

ART COLLECTION NEWSLETTER

FROM THE COORDINATOR

It hardly seems possible that another year has flown by. A year that includes the remarkable gift of over 60 works from the collection of John Hilberry and his late wife Andronike Tsagaris, as well as substantive gifts from Compuware Corporation and the James Pearson Duffy Trust. These gifts and those not named here each elevate the collection — particularly in the arena of contemporary and Cass Corridor works. Current plans are to install the entirety of the Hilberry gift in the newly dedicated Tierney Alumni House (formerly the Hecker/Smiley mansion) where the art will bring a new vitality to this extraordinary historic home and expand the opportunity for events programming.



Bryant Tillman, *Old Main*, 2014, oil on canvas, 11 × 14 in., purchase, University Art Collection Endowed Acquisition Fund, 2015

Thanks to the generosity of the (former) Women of Wayne Alumni organization, the ‘Fantastic Four’ sculptures of Detroit’s founding fathers — Cadillac, LaSalle, Marquette and Richard — have all been conserved and protected against the elements for years to come. Sincere thanks to this group of women whose long history with the collection now continues with the ArtWalk docent program under the support of the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts.

The legacy of James Pearson Duffy’s gifts to the Wayne State University Art Collection (UAC) carry on with the online exhibition *Call & Response: Selections from the Newton/Duffy Correspondence*. In addition to the Duffy exhibition, we invite you to view all the online exhibitions at our website artcollection.wayne.edu.

In our continued effort to share the excellence of the collection we are excited to partner with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) on a 2+ year exhibition project at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center. Supported by the Eugene and Marcia Applebaum Family Foundation, this program will bring great works of art from the UAC to audiences at the DSO and extend our community outreach.

In highlighting a work from William Gropper’s *Capriccios*, we also acknowledge the generosity of donor Arthur Schwartz whose many gifts over the

years have included not only the entire *Capriccios* series of 50 lithographs, but also classic prints by Bonnard, Chagall, Renoir, Vuillard, and many others.

Sadly, we have lost some good friends in recent years. In addition to the sudden death of David Barr, we would like to take this moment to remember Mary Ann Aitken, Keith Aoki, Matt Blake, Tony Gleaton, Susan Hauptman, Susanne Hilberry, Elaine L. Jacobs, Balthazar Korab, Aris Koutroulis, Gilda Snowden, Jonathan Waite and Irene Walt. Their contributions to the arts have made a lasting legacy which will not be forgotten.

As another exciting year reaches out before us, I want to thank all those who have given their time, talents and treasures to the UAC. As always it is through their generosity that the collection continues to be a local and global resource.

Sandra Schemske
Art Collection Coordinator

The Hilberry/Tsagaris Collection: a Homecoming



Ann Mikolowski, *John Hilberry*, 1987, oil on canvas, 2 3/4 x 3 in., gift of John Hilberry, 2015

Between the mid-1960s and the mid-1980s, a pioneering community of artists created an impressive range of groundbreaking and challenging works in the neighborhood just south of Wayne State University. The Cass Corridor movement was a pivotal moment in the evolution of Detroit’s art community. The movement had numerous connections to Wayne State, as many of its members studied or taught in the university’s fine art department.

It’s fitting, then, that a large and important collection of Cass Corridor art will return permanently to the Wayne State campus, thanks to the generosity of university supporter John Hilberry.

In September, Hilberry formally presented over 60 original works created primarily from artists of the Cass

Corridor movement to the Wayne State University Art Collection. The pieces come from the sizable private collection that Hilberry amassed with his late wife, Andronike “Nicky” Tsagaris.

The collection features works from Cay Bahmiller, Ann Mikolowski, Gordon Newton, Robert Sestok, and many other prominent Cass Corridor contributors, as well as works by a later generation of Detroit artists. After Hilberry and Brooklyn-born Tsagaris moved to Manhattan in the 1990s, they also added to the collection works by emerging New York artists such as Tom Bills, Jane Hammond, John Lees, John Obuck and Ursula von Rydingsvard.

“It’s a balanced collection, and it will help the university to represent this important movement that took place largely because of Wayne State and the art department there,” Hilberry said. “This Cass Corridor stuff is pretty adventuresome. There’s a kind of exhilaration about it all.”

