



Montclair Art Museum

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NEWS RELEASE

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MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM'S ADVANCE SCHEDULE OF EXHIBITIONS THROUGH JULY 2011

**Living for Art:
The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection**
September 24, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Robert Mapplethorpe Flowers: Selections from the J.P. Morgan Chase Collection
February 4 – July 17, 2011

Will Barnet: A Centennial Celebration
February 4 – July 17, 2011

**Warhol and Cars:
American Icons**
March 6 – June 19, 2011

**Living for Art:
The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection**
September 24, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Dorothy and Herbert Vogel assembled one of the most remarkable collections of contemporary art in America, especially drawings, amassing some 4,000 objects. With the help of the National Gallery of Art, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library

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Services, they launched a national gifts program, *Fifty Works for Fifty States*. This program distributed 2,500 works from the Vogels' collection throughout the nation, with 50 works going to a selected institution in each of the 50 states. The Montclair Art Museum was chosen as the recipient in New Jersey. The exhibition celebrates the over 50 works on paper, sculptures, and paintings MAM received as part of this astonishing and generous program, featuring art produced between 1967 and 2000 by 27 artists.

The Vogels' story is unique in the history of art collecting. Herbert Vogel (b. 1922) spent most of his working life as a postal clerk, and Dorothy Vogel (b. 1935) was a reference librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library. Shortly after they married, in 1962, they decided to live only on Dorothy's salary and to devote Herbert's to purchasing art. Together, on a small budget but with a grand vision, they collected thousands of pieces over a 30-year span, stuffing their one-bedroom Manhattan apartment with cutting-edge treasures. They earned as well the admiration of artists, who were aware of the Vogels' limited funds and who appreciated their enthusiastic response to a range of contemporary practices. Artists inscribed many of the artworks to the Vogels, often with great affection.

Richard Tuttle is the best represented artist in their collection, which has been the largest and most comprehensive concentration of his work. The Vogels donated nearly 300 of his works to the National Gallery of Art, and every museum in the *Fifty Works for Fifty States* project has received numerous gifts as well. Tuttle recently recalled collaborating with Herb Vogel in the creation of a work in the show, *Merry Christmas, Herb & Dorothy*, 1989, as the collector made suggestions. Noting that "his eyes became part of the work," Tuttle spoke of the "very deep friendship and symbiosis" with Herb Vogel, who "sees the world as I do."

The Vogels are best known as collectors of minimal and conceptual art, but have always had a more expansive reach, including works of a figurative and expressionist nature. Besides Tuttle, MAM's collection includes works by Stephen Antonakos, Will Barnet, Robert Barry, Lynda Benglis, Charles Clough, Bryan Hunt, Bill Jensen, and Edda Renouf. At MAM, this exhibition and related programs will also explore the themes of philanthropy and collecting.

Robert Mapplethorpe Flowers: Selections from the J.P. Morgan Chase Collection
February 4 – July 17, 2011

This installation will feature 10–15 photographs that exemplify the same sleek precision, studied

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composition, and classically meticulous approach of Mapplethorpe to all of his subjects, whether flowers, female nudes, black men, or S & M scenarios. While he objectified humans, flowers took on a human aspect, endowed with organic form, suggestive character, and personality.

Will Barnet: A Centennial Celebration

February 4 – July 17, 2011

Barnet's highly original recent work builds upon the foundation of his Indian Space work of the 1950s, which is based upon the Native American-inspired integration of organic and geometric pictograph forms within a flat, seamless space. These works were begun in 2003 and were exhibited at the Montclair Art Museum in 2007. Barnet redeveloped ideas that he never completed during his shift from abstraction to figurative work in the 1960s. Barnet's unusual combinations of subtly painted, imaginary figurative imagery are enhanced by his new vision of color and special feeling, demonstrating his continuous capacity for reinvention and new perspectives as he nears 100. The exhibition will feature 10–15 works done since his 2007 show at MAM.

Warhol and Cars:

American Icons

March 5 – June 19, 2011

This exhibition will highlight the Montclair Art Museum's pivotal but little known early silk screen painting *Twelve Cadillacs* (1962) within the context of 35–40 other works on loan from the Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. For the first time, Warhol's enduring fascination with automotive vehicles as products of American consumer society will be examined in this survey of drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, and related archival documents spanning his career from 1946 to 1985.

One of his earliest silk screen paintings, *Twelve Cadillacs* was part of a largely unknown group of nine Warhol car paintings published in the November 1962 issue of *Harper's Bazaar*. The accompanying article opened with a poetic homage to the machine and stated that Warhol was commissioned by the magazine to make a visual commentary on the phenomenon of the iconic American motorcar. *Twelve Cadillacs* will be juxtaposed for the first time with potential source images, the original Cadillac drawing and other works on paper created in 1962, as well as the related *Seven Cadillacs*, which was also part of the *Harper's Bazaar* commission. These paintings are significant bridges between Warhol's commercial work of the 1950s, his hand-painted canvases of 1960–62, and the photographic silkscreen canvases of 1962. Also on view

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will be Warhol's virtually unknown, recently discovered maquette for a 1978 BMW racing car, as well as works from one of Warhol's most important and poignant bodies of work, the *Disasters* series of relatively well-known photo-silk screen paintings, featuring singular and repeated images of gruesome car wrecks created from actual news photographs of accidents.

Additionally, several related drawings and models will be on view from the Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf Collection of American Automobile Art, a promised gift to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

Warhol and Cars: American Icons has been designated an American Masterpiece by the NJ State Council on the Arts for the 2010-11 season. American Masterpieces is an initiative designed by the National Endowment for the Arts to introduce Americans to the best of our nation's cultural and artistic legacy. For more information about the American Masterpieces series, please visit <http://www.jerseyarts.com/americanmasterpieces/>.

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum's internationally renowned collection of American and Native American art uniquely highlights art-making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 15,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions. MAM's Yard School of Art is the leading regional art school offering a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, youth, adults, seniors, and professional artists.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling (973) 746-5555. The Museum is open Wednesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is \$12 for nonmember adults, \$10 senior citizens and students with I.D., and free for members and children under 12. Admission is free for everyone on the first Friday of every month.

All Museum programs are made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vance Wall Foundation, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Museum members.

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