

THE UNIVERSITY GALLERY

The University Gallery opened in 1934 with Hudson Walker as the first Curator. Russell M. Plimpton, Director of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, gave the inaugural address at the Gallery's opening exhibition of an important assemblage of 19th century paintings. Among the Gallery's most ardent supporters were President Coffman, Malcolm Willey, E. M. Upjohn, S. Chatwood Burton, Dwight Minnich and Frederick Mann.

The first works of art to be acquired by the Gallery were paintings by a group of Twin Cities artists; including works by Cameron Booth, Dewey Albinson, Sidney Fossum, Erle Loran and Elof Wedin. Many of these paintings were placed on view in University buildings and constituted the beginning of a lending service of original works of art on campus. This service has grown in size and importance and now offers a selection of almost one thousand items. A Student Rental Collection was also instituted, and at present approximately thirteen hundred loans of framed reproductions and original works are made to students during the course of the year.

Hudson Walker was able to give his time to the Gallery for a very brief period due to the pressure of his other activities. At his resignation, Mrs. Ruth Lawrence was appointed Curator, and she remained with the Gallery, becoming its first Director, until the time of her retirement in 1957. Under her guidance, the Gallery became the one source for exhibitions of contemporary art in the Twin City area. In a 1936 issue of The Minneapolis Star, John Sherman reported: "The University Gallery has become the chief advocate and haven in the cause of modern art... The campus gallery has a clear field and a definite responsibility."

The permanent collection of the University Gallery totals more than two thousand items and includes examples of painting, graphic art, drawing, sculpture and various crafts. Although American art predominates, the works of European artists such as Manet, Corinith, Lurcat, Daumier and Beckmann are represented. Among notable collections on extended loan are those of Mrs. B. J. O. Nordfeldt, Mrs. Josephine Lutz Rollins, and Tone and Hudson Walker (the most important study collection of paintings by Maurer and Hartley in the country). Through the John Rood Collection, the Gallery has been able to acquire works of major importance by Saul Baizerman, David Smith, Harry Bertola, Germaine Richier, Bernard Meadows and others. Because of this fund, the permanent collection is particularly strong in the field of sculpture.

The University Gallery would like to call your attention to its major exhibition offerings tentatively scheduled for the 1959-60 seasons: WILLIAM BLAKE: PRINTS AND WATERCOLORS, SECOND ANNUAL COLLECTORS EXHIBITION, PAUL KLEE, RECENT PAINTINGS BY MICHAEL GOLDBERG, THE MR. AND MRS. JOHN ROOD COLLECTION, JACOB RIIS: PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK IN THE 1890'S, "ATELIER 17", JOHN BEAUCHAMP, RECENT PAINTINGS BY JASPER JOHNS.