Hilberry now works as an architectural consultant after a successful career running his own architecture firm in Detroit and later in New York, with a specialization in designing museum and gallery spaces. His father, Clarence B. Hilberry, was Wayne State’s fourth

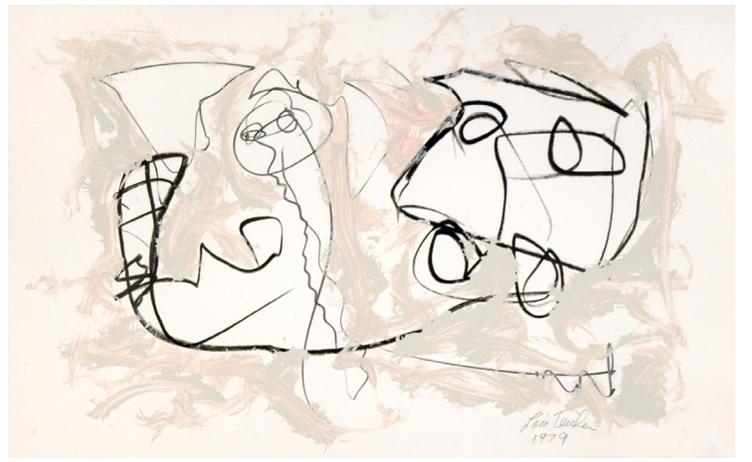
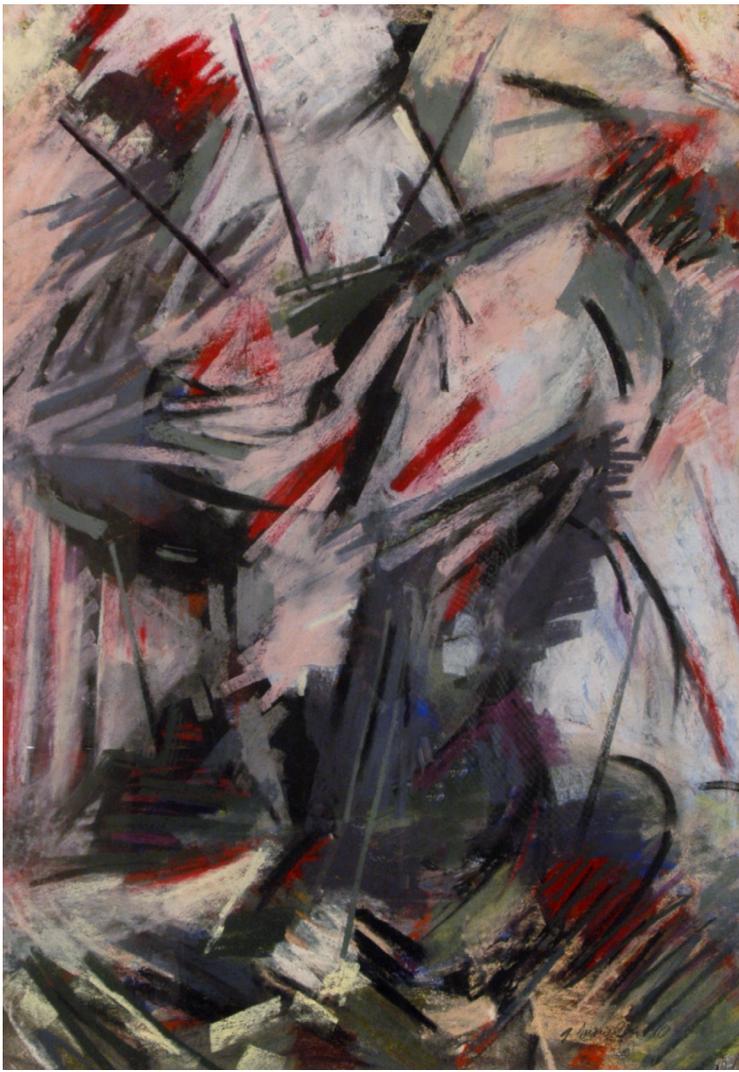
president and a beloved figure during his 35-year tenure on campus. John Hilberry also served on the university faculty himself, teaching interior architecture for seven years during the heyday of the Cass Corridor movement.

In addition to recognizing his personal ties to the university, Hilberry views his gift as a tribute to his wife. Tsagaris was an alumna of the Wayne State University Law School, earning her Juris Doctor by attending night classes while working as an advocate for civil rights. She later became a successful

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Ann Mikolowski, *Nicky Tsagaris*, 1984, oil on canvas, 2 x 2 3/4 in., gift of John Hilberry, 2015



Clockwise from top left: Gilda Snowden, *Untitled (Tornado)*, 1998, pastel on paper, 42 x 30 in., gift of Compuware Corp; James Stephens, *Campsite*, 2005, oil on canvas, 16 x 20 in., gift of James Pearson Duffy Trust; Lois Teicher, *Untitled*, 1979, gouache and oil crayon on paper, 17 x 25 in., gift of Compuware Corp.

