



EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS
WINTER | SPRING 2009

COLBY
MUSEUM
OF ART



(1)

EXHIBITIONS

WHISTLER AND THE FIGURE: PRINTS FROM THE LUNDER COLLECTION

November 1, 2008–May 31, 2009

Throughout his career, James McNeill Whistler was preoccupied with portraying the human figure. Though best known for his elegant and enigmatic oil portraits of society notables and—of course—his own mother, he also executed many smaller-scale figural works within the private space of his home and studio as well as the public spaces of the city and countryside. Curated by David P. Becker, this selection from the more than 200 Whistler etchings and lithographs in the Lunder Collection focuses on the artist's equally keen perception of the figure from near and far.

(1) James McNeill Whistler, *Study (Maud Franklin) (detail)*, 1878. Lithograph, 10 5/8 x 8 1/16 inches. The Lunder Collection

BEVIN ENGMAN: NEW WORK

January 20–March 8, 2009

Colby Associate Professor of Art and Department Chair Bevin Engman presents paintings, collages, and source photographs drawn from her recent explorations of the land, sea, and sky. These “quotes” from the environment of Cape Cod, where the artist spent her childhood and recently returned to paint, capture the inherent abstraction of the subject through subtle compositions of color and form.

(2) Bevin Engman, *Due East at the Pamet*, 2006. Oil on panel, 7 x 11 inches. Collection of the artist



(2)

INK TALES: CHINESE PAINTINGS FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MUSEUMS OF BOWDOIN AND COLBY COLLEGES

January 22–March 8, 2009

Ink Tales, the result of a collaborative project by students at Colby and Bowdoin Colleges, features Chinese paintings drawn from the collections of both institutions. The exhibition, held simultaneously on both campuses, explores the variety of stories associated with the images, formats, and functions of Chinese paintings.



(3)

HANNAH COLLINS: A CURRENT HISTORY

February 5–May 31, 2009

A recent purchase and partial gift of the Alex Katz Foundation, Hannah Collins's *Beshencevo: A Current History* is a highly evocative retelling of one day in the life of a family in a remote village in central Russia. Through a series of interwoven visual fragments including stark landscapes and contemplative domestic scenes, striking contrasts emerge between the realities of post-Soviet life and the timeworn conventions of a traditional settlement.

(3) Hannah Collins, *Beshencevo: A Current History (detail)*, 2006. Single-channel video with sound, 57 min. Gift of the Alex Katz Foundation and museum purchase from the Jetté Acquisitions Fund



(4)

EXHIBITIONS (continued)

ANDY WARHOL: SCREEN TESTS & PHOTOGRAPHS

February 12–May 31, 2009

Between 1964 and 1966, Andy Warhol made 472 silent black-and-white cinematic portraits. This exhibition presents a continuous projection of 10 “screen tests”—as these seminal works are known—in conjunction with Warhol’s Polaroid and black-and-white photographs. Photographs functioned as source images for the artist’s silkscreen paintings and, along with his films, they constitute a comprehensive documentation of his diverse circle of acquaintances. The photographs are selected from the 150 Warhol photographs that were given to the Colby Museum in 2007 by the Photographic Legacy Program of the Andy Warhol Foundation.

(4) Andy Warhol, *Dorothy Hamill*, 1977. Polacolor type 108, 4 1/4 x 3 3/8 inches. Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc., The Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program

JOHN COFFER, “PHOTOGRAPHER”

March 19–May 31, 2009

This is the first solo museum exhibition of the contemporary photographer John Coffey, who has pioneered the rediscovery of early photographic techniques, particularly the wet-plate collodion process of the tintype. Coffey, who lives without modern conveniences in upstate New York, has made daily life his subject, documenting in loving detail the arduousness and joy of a reimagined nineteenth-century life. Works on view are drawn entirely from the museum’s Lunder Collection.



(5)

FROM SALT- TO C-PRINTS: PHOTOGRAPHIC METHODS & MATERIALS

March 19–May 31, 2009

Organized to coincide with *John Coffey, “Photographer,”* this exhibition will present a survey of photographic processes developed and employed prior to the present era of digital photography. On view will be historical examples of the daguerreotype as well as the principal wet- and dry-plate photographic print techniques. The exhibition will also include a selection of works by contemporary artists who continue to use traditional photographic methods and materials.

