

Weisman Art Museum
333 East River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Contact: Erin Lauderman (612) 625-9685 or elauderm@umn.edu



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WEISMAN ART MUSEUM REOPENING
WAMdemonium! October 2, 2011

MINNEAPOLIS – On October 2, 2011, WAM will reopen to the public following a major expansion designed by Frank Gehry. In anticipation of the fall opening, WAM has begun placing works of art from its permanent collection—many of which have never been on public view before—into the new space. Four new galleries will be devoted to the permanent collection and will include American art, ceramics, and works on paper. A fifth space, the Target Studio for Creative Collaboration, will bring together cross-disciplinary teams for intense periods of collaboration to generate new ideas. The first collaboration is a design competition that will focus on the Washington Ave. bridge plaza and reveal ideas for high-quality public spaces.

WAMdemonium!, the free opening day celebration, will take place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. on October 2. Activities will include performances and entertainment for children, families, and adults. The day's activities will reveal WAM's art collection in unexpected and surprising ways with participation by local arts organizations and artists. Bohemian press, a University of Minnesota student and alumni group and mentored by professor Jenny Schmid, will provide printmaking and screen printing on T-shirts, Gorilla Yogis will hold a yoga session with architecture-inspired poses. The event will also feature a concert by Chris Koza and Rogue Valley.

“We are thrilled to be able to invite the public to experience firsthand these exciting new spaces,” said Lyndel King, Director of WAM. “They provide an opportunity for the community to engage with art in new ways and see so much more of WAM’s collection.”

The museum will reopen with other expanded programming through **Weekends and Wednesdays at WAM. Weekends with the Weisguides** will provide Sunday afternoon opportunities for the community to engage on a deeper level with art through an art-making activity and tour. **Ultimate Wednesday's** will be held on the last Wednesday of the month with extended hours at the museum. Visitors will gain a deeper understanding of the exhibitions through such programs as artist talks, panel discussions, and interactive forums.

OPENING EVENTS

October 1, 2011 – Grand reopening gala.

October 2, 2011 – **WAMdeomonium!** Celebrate the public opening of WAM.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITS

Sympathies: Sharon Louden and Eun-Kyung Suh

October 2, 2011 – May 20, 2012

The museum has commissioned two artists to create gallery installations that are inspired by, or “in sympathy with,” the permanent collection. Sharon Louden is a longtime admirer of Frank Gehry’s drawings and has chosen the museum architecture as inspiration. Eun-Kyung Suh is a textile artist that focuses on “. . . vessels as a metaphor for human emotion, memory, and experience.” She has chosen the collection of Korean furniture as her inspiration for the installation.

Cartography of a Collection

Ongoing

This exhibition takes the viewer on a journey of how the museum’s collection came to be. Key moments and developments are revealed through the museum’s key leaders, patrons, and donors. WAM’s most beloved and popular works are displayed, giving a peek into how artworks came into the collection.

Conversations about Ceramics: Curated by Warren MacKenzie in Conversation with Lyndel King

October 2, 2011 – March 24, 2013

University of Minnesota art professor emeritus and master potter Warren MacKenzie co-curated *Conversations about Ceramics* with director Lyndel King. MacKenzie had an important role in the development of the museum’s extensive collection of ceramics. Selections illuminate his more personal thoughts on the entire and diverse collection.

An Immigrant’s Tale: Korean Furniture Collection

October 2, 2011 – March 24, 2013

Thanks to a generous grant from the Korea Foundation, the museum will have a three-year installation of works from its collection of Korean furniture and cultural artifacts given by Dr. Edward Reynolds Wright Jr., who bequeathed it to the museum in 1988.

Who’s Afraid of Edith Carlson?: Edith Carlson Works on Paper

October 2, 2011 – February 19, 2012

Edith Carlson, a self-described “little farm girl from Minnesota,” went on to become an accomplished artist. Her estate endows the Edith Carlson Gallery. Carlson chose the Weisman for the bequest because she admired the museum’s collection of art by women.

ABOUT WAM AND THE EXPANSION

The Weisman Art Museum (WAM) has completed construction of an 8,100 square foot expansion designed by internationally renowned architect Frank Gehry. This visionary architect is also responsible for the original design of this landmark facility. Opening to the public on October 2, 2011, the expansion will nearly double the size of the galleries for collections and exhibitions and enhance its role as a cultural resource for Minnesota and the state’s many visitors.

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum’s mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community.

The Weisman completed a capital campaign for the expansion project in August 2008. Campaign co chairs Joan Dayton, Carol Bemis, and Karen Bachman provided leadership for this fundraising effort. Building materials—predominantly stainless steel and brick—echo the exterior surfaces of the original Weisman structure. The museum engaged Minneapolis-based HGA Architects and Engineers as the local architects for the project and JE Dunn Construction as contractors.

The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free.

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