

Weisman Art Museum  
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Images: Digital images available upon request



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover**<sup>SM</sup>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***TENUOUS, THOUGH REAL* EXHIBITION MAKES CONNECTIONS TO  
THE MINNESOTA SCENE PAST AND PRESENT**

**Exhibition dates: June 23 through September 16, 2012**

MINNEAPOLIS – Artworks of thirty-three artists, from the frontier days of Minnesota to the present, create a collection that explores the connection between Minnesota art and artists. This summer WAM resumes its commitment to presenting exhibitions focused on Minnesota art, artists, and subjects. *Tenuous, Though Real*, also highlights WAM's commitment to supporting our local artists through collecting, preserving, and making accessible their work, which stands as a unique and important part of Minnesota's historical record.

Evoking Rena Neumann Coen's 1976 survey, *Minnesota Painting and Sculpture from 1820 to 1914*, curator Diane Mullin explored her argument that the tie that binds Minnesota artists is neither a style nor even a characteristic, but rather "a tenuous, though real, sense of shared experience—an identification, however fleeting, with the Minnesota scene." *Tenuous, Though Real*, in keeping with the museum's expansion opening-year-focus on its collection, presents Minnesota artists in WAM's collection organized around three long-held and salient aspects of the Minnesota experience: The Water, The Land, and Storytelling. The exhibition includes artists who worked in and often lived in the state from its frontier days to the present, tracing the import, evolution, and variance of these central subjects for artists in Minnesota.

*Tenuous, Though Real*, features artists; Will Agar, Harriet Bart, Hazel Belvo, Karl Bethke, Cameron Booth, Alfred Thompson Bricher, Julie Buffalohead, Henriette Clopath, C. Fuller Cowles, Edwin Dawes, Jim Denomie, Alexis Jean Fournier, Linda Gammell, Gary Hallman, Theresa Handy, Edwin Holm, Stuart Klipper, Vesna Kittelson, Josephine Lutz Rollins, Clara Mairs, Sandra Menefree Taylor, George Morrison, Laura E. Migliorino, Donald Neal, Judy Onofrio, David Rathman, Thomas P. Rossiter, Paul Shambroom, John Snyder, Alec Soth, Jerome Thompson, Katherine Turczan, and Lucia Wiley. Artworks range from landscape, frontier scenes to conceptual, multimedia works. The exhibition argues that art made in Minnesota, or from one's direct experience in Minnesota, is a vital part of the state's identity, economy, and human record. As an art museum of the state's only land-grant university, WAM plays an important role in the safekeeping, preservation, and presentation of that record.

## **OTHER EXHIBITIONS**

### **The WAM Files: The Art of the Archives**

July 14–November 4, 2012

On loan from the University of Minnesota Archives in Elmer Andersen Library, *The WAM Files: Art of the Archives* presents the first forty years of the museum's history as told through its scrapbooks, photographs, correspondence, and other printed historical documents. This exhibition takes the viewer on a journey of how the museum's collection came to be. Significant moments and developments are revealed through the museum's key leaders, patrons, and donors. Showcasing the real items first featured on *The WAM Files* Blog, the exhibition seeks to consider how the past is articulated through different and changing technologies.

## **ABOUT WAM AND THE EXPANSION**

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 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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