

ART *words*

CONTEMPORARY WORKS 'TOON UP

In the 1940s and 50s, the popular culture of the United States was saturated with images of cartoons. The baby boom inspired the use of cartoons in advertising; lure in the kids, and the parents will spend more money. But whether for advertising or entertainment, cartoons were the order of the day, and the visual language through which they communicated was seen on a massive scale.

Accessibility is one aspect of cartoons that makes them excellent inspirations for visual art. A vast majority of the population has seen a cartoon on television, in a movie, or as part of a comic strip or graphic novel. This widespread familiarity with the construct of cartoons allows people of all ages and sensibilities to enjoy and understand the message contained therein.

Presently on view at the Ball State University Museum of Art, *Art in the 'Toon Age*, an international exhibition of forty-two contemporary works of art. Featured artists include Roger Brown, John Clem Clarke, Takashi Murakami, Chicago Imagists Jim Nutt and Karl Wirsum, and many more. These artists grew up seeing cartoons used frequently in the world around them. In many cases the only thing stronger than the sweeping lines and colors of these works is the pure sense of whimsy and innocence. Evident in so many works is a springing line and vivid characterization. These cheerful expressions are typically reserved for very positive subjects and objects which require little interpretation; however it becomes evident that the meaning of many



*John Clem Clarke (American, born 1937) • Heater and Tub—Pentimenti, 1997
Acrylic on linen on mylar • Ball State University Museum of Art Collection*

such inspired pieces is much deeper. Selected pieces from the exhibition belie their mild-mannered appearance by divulging themes of genocide, despair, and aggression upon closer inspection. In this way cartoons have come of age and been adapted to speak of more aspects of human life than ever before.

Art in the 'Toon Age opens August 19 and ends October 30, 2005. Don't miss a special lecture by exhibition curator April Kingsley on Thursday, September 1 at 3:30 PM. Join us for a reception in the museum following the lecture.

This exhibition was organized by Dr. Kingsley for the Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University. The national museum tour was organized by Landau Traveling Exhibitions of Los Angeles. The venue in Muncie is sponsored by the Friends of the Ball State University Museum of Art.



Winslow Homer • American, 1836-1910 • Blue Boy, 1873 • Watercolor
Elizabeth Ball Collection, Gift of the George and Frances Ball Foundation, 1995 1995.036.15

MASTERS *of* AMERICAN WATERCOLOR *on* VIEW *for* ONLY SEVEN WEEKS

For a limited venue of seven weeks, a selection of twenty-two watercolors from the museum's collection can be seen in the Brown Study Room. The exhibition opens on September 23 and continues until November 13, 2005.

The Museum of Art's collection of watercolors holds some of the greatest American masters in this medium. Included are works by Millard Sheets (1907-1989), John Marin (1870-1953), and Jim Dine (b. 1935), not to mention Winslow Homer (1836-1910), Edward Hopper (1882-1967), and Charles Burchfield (1893-1967). The Museum of Art received a major gift from the collection of Miss Elisabeth Ball through the George and Frances Ball Foundation in 1995 which significantly elevated the status of the collection.

Watercolor as we understand the medium today was developed in England in the later eighteenth century. Watercolor is the application of pigment suspended in water with a binder (so it will stick) to a support which is usually a fine handmade paper. Its stature as a major medium grew throughout the 1800s. Watercolor was the first technique through which Winslow Homer achieved commercial success.

Among the other artists included in this exhibition are Hoosier impressionist painter Otto Stark (1859-1926), Robert Blum (1857-1903), Mexican Diego Rivera (1886-1957), and David Siquieros (1896-1974), and Chicago Imagist H.C. Westermann (1922-1988). The most recently painted watercolor in the show is *White Tulips, and Big Daffodils* by Carolyn Brady (1937-2005), which has been borrowed from the Indiana University Museum of Art, Bloomington. Brady's work is representative of the revival of the medium with the emergence of the New Realists in the 1970s.

