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The
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Museum
of Art

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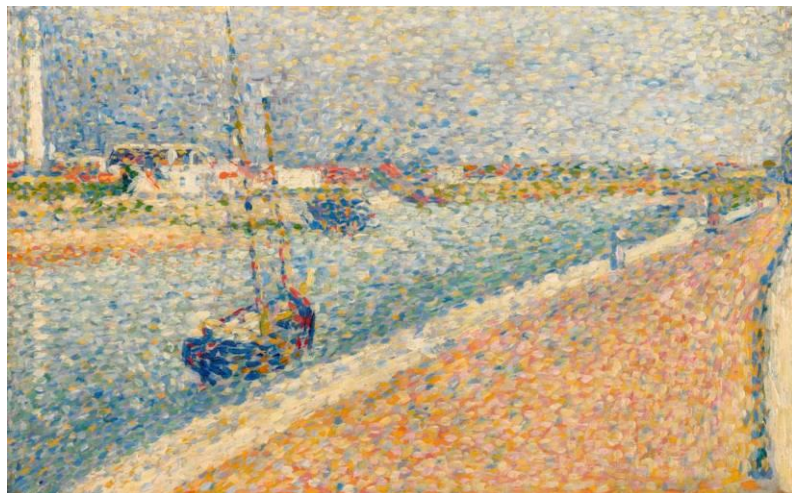
75 Nelson-Atkins Patrons Give 400 Extraordinary Works of Art to Commemorate Museum's 75th Anniversary

*Special Exhibition, Opening Feb. 13, 2010, Will Showcase Highlights
Including Impressionism, African and American Indian Masterpieces*

50 Works Enter Modern & Contemporary Collection

Kansas City, MO. Feb. 5, 2010—The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art today announced a cumulative gift of 400 works of art from 75 patrons, given in commemoration of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art's 75th Anniversary. The hundreds of masterworks span cultures, chronologies and media and include one of the most important private collections of Impressionist art in the United States. These extraordinary gifts—which also honor Director/CEO Marc F. Wilson's 28-year tenure—include masterworks by Monet, Manet, Pissarro, Van Gogh and Cezanne.

The collecting initiative began in December 2008, and a special exhibition of highlights of the cumulative gift, *Magnificent Gifts for the 75th*, will serve as a capstone to the yearlong celebration of the Museum's 75th Anniversary. On view from February 13 through April 4, 2010, *Magnificent Gifts for the 75th* will feature 130 of the 400 gifts, including paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, sculptures, new media art, masks, textiles, ceramics, glass, silver, furniture and rare books.



Among the transformative gifts are those promised by long-time Nelson-Atkins supporters: the Marion and Henry Bloch Collection of Impressionist masterpieces; seven stellar works from the African art collection of Adele and Donald Hall; and 34 masterworks from the extensive collection of American Indian art of Estelle and Morton Sosland.

“This generous outpouring of community support reflects Kansas City’s thriving arts community. Many of us feel there is no way to fully express what the Nelson-Atkins and Marc Wilson have meant to Kansas City,” said Henry Bloch, former chairman and honorary member of the Museum’s Board of Trustees. “I believe these incredible contributions pay tribute to both the Museum and to our Director.”

“We are deeply honored that these passionate caretakers of art have chosen this moment to transfer guardianship of their treasures to the Nelson-Atkins,” said Marc F. Wilson, Menefee D. and Mary Louise Blackwell Director/CEO of the Nelson-Atkins. “With this, they recognize the legacy of the Museum’s past 75 years and affirm confidence in its future. Cumulatively, this is an encyclopedic gift for an encyclopedic museum. It is a gift of breathtaking range and scope that will continue to inspire visitors for the next 75 years.”

Marc Wilson will retire from the Nelson-Atkins on June 1, 2010. A new director will be announced in the coming months.