(5) John Coffey, *“Emma” Turning Sorghum Press* (detail), 2006. Tintype, 6 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches. The Lunder Collection

SENIOR SHOW

May 7–24, 2009

The annual Senior Art Exhibition brings together art by Colby seniors who have completed extensive work in their medium.

LECTURES AND EVENTS

All lectures and events are free and open to the public and will take place at the Colby College Museum of Art unless otherwise noted.

MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 12, 4:30–6:30 pm

Come mingle with students, faculty, staff, and community members and celebrate the opening of *Bevin Engman: New Work and Andy Warhol: Screen Tests & Photographs*.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE PAINTING DEMONSTRATION

Wednesday, March 4, 4:30 pm, Bixler 084

Arnold Chang, artist

REFLECTIONS, REFRACTIONS, INTERACTIONS: A NEW WORK BY RYAN VIGIL

Thursday, March 12, 5 pm

Musicians Kelli Kathman and Bill Solomon present a 55-minute work for alto flute and percussion by Ryan Vigil, Colby Faculty Fellow in Music. This performance will feature a new video component by Kate Sirianni.

SOUND, LIGHT, ELECTRONICS: WORKS BY JON HALLSTROM AND RYAN VIGIL

Thursday, April 9, 12:30 pm

Composers from the Colby Music Department present a program of original works for film and electronic music including the world premieres of Hallstrom's *Aerial Boundaries* and a work by Vigil for flute and electronics featuring Nicole Rabata on flute and an original digital projection by Kate Sirianni.

ARTIST'S TALK: JOHN COFFER

Thursday, April 15, 4:30 pm, Bixler 154

FILM SCREENING: *VISIBLE SILENCE: MARSDEN HARTLEY, PAINTER AND POET*

Introduced by writer and director Michael Maglaras
Thursday, April 23, 7 pm, Given Auditorium

In celebration of the Alex Katz Foundation's recent gift of six paintings by Marsden Hartley to the Colby Museum's collection, the museum presents *Visible Silence: Marsden Hartley, Painter and Poet* (2008, 58 mins.), a documentary written, narrated, and directed by Michael Maglaras of 217 Films. Born in Lewiston, Marsden Hartley (1878–1943) is acknowledged as one of the founders of American modernism. *Visible Silence* features numerous paintings and drawings by the artist, as well as contextual photographs, and draws heavily from Hartley's little-known poetic works.

NOONTIME ART TALKS

ARTIST'S TALK: BEVIN ENGMAN

Wednesday, February 11, 12:30 pm

Bevin Engman, Associate Professor of Art and Department Chair

CURATOR'S TOUR: INK TALES

Thursday, February 19, 12:30 pm

Ankeney Weitz, Associate Professor of Art and East Asian Studies

ANDY WARHOL'S SCREEN TESTS

Thursday, February 26, 12:30 pm

Sarah Keller, Assistant Professor of English

CURATOR'S TOUR: WHISTLER AND THE FIGURE

Thursday, March 5, 12:30 pm

David Becker, independent curator

AMERICAN MODERNISM AND MARSDEN HARTLEY

Thursday, March 12, 12:30 pm

Sharon Corwin, Carolyn Muzzy Director and Chief Curator

FITZ HENRY LANE

Thursday, March 19, 12:30 pm

Lauren Lessing, Mirken Curator of Education

CURATOR'S TOUR: FROM SALT- TO C-PRINTS

Thursday, April 2, 12:30 pm

Gary Green, Assistant Professor of Art

JOHN COFFER AND THE TINTYPE

Wednesday, April 22, 12:30 pm

Laura Saltz, Assistant Professor of Art and American Studies

HANNAH COLLINS AND THE ALTERNATIVE DOCUMENTARY

Thursday, April 30, 12:30 pm

Elizabeth Finch, Lunder Curator of American Art

CHILDREN'S ART WORKSHOPS

In conjunction with Freshwater Arts in Waterville and Waterville Main Street, the museum offers two workshops this spring. These events are free and open to all ages, but attendance is limited and preregistration is required. To register, call 207-680-2055.

ART TO HEART: VALENTINE PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 14, 10 am

Learn about prints and patterns at the Colby Museum, then, at Freshwater Arts, create stamps that you can use to print your own Valentine cards.