Since watercolors are fragile when exposed to light, the time frame is necessarily brief. There are several collateral exhibitions of watercolors in Muncie this fall; look for the juried exhibition at the Mitchell Place Gallery, and another at Gordy's Fine Art.

MUSEUM ACQUIRES CHOLA BRONZE *in HONOR of DAVID T. OWSLEY*



The Ball State University Museum of Art has acquired a Chola Dynasty festival image of the god Shiva and his consort Parvati in honor of museum patron David T. Owsley on his receipt of an honorary degree from the University. Chola bronzes are one of the glories of Indian art; this is the first example of this important art form from South India to enter the Museum's collection. The iconography of the heavenly consorts Siva and Parvati, united in a single sculpture, is fundamental to understanding the duality of the Hindu religion through its art.

Shiva and Parvati, Standing was made in South India, Tamil Nadu province in the Chola Period, and dates to the 11th century. The god Shiva and his consort Parvati stand on a single elongated lotus pedestal. They were separately modeled and cast in a lost wax process. The two tangs at either end of the bronze base would have supported a separately cast aureole.

This particular iconic type became popular for processional images during the late Chola period (ca. 907-1053). Prior to the creation of these portable bronze figures, the gods of the Hindu pantheon resident in their temples' innermost sanctums were usually carved in stone. As they were fixed in niches, often carved in relief with the backs unfinished they were immobile and unavailable except to those privileged to the temple's interior. In order to see the deities in public, and to have the deities see their devotees, bronzes figures were modeled fully in the round, an innovation of Chola court sculptors about the year 900 so that the figures could be shown in procession, thus visible from all angles.

Shiva and Parvati, Standing will join a permanent display in the Museum of Art of a collection of Indian and southeast Asian art that is the gift of Mr. Owsley.



Shiva and Parvati, Standing • South India, Tamil Nadu
Chola Period, 11th century • Copper alloy
Ball State University Museum of Art Collection

Purchase in honor of David Owsley with gifts from: George & Frances Ball Foundation, Ball Brothers Foundation, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Sargent, Mrs. & Mrs. Alvin Owsley, Mr. & Mrs. John W. Fisher, Mr. & Ms. David Galliber; Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Bracken, Mr. & Mrs. James Ganter, Ms. Barbara Goodbody, Dr. & Mrs. Ned Griner, Lucina Ball Moxley, Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Petty, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ball Petty, Mr. & Mrs. Hamer D. Shafer, Dr. & Mrs. Christopher Stack, Mrs. David Sursa, Mr. & Mrs. J. Frederic Wiese, Jr.; and additional generous gifts from: Mr. & Mrs. Frank E. Ball, Peter F. Blume, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas B. Bracken, Dr. & Mrs. Eric Kelly, Mrs. Betty Kendall, Dean & Mrs. Robert Kvam and Mrs. Marjorie Zeigler.



CALENDAR *of* EVENTS fall 2005

CONTINUING EXHIBITIONS

THROUGH OCTOBER 30

Art in the 'Toon Age

Special Exhibition Galleries I and II



Luis Cruz Azaceta (American, born Cuba 1942)
Lotto: The American Dream (from the portfolio, 10:
Artist as Catalyst), 1992 • Nine -color screenprint
Michigan State University Collection



Julian Opie (British, born 1958)
Cars?, 1989-99 • Screenprint
Michigan State University Collection

In the wake of Pop art and the advertising style graphic artists developed in the 1940s and 1950s, the imagery in *Art in the 'Toon Age* was born. 'Toon Age art is marked by a springing line, a feeling of caricature, and a generally upbeat mood. Though it may look innocent, 'Toon Age art is visually and psychologically loaded, both with compositional sweetness and narrative possibilities. Organized from the collection of the Kresge Art Museum by Dr. April Kingsley, the exhibition features works of art by an international group of artists, including Roger Brown, John Clem Clarke, Red Grooms, Jeff Koons, Takashi Murakami, Elizabeth Murray, Jim Nutt, Karl Wirsum, and others.

