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WAM@20: A yearlong celebration of 20 years in the Weisman Art Museum's iconic Frank Gehry-designed building

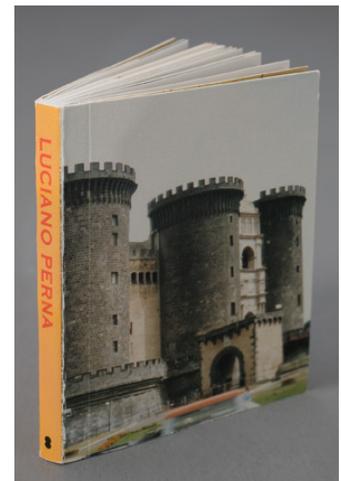


Andy Warhol, Annie Oakley, 1986,
screenprint on paper. Selection Criteria:
Tour guides.

MINNEAPOLIS – In a series of three exhibitions for the 2013-14 season, the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota will highlight 20 works x 20 years from its collection. The resulting 400 works, all collected since opening the current Gehry-designed building in 1993, will be featured in a variety of modes including three gallery exhibitions and virtual presentations through WAM's website. The modes of exhibition selection will push the boundaries of the traditional curatorial process and emphasize participation from the traditional single curator to collective decision-making, from fact-based analysis to

pure chance. This strategy of selection—or choice making—will be determined by a rubric made of 20 separate methods.

The first exhibition *WAM@20: CHOICE* (October 6, 2013 through January 5, 2014) highlights works chosen by nontraditional criteria such as the WAM Tour Guides' selection, the smallest and the oldest objects collected each of the building's twenty years, and WAM Director's choice. Each criterion includes 20 artworks, one for each year since the building opened (from 1993 to 2012). While the first exhibition revolves around physical objects, other criteria will be displayed virtually. On September 6, 2013 the museum's student group, the WAM Collective, will announce their choice for one work from 1993. Subsequently, every 18.25 days they will release another artwork from an additional year on their blog, until 20 works are displayed online exactly one year from when they began. Additional choices will involve randomly selected accession numbers, voters at the



Luciano Perna, untitled (miniature catalogue), miniature book, 1993, paper, 2 5/8 x 2 x 1/4 in. Selection Criteria: Smallest object accessioned by year.



Artist unknown, no title, bowl, 11th-13th c., porcelain.
Selection Criteria: Oldest object accessioned by year.

Minnesota State Fair, University of Minnesota student's choice, longest accession number, curator's choice, museum visitors, artists registered on mnartists.org, and visitors to the museum.

By making not only the art but also the process of selecting and presenting works of art more collective, WAM's celebration of the 20th anniversary of the iconic building will emphasize not just the edifice but also what it holds.

Programs related to the exhibitions will push beyond the traditional practice of offering didactics about individual artworks and move into the realm of the social everyday and its relevant issues.

Exhibitions

Public Art 25

June 15, 2013 through March 30, 2014

In 1988, the University established the public art program in response to a law passed by the Minnesota Legislature that allowed up to one percent of the total appropriation for any state-funded building to be used for the acquisition of works of art. The Public Art on Campus program celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary on the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus.

The Youth/Dballinyarada

July 13, 2013 through February 9, 2014

Photographer Mohamud Mumin's *The Youth/Dballinyarada* is a documentary project that profiles thirteen young Somali men living in Minnesota who are actively and positively engaged in their community. The project highlights the contributions these young men are making to Minnesota and the United States, their adopted homeland.

WAM@20: CHOICE

October 6, 2013 through January 5, 2014

WAM@20: CHOICE kicks-off the yearlong celebration of 20 years in WAM's iconic Frank Gehry-designed building. WAM will feature 20 works x 20 years from its collection. Objects on view will be selected by separate often non-traditional criteria including WAM Tour Guides' selection, the smallest and the oldest objects accessioned each year, and WAM Director's choice.

Siberia: Imagined and Reimagined

February 1 through May 18, 2014

Siberia Imagined and Reimagined brings photographs of Siberia by Russian photographers to the American public for the first time. Innumerable images of Siberia by non-Russians have been published through the years and those depictions have shaped perceptions around the world. The exhibition offers an inside view to this often misunderstood region and has the potential to alter stereotypes and challenge the simplicity of long held beliefs. The exhibition is organized by the Foundation for International Arts & Education.

WAM@20: PAPER

March 1 through July 6, 2014

WAM@20: PAPER continues the yearlong celebration of 20 years in WAM's iconic Frank Gehry-designed building. The selection criteria for this exhibition will include works on paper that are chosen randomly by accession number and by senior curator Diane Mullin.

WAM@20: MN

June 14 through September 7, 2014

WAM@20: MN continues the yearlong celebration of 20 years in WAM's iconic Frank Gehry-designed building. The selection criteria for this exhibition will include works that were selected by MN State Fair voters and University of Minnesota students.

Related Programming

August 22 and 23 – WAM is at the MN State Fair!

At the WAM booth inside the U of MN building, fair goers will be able to vote on their favorite artworks from the past 20 years. The winning artworks will be exhibited in the summer exhibition, *WAM@20: MN* in June 2014. *WAM@20: MN* is part of the museum's 20th anniversary celebration of the iconic Frank Gehry-designed building.

October 5 – The Big WAM Bash Fundraiser and opening of WAM@20

WAM@20 initiates a yearlong celebration of the museum's 20th anniversary of the opening of its iconic, Frank Gehry-designed building.

October 23 – WAM Chatter

WAM Chatter is an evening of presentations in the pecha kucha style. Pecha kucha is Japanese for “chatter,” or the sound of many people talking. This Chatter will focus on WAM@20 and tackle issues of selection, distinction, and how we make decisions and choices.

ABOUT WAM

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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