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For more information or press images, contact:
Loring Mortensen, 336-256-1451, lamorten@uncg.edu

WEATHERSPOON ART MUSEUM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

JULY 31, 2012 – The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro begins a new volunteer docent training program on August 27.

WAM docents provide an invaluable service by helping visitors of all ages engage with works of art through the museum’s guided tour program. While no experience is required, volunteers must be comfortable talking to the public about contemporary art and be available to give two tours per month. Classes begin August 27 through November 5 and meet two Mondays a month at 10 a.m. An application is required.

Being a museum docent is unlike other volunteer experiences says Ann Grimaldi, Curator of Education. "It requires an appreciation art but more importantly an enthusiasm for learning. Our docents naturally enjoy talking with visitors and helping them discover new ways of seeing."

For an application, visit http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu/learn/volunteer or call (336) 334-5770.

For questions contact Ann Grimaldi, Curator of Education at (336) 334-5770 or ann_grimaldi@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
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Spring Garden and Tate Streets, PO Box 26170
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170, 336.334.5770, weatherspoon@uncg.edu

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