

## ART COLLECTION NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE COORDINATOR:

We are extremely proud to present this first ever newsletter from the Wayne State University Art Collection. So much has happened over the nearly five years since I came to WSU to manage the Collection that there is simply not enough space to record it all in these few pages.

I do, however, want to acknowledge The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan whose grant in 2008 of \$125,000 jumpstarted our ability to preserve, conserve and share the Collection through a wealth of projects, including the highly successful exhibition, *Time and Place: Art Of Detroit's Cass Corridor from the Wayne State University Collection*, shown in WSU's Elaine L. Jacob Gallery in the Spring of 2009. A documentary video and catalogue of this exhibition is available on our new website at [artcollection.wayne.edu](http://artcollection.wayne.edu).

Also in 2008 we were fortunate to partner with WSU Library Systems in developing the *Jacob Lawrence: Legend of John Brown* traveling display funded through the Detroit Area Library Network. This informative display, on tour through 2012, provides access to these powerful images from one of the Collection's most important works to audiences throughout Michigan.

Additionally, this exciting and ambitious period saw the creation of the popular *ArtWalk* brochure and guided tour lead by the WSU Alumni Association's Women of Wayne, and a major gift of over 1000 works of art from James Pearson Duffy which solidified WSU as a major resource for the study of Cass Corridor art.

In 2009, through the leadership of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, members of the WSU Art Collection committee and selected colleagues from the campus community, the five year Strategic Plan was developed, defining the goals of the Collection and marking a positive path for its future.



Judy Pfaff, *Untitled*, c. 1975, Oil on aluminum, 8 x 12 x 4 in., gift of James Pearson Duffy, 2008

This and forthcoming newsletters will introduce new acquisitions, profiles of donors and special projects. I invite you to visit our exciting new website where there is much more to discover and learn, including how to find a conservator in your area to care for your own art collection.

It is through the generosity of our donors and volunteers that the Wayne State University Art Collection will continue to be a local and global resource. I encourage you to become involved with the Collection and the artistic legacy it represents.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Sandra Schemske, Art Collection Coordinator

## Actor, Alumnus Michael Tolan Gifts, Bequests 3 Works by Romare Bearden

Actor and WSU alumnus (Theatre, '47), Michael Tolan (1925 - 2011), whose rich career in the arts traversed radio, film, television, theatre and poetry, is remembered for his warmth, generosity and devotion to sharing the joys of an art-full life. Evidence of this generosity can be found in his gift of three bold works by famed Harlem Renaissance artist, Romare Bearden, to the Wayne State University Art Collection.



Michael Tolan

In 2008, as a show of gratitude to his alma-mater, Tolan gifted to WSU a stunning rare, large serigraph by Bearden, titled *The Baptism*, from the 1976 series, *Prevalence of Ritual*. At the time of this first gift, further arrangements were made for two beautiful

1971 Bearden collages to be left to WSU, as a bequest. Tolan passed in January, 2011, and the collages joined the Collection this June.

Both collages, *Sunday Morning*, and *In Martinique*, are created by utilizing a mix of fabric, magazine clippings, screenprints, gift wrap and other mediums. *Sunday Morning*, a provocative work for the artist, features a reclining nude female boldly gazing at the viewer, while *In Martinique*, a less charged work shows a profile of a woman with upstretched arms standing in shallow water before a dense tropical landscape.

Bearden is perhaps most known for his ground-breaking collage work, which he began experimenting with in the early 1960s, in the midst of the civil rights movement in which he was actively involved. His style in the medium



*Sunday Morning*, 1971, collage on board, 10 3/4 x 13 in.

helped define an era of African-American culture (a visual incarnation of the sounds of jazz and cadence of the written-word being produced in Harlem) and had a profound and lasting influence in graphic media.

Tolan, who guest-starred on *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, and lead in roles on Broadway productions such as *Romanoff and Juliet*, first met Bearden in Harlem about 1975, visiting the artist's studio where he purchased the two collages directly from the artist. His long performing career began in Detroit in the '40s, while at WSU, starring in the iconic, syndicated radio shows *The Lone Ranger* and *The Green Hornet*. Later while in New York, Tolan co-founded The American Place Theatre and The Apple Core Theatre, an inter-racial repertory group.

These gifts bring the total number of works by Bearden at the University Art Collection to five and adds exponentially to our outstanding collection of works by African-American artists, including, Sam Gilliam, Tyree Guyton, Jacob Lawrence, Al Loving, Howardena Pindell, Hughie Lee Smith, Gilda Snowden, Larry Walker and Peter Williams.



*The Baptism*, 1976, Serigraph, ed. 16/50, 31 x 45 in.



# Arthur C. Danto Master Print Collection

Eminent Philosopher, Art Critic Gifts Prints and Woodblocks to WSU Art Collection

Grants Permission for Special Edition Prints to Benefit WSU Printmaking Students



*The Writer Herbert Gold*, 1959, woodcut, 28 x 17 in., gift of the artist, 2009

Many are aware of the enormous contributions Arthur C. Danto has made to contemporary art through his writings on philosophy and criticism. The 'artworld' as it has become known was first defined by Danto as a means to explain how Andy Warhol's *Brillo Box* of 1965 was a work of art. However few know Danto as a successful artist — a decade-long career that preceded his tenure as one of the most highly regarded philosophers of our time. Recently, to much excitement worldwide, recognition of his artmaking is being revived.