Recent gifts from Compuware Corp and Duffy Trust

Two recent substantial gifts of art add greatly to the depth and scope of the Wayne State University Art Collection's Cass Corridor and Michigan-based collections. These gifts both acknowledge and extend the mission of the UAC to provide a valued educational resource to both local and global communities, enliven public discourse, promote intellectual inquiry and increase cultural awareness of our university and our region.

The gift by Compuware Corporation, fifteen works in total, includes work by Peter Gilleran, Lenore Gimpert, Robert Gniewsek, Stephen Magsig, Tom Parish, Robert Sestok, Gilda Snowden and Lois Teicher — all important artists in Detroit and Michigan's cultural identity. Works include two large, iconic "Tornado" drawings by the late Snowden — a WSU

alumna and highly influential, supportive member of Detroit's artistic community who sadly passed earlier this year.

From the collection of the late James Pearson Duffy comes twenty-two works from both Detroit-based and national artists. The Duffy Estate's final gift to the UAC includes works by Lynne Avadenka, Carlos Diaz, Beverly Fishman, Mark Fox, Matthew Hanna, Bill Jensen, Charles Pompilius, James Stephens, John Torreano and more. While the total number of works given by Duffy over the years totals in the thousands, this latest group features work by a handful of artists previously not represented in our collection — such as Diaz, Fishman, Hanna, Stephens, and Torreano, all artists with roots in Detroit — contributing to the breadth of the UAC's Detroit-centric collection.



Gordon Newton, *Untitled (Letter 66, envelope)*, 2001, marker, crayon, pen, tape, collage on envelope, front and back view, gift of James Pearson Duffy, 2008

UPCOMING & RECENT EXHIBITIONS FEATURING WORK FROM THE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION

Brenda Goodman: Selected Works 1961-2015

Center Galleries, College for Creative Studies, Detroit, MI
November 13 - December 19, 2015

Kurt Novak: Detroit Portraits

Max M. Fisher Music Center, Detroit, MI
November 20, 2015 - June 5, 2016

In conjunction with world premiere of *Symphony in D*

How to Remain Human

Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, Cleveland, OH
June 12 - September 5, 2015
Featuring works by Mary Ann Aitken

Rock and Roll by Robert Sestok

Installed at COBO Center in downtown Detroit, on long-term loan

Call & Response Opens Access to Mail Art Archive, Latest UAC Online Exhibit

Since the launch of the WSU Art Collection website (artcollection.wayne.edu) in 2010, it has been utilized as a platform to generate scholarship and engage the public. Along with the "Picture of the Week" feature, which highlights individual works from the collection weekly, the website has been publishing original online exhibitions produced in collaboration with the collection's current student assistant, who is tasked with creating original scholarship with each exhibition's thorough texts. To date, the UAC and our student assistants have launched five world-class online exhibitions, allowing the cultural holdings of the university to extend beyond our campus and provide access to scholars, students, and the public to particularly impressive bodies of work.

ONLINE EXHIBITIONS INCLUDE:

German Expressionism – Essay by Devon Parrot, BA '13

Reimagining Spirit: The Woodcuts of Arthur C. Danto – Essays by Kristy Wilkinson, MA candidate in Philosophy '13 and Jonathan David Salvati, MA candidate in Art History, '14

Judy Pfaff: Early Works from the WSU Art Collection – Essay by Aleksey Kondratyev, BFA '14

Roy Gamble: Detroit Painter – Essay by Audrey Zofchak, MFA candidate '16

Call & Response: Selections from the Newton/Duffy Correspondence – Essay by Claire Cirocco, BA '15

http://artcollection.wayne.edu/exhibitions/newton_duffy_correspondence.php

Kurt Novak's *Detroit Portraits Back Symphony in D* Premiere at DSO

An exhibition of Kurt Novak's *Detroit Portraits* will be mounted at the Max M. and Marjorie S. Fisher Music Center in Detroit to coincide with the world premiere of Tod Machover's *Symphony in D* performed by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra — the first of a planned series of exhibits from the Wayne State University Art Collection. Novak's playful flatbed-scanner portraits of a cast of Detroit's cultural icons will be on view from November 20, 2015 to June 5, 2016.

Featured artists, musicians, and writers in Novak's scanner series include James Carter, Aurora Harris, Elmore Leonard, Kathryn Bracket-Luchs, Charles McGee, John Sinclair and other figures from Detroit's art scene.

Support for this collaborative series of exhibitions is provided by the Eugene and Marcia Applebaum Family Foundation.



