchased a small sculpture by John Chamberlain in 1962—and, thus ensued a lifelong passion. Their appetite for looking at and learning about art was voracious, and they spent most evenings and Saturdays visiting artists’ studios and galleries. Dorothy’s salary was allocated to pay the bills, while Herb’s funded their collecting habit. With a limited budget, and a one-bedroom apartment to house their collection, they gravitated toward drawings and smaller works, but not without the occasional piece too large to fit comfortably in the living room.

This exhibition is presented as part of the Weatherspoon Art Museum’s 70th Anniversary year, which is highlighting many works from the permanent collection. The film, Herb and Dorothy, will be screened on Sunday, February 27 and again on Thursday, March 3. The Institute of Museum and Library Services, Washington, D.C., has created a website also to present the Vogels’ story: http://vogel5050.org. One can access the entire collection of 2,500 works in the Fifty Works for Fifty States collection, with links to the artists and examples of their other works.

Image at top: Lucio Pozzi, James Dances, March 4, 1994 (detail), watercolor and graphite on paper, 28 x 78 in. THE DOROTHY AND HERBERT VOGEL COLLECTION: FIFTY WORKS FOR FIFTY STATES, a joint initiative of the Trustees of the Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection and the National Gallery of Art, with generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2009.

Related Education and Public Programming

**Film: Herb and Dorothy**
Sunday, February 27, 2 pm
*Free: limited seating. Doors open 30 minutes prior.*

**Film: Herb and Dorothy**
Thursday, March 3, 6:30 pm
*Free: limited seating. Doors open 30 minutes prior.*

**Noon @ the ‘Spoon Tour**
Tuesday, April 12, 12 pm
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 Giurgula. 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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