Spurred by an exhibition at the University of Illinois in 2009 that revisited Danto's work as a printmaker, arrangements were made soon after for the entirety of his personal work, both prints and the woodblocks themselves, to become part of the WSU Art Collection. His gifting of this body of work, a collection of 87 prints and 46 woodblocks, makes WSU the world's foremost resource for scholarly research into the career of Danto as an artist.

Danto, who grew up in Ann Arbor and studied fine art at Wayne University (now

WSU), achieved considerable success in NYC as a printmaker from the early '50s, exhibiting in such places as the Art Institute of Chicago, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the National Gallery of Art. Following his solo exhibition at NYC's Associated American Artists gallery in 1960, Danto gave up artmaking and turned his interests exclusively to philosophy and art criticism.

Danto is the Johnsonian Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at Columbia University, and from 1984 - 2008 was the art critic for *The Nation*.

## Save the Date: Oct. 15, 2011

On Saturday, October, 15th, 2011, the University Art Collection, partnering with Professor Stanley Rosenthal and the Printmaking Department of the James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History, will present the *Arthur C. Danto Printmaking Open House and Demonstration*, on the second floor of the WSU Art Building. Funded through a grant from WSU's Research Enhancement Program (REP) for Arts and Humanities, the

afternoon long event will be open to the public, free of charge, to experience the production of art prints in a professional printshop atmosphere, to witness the creation of two special editions of Danto woodcut prints, *The Writer Herbert Gold*, and *Bull* (to be sold to benefit the newly established *Arthur C. Danto Printmaking Scholarship*), and to learn about the various techniques and methods of printmaking.

The REP grant will also fund the printing of several Danto woodblocks that are currently unrepresented in the suite of prints that came from Danto. Additionally, upon completion of the Danto Master Print Collection, the University Art Collection will create a special online-exhibition of the work, which will include an essay by Danto titled "Stopping Making Art," as well as essays by WSU grad students in Philosophy and Art History, examining links between the artwork and philosophy of Danto.

Visit [artcollection.wayne.edu](http://artcollection.wayne.edu) for updates on the open house/demonstration, information on how to purchase the special edition prints and the launching of the *Arthur C. Danto Master Print Collection* online-exhibition.

**COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT:** *Mr. Duffy* by Barbara Greene, 1981, watercolor, 13 x 19 in.



When James Pearson Duffy commissioned this charming portrait from Barbara Greene he had only one request — that every work of art in his office make it into the painting. It was a success, and in '92 when Duffy sold his business, this watercolor, along with his collection of over 100 Cass Corridor artworks that filled his pipe warehouse, came to WSU — the first of three major gifts of art to the Art Collection from Mr. Duffy.

## Cass Corridor Oral History Project

Over the past year, the WSU Art Collection Coordinator has been pleased to work with students in Professor Joseph Turrini's Oral History class in the School of Library and Information Science and with Diane Sybeldon, Fine and Performing Arts and Media Librarian, in the Wayne State University Library System, on collecting more than twenty histories from key figures in the Cass Corridor cultural movement. Participants included artists, collectors, critics, curators, gallery directors and musicians. Lisa Schell, a student in the master's degree program at WSU who interviewed art collector David Zucca for the project, shared her experiences in the Midwest Archives Newsletter. Ms Schell stated "With these voices and their stories, we now have a collection of firsthand accounts of Detroit urban expressionism. As one of the students who assisted in collecting and preserving this particular aspect of Detroit history, I am proud to say I am from Michigan and even prouder to share what I have learned about Detroit history and the Cass Corridor Movement."

These histories are in the process of being catalogued and will be made available through the WSU Library System.



*Cass Corridor Culture*, permanent exhibition at the David Adamany Undergraduate Library, third floor

## Cass Corridor Culture: In and Around Wayne State, 1960s - 1980s

David Adamany Undergraduate Library, Third Floor  
WSU, Gullen Mall, Detroit

This permanent exhibition highlights the work of artists, poets and musicians, many of whom lived and worked in 'the Corridor' during those years. The counterculture of the 1960s and '70s had its roots on college and university campuses, including WSU, where artists, musicians, poets and writers developed a strong and vibrant creative community. This display features some of the most iconic art created by artists of the Cass Corridor, including works by Cay Bahnmiller, Jim Chatelain, John Egner, Brenda Goodman, Doug James, Bradley Jones, Ann Mikolowski, Nancy Mitchnick, Gordon Newton, Paul Schwarz, The Alternative Press, and Jonathan Waite.

To see more images and read the essay, *Art and the Industrial City*, by Dora Apel, Ph.D., W. Hawkins Ferry Chair in Modern and Contemporary Art History, WSU, visit [artcollection.wayne.edu](http://artcollection.wayne.edu), click on the *Exhibitions* tab and follow the link to the *Cass Corridor Culture* page.