The Bloch Collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Masterpieces

The Bloch Collection of 29 Impressionist masterpieces is the result of more than 20 years of careful acquisition, with assistance from Ted Coe, Director of the Nelson-Atkins from 1977 to 1982. It is a balanced selection of works from the seminal artists of the time and is internationally respected as one of the finest collections in private hands in the United States. Among the works are Monet’s *Snow at Argenteuil*, Manet’s *The Croquet Party*, van Gogh’s *Restaurant Rispal at Asnieres*, Gauguin’s *The Willow*, and Cezanne’s *Man with a Pipe*, as well as major works by Renoir, Degas, Pissarro, Morisot and Sisley. Four works from the collection, including Pierre Bonnard’s *The White Cupboard*, will be part of the 75th Anniversary exhibition.

“The Bloch Collection is one of perhaps a dozen devoted to Impressionism and Post-Impressionism that is of global quality,” said Richard Brettell, former director of the Dallas Museum of Art and currently the Margaret McDermott Distinguished Chair of Art and Aesthetics at the University of Texas, Dallas. “Quite simply, any great museum in any great city would consider itself blessed if the Bloch Collection came to it.”

Henry Bloch, co-founder of H&R Block, and his wife, Marion, are long-time supporters of the Nelson-Atkins, and the Museum’s internationally acclaimed expansion is named in their honor. The Bloch Building, designed by Steven Holl, opened in 2007, and the Bloch collection was highlighted in the inaugural exhibition, *Manet to Matisse: Impressionist Masters from the Marion and Henry Bloch Collection*.



“Marion and I and our children are pleased to know that the paintings we have loved and lived with will become a part of the Nelson-Atkins, where others will enjoy them for years to come,” Mr. Bloch said.

The Hall Collection of African Art

The gifts in support for the Museum's 75th Anniversary also include, as announced earlier this year, seven works of African art from the Adele and Donald Hall Collection. Those promised gifts, each a superb example of African art, will greatly elevate and broaden the Museum's range of holdings in that area and include an intricately carved ivory *Salt Cellar* from the late 15th to early 16th century and an outstanding example of a wooden carving by the Luba artist known as the "Master of the Cascade Coiffure."



The Sosland Collection of American Indian Art

Longtime patrons Estelle and Morton Sosland gave one of the nation's finest private collections of American Indian art to the Nelson-Atkins, as announced in the fall. The Northwest Coast masterworks were unveiled in the new American Indian art galleries, which opened in November 2009 to critical acclaim and will be on view during the 75th Anniversary exhibition. Among the works is the powerful *Wild Woman of the Woods*, an 1870 mask from British Columbia.



In addition to their American Indian masterworks, the Soslands also promised gifts from their contemporary collection, including Magdalene Odundo's ceramic vessel, *Untitled #7*, which embodies both contemporary elegance and the rich traditions of Odundo's African heritage.

The Soslands were responsible for the 1994 gift of the Museum's iconic *Shuttlecocks*, a four-part commissioned work by artists Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen. Among the Soslands' promised gifts are three conceptual drawings of the *Shuttlecocks* and a fabrication model.

Additional 75th Anniversary Gift Highlights

The 400 gifts of art have greatly enhanced several areas of the Museum's collection by building on existing strengths and filling gaps in areas where the Museum had not collected. Highlights from the gifts follow:



An Impressionist painting *Landscape, Ile de France (Paysage d'Ile de France)* by the artist Jean-Baptiste-Armand Guillaumin is a promised gift from Barbara and Robert Bloch. The son of Henry and Marion Bloch, Robert serves as program director of the H&R Bloch Foundation. For many years, Robert's collecting has focused on prints, but he acquired this painting years ago and has now promised it to the Museum.



More than 50 works of art have entered the Modern & Contemporary collection. Thanks to generous support from the William T. Kemper Foundation–Commerce Bank, Trustee, five conceptual and electronic media works have been acquired, including Nam June Paik’s mesmerizing *Watching Buddha*.