SEPTEMBER

1 THURSDAY • 3:30-6:30 pm

Lecture and Reception • *Art in the 'Toon Age*

Lecture by *Art in the 'Toon Age* curator April Kingsley at 3:30 pm in AR 217 followed by a reception in the museum from 4:30 until 6:30 pm.



Roger Brown American, 1941-1997)
Hank Williams, Honky Tonk Man, 1991 • Lithograph
Michigan State University Collection

5 MONDAY

Museum closed in observance of Labor Day

23 FRIDAY

Through Sunday, November 13, new exhibition
Masters of American Watercolor

Brown Study Room

This exhibition will present a selection of watercolors by modern and contemporary American masters of the medium including Charles Burchfield, Jim Dine, Winslow Homer, John Marin, and Millard Sheets.

23 FRIDAY • 4:30-6:30 pm

Friday with Friends

BSU Art Professor Marilyn Derwenskus will share her insights about water media in the modern age. Music, refreshments, and cash bar.

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

fall 2005



OCTOBER

6 THURSDAY • 5:00-8:00 pm

Fall ArtsWalk

Join the Muncie community and Downtown Development for an evening of fun and entertainment at local galleries, Minnetrista, and BSU. Sites are linked by a courtesy trolley. A demonstration of animation will take place at the museum from 5:30 until 7:00 pm.

9 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm

Gallery Talk: Art in the 'Toon Age

Ruta Saliklis, museum associate director, discusses works in the exhibition *Art in the 'Toon Age*.

30 SUNDAY • 2:30 PM

Gallery Talk: Director's Choice

Peter Blume, museum director, will give a tour of his favorites.

28 FRIDAY • 6:00-8:00 pm

Annual Halloween Party

To celebrate Ball State University's Family Weekend, the museum hosts its annual Halloween party, including blues music with Mike Milligan and Steam Shovel, a costume contest with prizes, and refreshments.

NOVEMBER

13 SUNDAY • 2:30 PM

Gallery Talk: Topic to be announced

17 THURSDAY • 3:30-6:30 pm

Lecture and Preview Party:

Collecting Modernism: European Masterworks from the Munson-Williams Proctor Arts Institute
Lecture at 3:30 pm in AR 217 followed by a reception at the museum.

NOVEMBER *continued*

18 FRIDAY

Through Sunday, March 19, new exhibition

Collecting Modernism: European Masterworks

from the Munson-Williams Proctor Arts Institute
In an exhibition of exceptional quality and breadth, nineteen paintings and four sculptures by the great innovators of the first half of the twentieth century from the collection of the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica, New York will travel to Muncie. This is one of only two venues of this collection never before seen outside its home institution. The collection, assembled for the most part in the 1950s and published here for the first time, includes work by Wassily Kandinsky, Pablo Picasso, Jean Arp, Ernst Barlach, Georges Braque, Salvador Dali, Giorgio de Chirico, Raymond Duchamp-Villon, Lyonel Feininger, Juan Gris, Paul Klee, Fernand Leger, Aristide Maillol, Piet Mondrian, and Henry Moore. The collection is a vital survey of the major movements in the development of modern art in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century, with excellent examples of Cubism, Futurism, Expressionism, Surrealism, and DeStijl.

18 FRIDAY

Through Sunday, March 19, new exhibition

European Modernist Printed Pictures

Brown Study Room

The exhibition explores innovations in printed pictures made between 1900 and 1940 selected from the Museum's collection, including work by Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Wassily Kandinsky, Raymond Duchamp-Villon, and Sonia Delaunay.

DECEMBER

11 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm

Gallery Talk: Topic to be announced



NANCY HUTH ACCEPTS POSITION at WALTERS ART GALLERY

Nancy Huth has been a familiar face at the Ball State University Museum of Art for eighteen years, first as Curator of Education and later additionally as Assistant Director. Recently Huth accepted a new position as Manager of Adult Programs at Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore, Maryland.

Huth gained her undergraduate degree in art history at Ohio University, and a Master of Arts degree in the same field from Oberlin College. Her expertise has made it possible for the museum to expand its range of programming, especially for faculty cooperative programs, public school programs, and working with the general public.