Kurt Novak, *Hank Jones*, 2003-05, archival pigment print, 16 x 20 in., purchase, University Art Collection Endowed Acquisition Fund, 2014

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT: William Gropper, *Visionary (Capriccios suite)*, 1953-56, Lithograph, 16 1/2 x 12 5/8 in., gift of Arthur Schwartz, 2000



Visionary is one print in a set of fifty created by William Gropper in response to his detainment and interrogation by Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Committee on Internal Security in 1953. Inspired by Francisco de Goya's politically scathing and condemning set of eighty etchings entitled *Los Caprichos*, Gropper titled his set *Capriccios* in an act of denouncing the turbulent political atmosphere of 1950s America.

This complete set of *Capriccios* lithographs was donated to the Wayne State University Art Collection by Arthur Schwartz, an Interior Designer and WSU alumnus, who has attributed the university with sparking his "artful life." Schwartz has given generously to the collection, with past gifts including prints by Auguste Renoir, Marc Chagall, and Pierre Bonnard.

RECENT DONORS

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 Laura Orme at 313-577-5336 or lauraorme@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 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 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 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 giving works of art, requests for loaning of UAC artwork, research interests, etc, please contact:

Sandra Schemske, Art Collection Coordinator
5104 Gullen Mall, Detroit, MI 48202
cn8290@wayne.edu
p. 313-577-9264
artcollection.wayne.edu

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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

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Hilberry

lawyer and committed art collector, and Hilberry credits her insight and passion for the expansive scope of their collection.

In 2000, The Cedar Rapids Museum of Art organized the exhibition: *A Sustaining Passion: The Tsagaris/Hilberry Collection*, which traveled to the University of Arizona Museum of Art. This exhibition acknowledged the couple's "[radical] nerve and original, critical eye."

Now that the collection is coming to campus, plans are underway for the entirety of the Hilberry gift to be installed at the newly dedicated Tierney Alumni House where it will be available to the campus community and visitors to this historic house. The collection will also function as a major resource for scholars pursuing research on the Cass Corridor movement and its influence on contemporary American art.

"My hope is that art students can look at this and say "This was done by someone in a position not that much different from me. That's what they did way back then!" Hilberry said.

As coordinator of the university's art collection, Sandra Schemske will be charged with preserving these works and with contextualizing their significance for the university community.

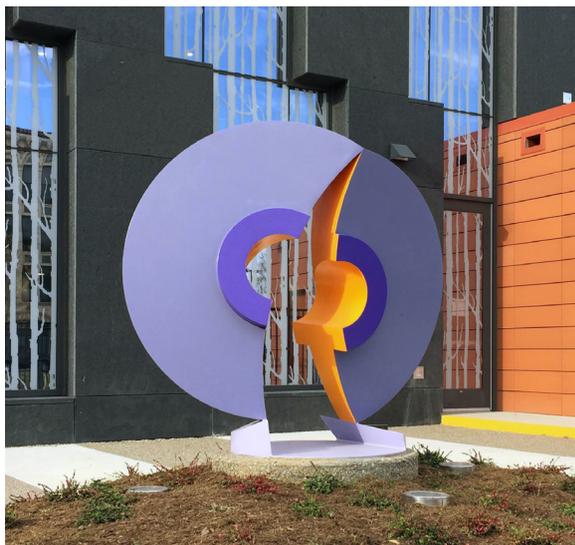
"The work created by artists of the Cass Corridor movement has not been adequately recognized on a national or international level," Schemske said. "This gift is going to further that audience, encourage scholarship and provide a forum for a broader discussion about contemporary art."

Detroit's 'Fab Four' Conserved!



Julius Melchers (1829-1908), *Marquette, La Salle, Cadillac, and Richard*, 1871, carved limestone, gift of Detroit Common Council, 1973. The 'Fab Four' installed on campus' Ludington Mall have been fully conserved, receiving a cleaning head-to-toe thanks to the generous support of the Women of Wayne Alumni Association.

In Memoriam: Sculptor David Barr, 1939-2015



David Barr, *Bloom*, 1996, welded steel, paint, 65 x 72 x 18 in., gift of Roger Garrett, 2015

David Barr (WSU BFA '62 and MFA '65) whose teaching career at Macomb Community College spanned over 35 years and whose sculptures include "Transcending" (created in collaboration with artists Sergio DeGiusti), a work created in tribute to laborers and skilled trade workers, installed at Detroit's Hart Plaza, died on August 28th after a brief illness.

Barr was the founder and artistic director of the Michigan Legacy Art Park in Thompsonville, whose 30 pieces connect with Michigan history and environment. In 2012, the city of Novi arranged with Barr to purchase the four acre Villa Barr property which is now a sculpture garden and cultural education center.