The additions also include George Segal’s cast-from-life sculpture *Chance Meeting*, a gift of Carroll and Donna Janis; Roger Shimomura’s somber painting *Diary: Aug. 27, 1942*, a promised gift of Michael and Karen Herman; and Piet Mondrian’s tonal drawing *Fields with Haystacks*, a promised gift of the Miller Nichols Family.

The American collection has also received significant gifts for its newly installed galleries, which opened in April 2009. Raphaelle Peale’s exquisitely rendered *Still Life with Liqueurs and Fruit* and Rembrandt Peale’s loving *Portrait of the Artist’s Wife*, gift and promised gift of Sarah and Landon Rowland, are exceptional examples of American painting at the beginning of the 19th century.



Other works include John La Farge’s *Hollyhocks* and George de Forest Brush’s *Standing Inca*, the two most recent gifts from Mr. and Mrs. R. Crosby Kemper Jr.; Louis Freund’s *Circus*, a generous gift from James and Virginia Moffett; and Irene Rice Pereira’s abstract painting *Three White Squares*, a promised gift from Daniel P. Winter.



The Hall Family Foundation has given 15 photographs as 75th Anniversary gifts, bringing the number of works in the Hallmark Photographic Collection, acquired in late 2005, to a breathtaking 8,000. Among the most important works is Augustus Washington’s daguerreotype portrait of the abolitionist John Brown.

Other works include the Photography Society’s gift of Fazal Sheikh’s contemporary portrait *Simran, New Delhi, India*; Robert and Shana ParkeHarrison’s gift of their *Channel*; and Jeffrey and Polly Kramer’s gift of Fred Zinnemann’s *Grand Central*.

The Decorative Arts collection has been greatly enriched by the 24 promised gifts of Lennie and Jerry Berkowitz, including Akio Takamori’s *Kanzan* from “*The Laughing Monk Series*.” Further deepening the Museum’s strength in contemporary ceramics are Harrison Jedel’s gift of the Jim Leedy stoneware *Charger*, and Carol and Dennis Hudson’s promised gift of Linda Lighton’s white glazed sculpture *Echinacea*. A sparkling addition to the glass collection is Herbert Adler’s promised gift of the Libbey Glass Company *Flower Center*.





Among the outstanding gifts of American Indian art are nine works that are currently on view in the newly installed American Indian galleries and six unveiled in the exhibition *Magnificent Gifts for the 75th*. Among the works are Ned Jalbert's gift of the 18th-century Ojibwa *Coat*, an extraordinary example of the cultural connection between Native peoples and Europeans.

Other gifts are Ed and Judy Benson's gift of the Mdewakanton Dakota *Gunstock Club*; John and Kay Callison's promised gift of the Late-Mississippian *Kneeling Human Effigy Jar*; and five works from the Peter and Barbara Gattermeir collection, including Beau Dick's powerful Kwakwaka'wakw *Four Face Mask*.

The Museum's Print collection received eight prints from Pat Steir's sublime *Waterfall Series*, all gifts of the artist, as well as Charles and Leslie Herman's gift of Georg Baselitz's Expressionist woodcut print *Head*, and Jim and Jean Carson's gift of Tina Mion's giclée print *Stop Action Reaction (Jacqueline Kennedy)*.

Donor Jeffrey Weidman gave three rare illustrated books to the Museum's Spencer Art Reference Library: Frederick Norden's 18th-century account of his exploration and discoveries in Egypt and Nubia, and Giovanni Battista Belzoni's two-volume narrative and atlas of his 19th-century research in those same countries.

The collecting initiative has been the work of curators across departments at the Nelson-Atkins, and the exhibition *Magnificent Gifts for the 75th* is curated by Jan Schall, Sanders Sosland Curator, Modern & Contemporary Art.

"It's thrilling to see the Museum collection expand in new directions with so many diverse works of art, from those created by both unknown and celebrated artists of the past to those by conceptual artists working today," Schall said. "I'm overjoyed by and deeply grateful for this remarkable generosity."