“Although we will miss Nancy greatly, this is a wonderful opportunity for her to work with one of the great museum collections and curatorial staffs on the east coast,” said director Peter Blume. “Not only is she a great teacher but she also made significant contributions to the museum’s administration and curatorial program.”

SPECIAL EXHIBITION: EUROPEAN MODERNISM

In a special exhibition of exceptional quality and breadth, twenty-four works of art by the great innovators of the first half of the twentieth century will travel to Muncie. Beginning November 18, the museum will host *Collecting Modernism: European Masterworks from the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute* until March 19, 2006. Featured are notable works by Salvador Dali, Wassily Kandinsky, Fernand Léger, Piet Mondrian, Henry Moore, Pablo Picasso, Georges Rouault, and other key figures of the era. The collection is a virtual survey of the major movements in the development of modern art in Europe, with examples of Cubism, Futurism, Expressionism, Surrealism, and DeStijl. Mark your calendars for a preview party on Thursday, November 17 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm.



Wassily Kandinsky, Russian (1866-1944)
Improvisation No. 23, 1911 • Oil on canvas
Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute Collection



Ernst Barlach, German (1870-1938)
Meeting Again, 1926 • Bronze
Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute Collection

October 28

HALLOWEEN FESTIVITIES *for* ALL

Once again the museum will be hosting its annual Halloween Party on Friday, October 28 from 6 pm to 8pm. All are welcome to attend an evening of spooktacular fun that will include live music, refreshments, a scavenger hunt, and a costume contest (with prizes)! Special activities for children and families are also planned. Admission is free.

Amelia Johnson (right) and a friend at our 2004 Annual Halloween Party.



October 6

GET READY *for* ARTSWALK 2005

Downtown Development and Ball State University's College of Fine Art will join forces with downtown merchants, galleries and property owners for an evening of art, food, architecture exploration and amazing music. All retail merchants on Walnut and Main Streets will keep extended hours during ArtsWalk and will have special treats in store just for you. Come join us for a wonderful evening on October 6 from 5 pm to 9 pm. BSU will share with Muncie a wealth of musical talent and visual artistry. The Museum of Art and Minnetrista will be a big part of ArtsWalk as well, conveniently linked to the downtown galleries through a courtesy trolley for participants. Professor John Fillwalk from the BSU Art department and his students will provide a "Demonstration of 3-D Animation" at the museum from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Admission is free.

September 23

FRIDAY WITH FRIENDS HIGHLIGHTS *MASTERS of* AMERICAN WATERCOLOR

Keep Friday, September 23 open for a special Friday with Friends event. Professor Marilyn Derwenskus from the Art department will be speaking about American watercolors. Refreshments will be available, and admission is free and open to the public aged 21 years and older (beer and wine will be served at a cash bar).



Edward Hopper, American, (1882-1967) House with Rain Barrel, 1936 • Watercolor Elisabeth Ball Collection • Gift of the George and Frances Ball Foundation, 1995 1995.036.16



MUSEUM HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY
9:00 AM-4:30 PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
1:30 PM-4:30 PM

765.285.5242

www.bsu.edu/artmuseum

a newsletter for the friends of



BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
MUNCIE, IN 47306

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Membership Levels

within one year

- PHILANTHROPIST \$2,000 OR MORE
- BENEFACTOR \$1,000-1,999
- SUSTAINING \$500-999
- PATRON \$250-499
- SPONSOR \$100-249
- FAMILY/DUAL \$50-99
- INDIVIDUAL \$1-49

NEW RENEWAL

GIFT FROM

To become a member of the Ball State University Museum of Art, please complete this form and mail it to the address listed below.

- Please sign me up as an Ball State University Museum of Art member, or
 - Please process this gift membership for me.
 - Enclosed is a check for \$_____ made out to the Ball State University Museum of Art.
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- Credit card # _____
- Visa or MasterCard Exp. Date ____/____

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