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Exhibition Announcement

The Cone Sisters Collect
November 3, 2012 – February 17, 2013

The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition, The Cone Sisters Collect from November 3, 2012 through February 17, 2013. The Weatherspoon Art Museum first began collecting works of art in the 1940s, and received an astonishing bounty in 1949 when Etta Cone bequeathed part of her and her sister Claribel’s collection to the museum. The Weatherspoon was the beneficiary of a gift of 242 objects including work by Raoul Dufy, John Graham, Marie Laurencin, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Jacques Villon, among others. The exhibition is organized by Elaine D. Gustafson, Curator of Collections.

Weatherspoon Art Museum exhibition link:
http://weatherspoon.uncg.edu/exhibitions/show/?title=the-cone-sisters-collect
As daughters and sisters of prosperous businessmen, the Cone sisters were well educated and widely traveled. They were raised in Baltimore, where Claribel (1864-1929) earned a medical degree from Woman’s Medical College. Etta (1870-1949) was a dedicated pianist who also managed the Cone household. The family fortune essentially financed the sisters’ passion for collecting avant-garde European and American art. The two made regular trips to Europe to purchase art, often visiting in Paris their friends Leo and Gertrude Stein, siblings and art collectors whom they first met in Baltimore. Through the Steins, the Cone sisters became acquainted with a wide circle of artists, musicians, and writers who in turn influenced their own collecting. The Weatherspoon’s exhibition will be a sampling of the original Cone gift to the museum. While many of the works pre-date WAM’s focus on contemporary art, they celebrate the Cone sisters’ passion for art, both representational in style and more abstract.

Part of this vanguard collection will be on view this fall and winter as a complement to the exhibition, Collecting Matisse and Modern Masters: The Cone Sisters of Baltimore, on view at the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University from November 4, 2012 through February 10, 2013.

Nasher Art Museum exhibition link:  http://nasher.duke.edu/matisse/


Related Education and Public Programming

Will Read for Food, Art + Music: Public Tour
Thursday, November 15, 6:30 pm
The Weatherspoon Art Museum joins the UNCG MFA Writing Program and UNCG Alumni Relations in celebrating the arts and raising money for area food banks and shelters. Now in its 18th year, this special Will Read for Food, Art + Music will feature a performance by UNCG student musicians and tours of The Cone Sisters Collect exhibition at 6:30 pm, followed by readings by local authors at 7 pm in the Weatherspoon auditorium. Suggested donation: $5 for students, $10 general public at the door. Complimentary refreshments during intermission. Expect limited seating for this always popular event.

Guest Lecture: Dr. Porter Aichele, Etta Cone’s Displays of Comprehension
Sunday, November 18, 2 pm
Using archival photographs and publications found in Dr. Claribel and Etta Cone’s vast art library, Dr. Porter Aichele proposes that Etta’s displays of art in her early 20th-century Baltimore apartment were not simply a form of interior decor, but were carefully planned to demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of Matisse’s theories about painting. Free.

Dr. Porter Aichele is Professor Emerita, Department of Art at UNCG. She is the recipient of two Southeastern College Art Conference awards in research and teaching excellence and in 2010 received the Leon Levy Fellowship from the Frick Library’s Center for History of Collecting in America. Her current research is on private art collections in America.

Educators Workshop: The Collector’s Eye
Part 1: Thursday, November 29, 6-8 pm
Part 2: Saturday, January 12, 9:30 am–2:30 pm
A two-part workshop for educators is offered in conjunction with the concurrent exhibitions The Cone Sisters Collect (WAM) and Collecting Matisse and Modern Masters: The Cone Sisters of Baltimore (Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University). Learn about the Cone family and their contributions to the Greensboro Community along with pre- and post-visit class ideas. Free for WAM members; $5 non-members. Pre-registration required. Admission and bus
transportation provided courtesy of Nasher Museum of Art and Cemala Foundation. Pre-register for either or both workshops by contacting Terri Dowell-Dennis at dowell@uncg.edu or (336) 256-1449. Please note spaces are limited.

Noon @ the 'Spoon Tour: The Cone Sisters Collect
Tuesday, January 8, 12 pm
Noon @ the 'Spoon features a 20-minute tour of a new exhibition. Offered every second Tuesday of the month. Free.

Art for Lunch: Curator’s Talk with Elaine Gustafson
Wednesday, January 30, 12 pm
Curator of Collections Elaine Gustafson takes visitors on a tour of The Cone Sisters Collect exhibition. Free.

For a complete, updated list of programs, visit http://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 1949 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 Ossawa 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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