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

The Nelson-Atkins in Kansas City is recognized nationally and internationally as one of America's finest art museums. The Nelson-Atkins serves the community by providing access and insight into its renowned collection of more than 33,500 art objects and is best known for its Asian art, European and American paintings, photography and modern sculpture. Housing a major art research library and the Ford Learning Center, the Museum is a key educational resource for the region.

The institution-wide transformation of the Nelson-Atkins has included the 165,000-square-foot Bloch Building expansion, renovation of the original 1933 Nelson-Atkins Building, and re-installation of the European, American and American Indian art galleries. It continues with installation of new Egyptian galleries and renovation of Chinese galleries.

The Nelson-Atkins is located at 45th and Oak Streets, Kansas City, MO. Hours are Wednesday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thursday/Friday, 10 a.m.–9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, Noon–5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is free to everyone. For Museum information, phone 816.751.1ART (1278) or visit nelson-atkins.org

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Image captions, by order of image appearance in press release:

Georges Seurat, French, (1859-1891). *The Channel at Gravelines, Petit Fort-Philippe*, 1890. Oil on panel, 6 1/4 x 9 7/8 inches. Promised gift of Marion H. and Henry W. Bloch, 11.2007.18.

Pierre Bonnard, French, (1867-1947). *The White Cupboard (L'armoire blanche)*, 1931. Oil on canvas, 49 3/8 x 36 3/4 inches. Promised gift of Marion H. and Henry W. Bloch, 11.2007.28.

Salt Cellar, Sierra Leone, late 15th – early 16th century. Ivory, 7 3/4 inches. Promised gift of Adele and Donald Hall in honor of the 75th anniversary of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 14.2010.3.

Dzunukwa Mask or Gikamhl (Chief's Mask), Kwakwaka'wakw (Kwakiutl), British Columbia, ca. 1870. Wood (alder), pigment, human hair and bear hide, 11 x 7 5/8 x 5 3/4 inches without hair. From the Estelle and Morton Sosland Collection, 2009.41.1.

Jean-Baptiste-Armand Guillaumin, French (1841-1927). *Landscape, Île-de-France (Paysage d'Île de France)*, ca. 1876-77. Oil on canvas. 18 x 25 1/2 inches. Promised gift of Robert L. and Barbara Bloch in honor of his parents, Marion and Henry Bloch, and the 75th anniversary of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 27-1989.

Nam June Paik, Korean (1932-2006). *Watching Buddha*, 1979. Metal Buddha statue, acrylic platform, vintage television set box, inserted more modern television, and video camera. 31 1/8 x 25 9/16 x 59 1/16 inches. Purchase: acquired through the generosity of the William T. Kemper Foundation – Commerce Bank, Trustee, in honor of the 75th Anniversary of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 2009.35.A-K. © 1979 Nam June Paik Estate.

Rembrandt Peale, American (1778-1860). *Portrait of the Artist's Wife*, ca. 1805. Oil on panel. 28 3/16 x 23 3/8 inches. Promised gift of Sarah and Landon Rowland in honor of the 75th anniversary of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 5.2009.

Augustus Washington, American (1820-1875). *John Brown*, ca. 1846-1847. Quarter plate daguerreotype, 4 x 3 3/16 inches. Gift of the Hall Family Foundation in honor of the 75th anniversary of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. 2008.6.4.

Akio Takamori, Japanese (b. 1950). *Kanzan from The Laughing Monk Series*, ca. 2006. Ceramic. Promised Gift of the Lennie and Jerry Berkowitz Collection in honor of the 75th anniversary of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

Coat, Ojibwa, Ontario, Canada, ca. 1789. Native leather, rawhide, pigment, porcupine quills, glass beads, and deer hair, 48 7/8 x 27 5/8 inches (124.1 x 70.2 cm). Gift of Ned Jalbert in honor of the 75th anniversary of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and funds from the exchange of William Rockhill Nelson Trust properties, 2008.1.