## RECENT EXHIBITIONS FEATURING WORK FROM THE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION

*The Making of David McCosh: Early Paintings, Drawings and Prints*  
Barker Gallery, University of Oregon, Jul 23 - Sept 4, 2011

Patron of the Arts: Gifts from James Pearson Duffy to the WSU Art Collection  
The Detroit Athletic Club, Sept 24, 2010 - Jan 5, 2011

*Arthur Danto's Woodblock Prints: Capturing Art and Philosophy*  
Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Aug 24 - Oct 1, 2010

*William Gropper and More: Dissent and Satire*  
Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, WSU, May 14 - Jun 25, 2010

*Works by Peter Gilleran*  
Art Department Gallery, WSU, Nov 6 - Dec 18, 2009

*Figuration and Gestural Abstraction: Prints of Arthur C. Danto*  
Visual Arts Gallery, University of Illinois, Springfield, Aug 27 - Sept 23, 2009

*Time and Place: Art of Detroit's Cass Corridor from the WSU Collection*  
Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, WSU, Apr 24th - Jun 26th 2009

*CONSIDERING DETROIT*  
Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, May 10 - Jul 28, 2008



Works by Gordon Newton in *Time & Place* exhibition at WSU's Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, 2009



*Bull*, 1959, woodcut, 23 x 28 in., gift of the artist, 2009

## DONORS (2007 – PRESENT)

It is through the patronage of our valued donors that the richness of the educational experience at Wayne State University extends far beyond the walls of the classroom and flows into the creative lives of our students, faculty, staff and visitors. We are most grateful to the following donors for their generous support:

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Every attempt is made to provide accurate information. If there are any edits or omissions to this list, please contact Kelly Cronin at 313-577-5336 or [kellycronin@wayne.edu](mailto:kellycronin@wayne.edu)

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Wayne State University Art Collection exists not in isolation, but within the context of the University's overall mission to discover, examine, transmit and apply knowledge that contributes to the positive development and well being of individuals, organizations and society. A great university strives to challenge the imagination and the Wayne State University Art Collection is a primary resource in the creation of this environment by providing provocative and stimulating surroundings where students, faculty, staff and visitors can encounter great works of art.

The Wayne State University Art Collection serves as an important educational resource where the campus community can not only view important examples of genres, experiments and works of local historical interest, but can also access them as artists, critics and scholars.

Through the acquisition, exhibition, care and preservation of original works of art the Wayne State University Art Collection encourages an awareness and appreciation of the visual arts, contributes to the aesthetics of our beautiful urban campus, educates and inspires our community, and reinforces Wayne State University and Detroit's standing as a center for artistic expression.

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Wayne State University Art Collection envisions a future in which the Art Collection contributes profoundly to the quality of campus life through the exhibition of original works of art which inspire and enhance the daily experience of students, faculty, staff and visitors.

Through personal encounters and web-based technologies the Art Collection is a valued educational resource to both local and global communities enlivening public discourse, promoting intellectual inquiry, and increasing cultural awareness of our university and our region.

## CONTACT

For inquiries into gifting works of art, requests for loaning of UAC artwork, research interests, etc, please contact:

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The Wayne State University Art Collection works collaboratively with the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts and the Office of the President.





WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION

5104 GULLEN MALL, DETROIT, MI 48202  
ARTCOLLECTION.WAYNE.EDU

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## HELP US PRESERVE WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY'S FANTASTIC FOUR!

They've guarded the campus for over thirty years and now they need our help to restore them to their original glory

The Fantastic Four (AKA Cadillac, deLasalle, Richard and Marquette) are sculptures by Julius Melchers (1829-1908) that graced the original Detroit City Hall from c. 1885 until the building was demolished in 1960. Saved and gifted to the University by the Detroit Common Council, they were placed on the Ludington Mall near General Lectures in 1973. Now approaching their 125th birthday, the elements have taken their toll and these sculptures are in need of restoration.

Carved in limestone, these 10-foot figures represent the four French pioneers who helped open up the territory of Michigan and establish the city of Detroit.

Currently, the quartet can be seen in the round, on a 5 acre, park-like setting adjacent to St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

Wayne State University is strongly committed to public art on campus and to preserving the history of Detroit. These four stately representations of early Michiganians are a spectacular example of this commitment, but we need your help. Costs for the restoration of the four sculptures are estimated to be \$45,000.



To contribute to our conservation fund for the Fantastic Four contact Sandra Schemske at 313-577-9264 or Kelly Cronin at 313-577-5336. Please help us preserve this important part of our history!

### EXPLORE THE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION WEBSITE

[artcollection.wayne.edu](http://artcollection.wayne.edu)

A team of dedicated web developers and University Art Collection assistants have created the Collection's first ever website. The site is designed to be a world-wide educational tool, providing information and access to Wayne State University's vast collection of artwork and cultural objects.

#### FEATURES INCLUDE:

- 'Picture of the Week' collection highlights
- Online exhibitions & Collection news
- Collection related publications list
- Video features
- Information on arranging on-campus *ArtWalk* tours
- Advice about best practices in caring for artwork and collections