EGGS-PLORING ART!

Saturday, April 4, 10 am

The workshop will begin with a scavenger hunt in the Colby Museum followed by an egg-decorating workshop at Freshwater Arts.

SUNDAYS AT THE MUSEUM

Story Time in the Museum is now on Sundays! Join museum docents every Sunday at 2 pm for art-related stories, games, and discussion in the museum's galleries. (No registration is required, but children must be accompanied by an adult.) Also on Sundays at 2:30 pm, docents will provide general tours of the museum.

Cover image: Marsden Hartley, *City Point, Vinalhaven*, 1937–38. Oil on board, 18 x 24 inches. Gift of the Alex Katz Foundation

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is with great pleasure that I announce the most recent gift from the Alex Katz Foundation—an extraordinary collection of six paintings by the American modernist Marsden Hartley. This gift is a testament to Alex Katz's vision for the Colby Museum and the visual arts in Maine. Through the Katz Foundation's generosity, we can now present a wide range of Hartley's work. The paintings contained in this gift are currently on view in the museum's Lunder Wing alongside three Hartley paintings drawn from the permanent collection, affording an opportunity to examine the artist's work from the 1910s to the 1930s including the beautiful *City Point*, *Vinalhaven* (cover image). In conjunction with this exhibition, we are thrilled to present Michael Maglaras's recent documentary film, *Visible Silence: Marsden Hartley, Painter and Poet*, on the evening of April 23 with an introduction by the filmmaker.

We are also pleased to announce an exciting group of exhibitions this winter and spring, including the most recent exhibition of Whistler prints, drawn from the Lunder Collection, focusing on the artist's exploration of figural subjects; Colby Professor Bevin Engman exhibits new paintings that explore landscape subjects; Professor Ankeney Weitz and Colby students mount the exhibition *Ink Tales: Chinese Paintings from the Collections of the Museums of Bowdoin and Colby Colleges* (at right); and Professor Gary Green presents *From Salt- to C-Prints: Photographic Methods & Materials* to coincide with our exhibition of tintypes by contemporary photographer John Coffey, who works with this 19th-century photographic technique. As part of our ongoing video program, we are delighted to screen the recent video *Beshencevo: A Current History* by artist Hannah Collins. Finally, it is an honor to exhibit *Andy Warhol: Screen Tests & Photographs*, showcasing 10 of the artist's film

portraits alongside photographs from the recent gift to the Colby Museum of 150 Warhol photographs by the Andy Warhol Photographic Legacy Program.

Our winter open house and the reception for Bevin Engman's exhibition will be held February 12 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. You are invited for an evening of live music, refreshments, and art. As always, the museum and all events are free and open to the public. We hope you will bring your friends and family and visit often.

SHARON CORWIN, CAROLYN MUZZY DIRECTOR AND CHIEF CURATOR



Zhang Rongchong, *The Summer Palace at Jehol* (detail). Ink and color on silk, 118 1/2 x 20 inches. Colby College Museum of Art

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF ART

We invite you to participate in the Colby Museum's varied programs by becoming a member of the **FRIENDS OF ART**, a group with national and international membership and outreach. Membership in the Friends of Art offers access to exciting exhibitions and events and provides essential support for the museum's vibrant exhibition and education programs. As a member you will also join a national network of alumni and art enthusiasts through Friends of Art chapter events in Waterville, New York, Boston, and other U.S. cities.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE ZIP _____

PHONE E-MAIL _____

Membership Levels

- _____ **RECENT GRADUATE** \$25
(within 5 years)
- _____ **CONTRIBUTOR** \$50
- _____ **SUPPORTER** \$100
- _____ **SPONSOR** \$250
- _____ **DONOR** \$500
- _____ **PATRON** \$1,000
- _____ **BENEFACTOR** \$2,500
- _____ **DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE** \$5,000

Please see www.colby.edu/museum or call the museum (207.859.5600) for more information on how to join.

For membership at the Supporter level and higher there are special local and national programs and benefits, including the annual summer luncheon, gallery tours, and other art-filled events. Members at the Benefactor level and the Director's Circle will enjoy invitations to exclusive programs and visits to private collections. Please make your check payable to the Colby College Museum of Art, and send it to:

Colby College Museum of Art
5600 Mayflower Hill
Waterville, Maine 04901-8856