

Weisman Art Museum  
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Images: Digital images available upon request



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**WEISMAN ART MUSEUM 2011 – 2012 EXHIBITION SEASON**  
**In “Sympathy” with a Collection**

MINNEAPOLIS – What do aluminum-flashing strips have to do with Frank Gehry’s grand facades on the new Weisman? How can silk help illuminate the meanings that exist deep within furniture from a far away land? For *Sympathies*, Weisman Art Museum (WAM) commissioned two contemporary artists to present and respond to work in its collection. *Sympathies* is a part of the Weisman’s yearlong focus on the collection and addresses the popular question of the relevance of museum collections in the twenty-first century.

The *Sympathies* series of exhibitions began as invitations to contemporary artists whose work seemed in some way sympathetic to aspects of the museum’s collection. WAM asked artists Sharon Louden and Eun-Kyung Suh to create a new work in relation to the collection. Louden, a New York based sculptor, installation, and public artist, will work with the Frank Gehry designed building. For her installation, she chose spaces and details of the building as ground for her large-scale installation. Installation artist, Eun-Kyung Suh of Seoul, Korea and Duluth, Minnesota agreed to work with WAM’s renowned traditional Korean furniture collection.

"Looking at and working with artists over the years, certain people's artwork made me think of particular WAM collections," explains Diane Mullin, Senior Curator. "Museums have been commissioning artists to create pieces in response to their collections. I wondered if it could work to invite an artist to not only do a piece in response, but to also take on presenting the collection itself. In effect, have the artist both create for *and* curate the collection. Sometimes the connections I saw between the artist and the collection seemed tenuous. Actually, it turned out that more concrete connections are often there than I even realized, such as Sharon Louden's strong admiration for Frank Gehry's working style. I had connected her work to his based on its innovative use of light, reflection, and common materials."

Projects such as *Sympathies* provide a forum for considering the museum collections and offer a new means of understanding and engaging with them. This along with programs to engage new audiences, other exhibitions that give new perspectives on the collection, and dynamic partnerships that allow new voices from the public help shape the new interpretive strategies being embraced by the new and newly expanded WAM.

## **MAJOR EXHIBITIONS 2011 – 2012**

### **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.

### **Ceramics from the Weisman Art Museum Collection: A Personal View**

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.

### **Plaza Design Competition**

Ongoing

The *Plaza Design Competition* in the Target Studio for Creative Collaboration includes a display from each of the four-finalist teams. Final designs and each team's design process focus on improving the plaza for the east end of the Washington Avenue pedestrian bridge. The four finalists are: Coen + Partners (Shane Coen, principal), working with artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer; 4RM+ULA (James Garrett, Jr., principal) and Local Office Landscape Architecture, working with artists Roger Cummings, Satoko Muratake, and Seitu Kenneth Jones; SEH Planning and Urban Design (Bob Kost, director), working with EE+K Architects, Steve Dietz, founder and president of Northern Lights.mn, and artist Christopher Baker; and VJAA (Jennifer Yoos and Vincent James), working with HouMinn Practice and artist Diane Willow.

## **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 the University, students, 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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