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A LETTER FROM THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR:

Flaten Art Museum has been a hotbed of activity over the last year — a time of collaboration, innovation, and growth. Working closely with faculty, we expanded collection use into new courses, fostering critical engagement with art across many disciplines. We increased curricular gallery visits, strengthening connections between exhibition content and learning objectives. Finally, we broke ground for “The Link,” future site of expanded collection storage, workroom/study, and museum offices.

We are grateful for ongoing support and enthusiasm from St. Olaf faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and donors over the past year. Through these relationships, Flaten Art Museum will continue to be a space dedicated to cross-disciplinary learning, innovation, and the appreciation of fine art.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Nelson".

Jane Becker Nelson '04
Director, Flaten Art Museum

Highlights

2014-15 was a busy year at the Flaten Art Museum! Here's a glimpse:

Summer Intern

Philip Moeller '63 hosted art history major Siyan Xie '15 in a summer internship, cataloguing and photographing a portion of his Chinese art collection, laying the groundwork for Moeller's forthcoming gift to the museum.

Dig In!

We broke ground on the museum's expanded collection storage area (2,000 square feet) and new offices (420 square feet), meeting the needs of the museum's growing teaching collection and exhibition program.

User Friendly

A Broadening the Bridge grant allowed St. Olaf and Carleton's art museums to hire a web designer to improve usability on both museums' embARK Webkiosk search platforms.

Youth, Beauty, Tours

Director Jane Becker Nelson and Carleton College counterpart Laurel Bradley presented "Youth, Beauty, Tours: Collection Stories as Online Access" at three conferences: AAMG in Atlanta, MAHS in St. Paul, and UACC in Toronto.

Transgender 101

CILA and Flaten Art Museum teamed up to host CILA Lunch Conversation: Trans-Sensitivity Awareness with Zackary Drucker, equipping St. Olaf faculty and staff with tools for making our curricula and campus more trans-friendly.

Back by Popular Demand

For the second year, Flaten Art Museum and Perlman Teaching Museum co-hosted 12 individuals from the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium enrolled in a course about academic art museums.

Valuable Volunteer

Kathy Born, volunteer extraordinaire, continues to be a hidden jewel within the museum! Kathy dedicated more than 100 hours of support, improving documentation of the Richard Tetlie '43 collection, and welcoming new tasks involving research, documentation, and writing.

All Together Now

The final objects from the Tetlie bequest arrived on campus in the fall, consolidating all 680 objects in our care.

May the Force be With Us

A newly appointed Advisory Task Force aims to strengthen and secure the museum's artistic quality, educational integrity, and sustainability.

By the Numbers

JUNE 1, 2014 - MAY 31, 2015

4,682	Attendance
525	Attendance at museum-hosted outside events
13,921	Website visits
8	Flaten Art Museum exhibitions
1	Print Study Room exhibitions
22	Customized class visits
264	Students who used the museum as a classroom (56% increase)
167	Objects used for teaching
400	Objects photographed for digital collection access
182	Objects loaned through Campus Loan Program
755	Facebook fans

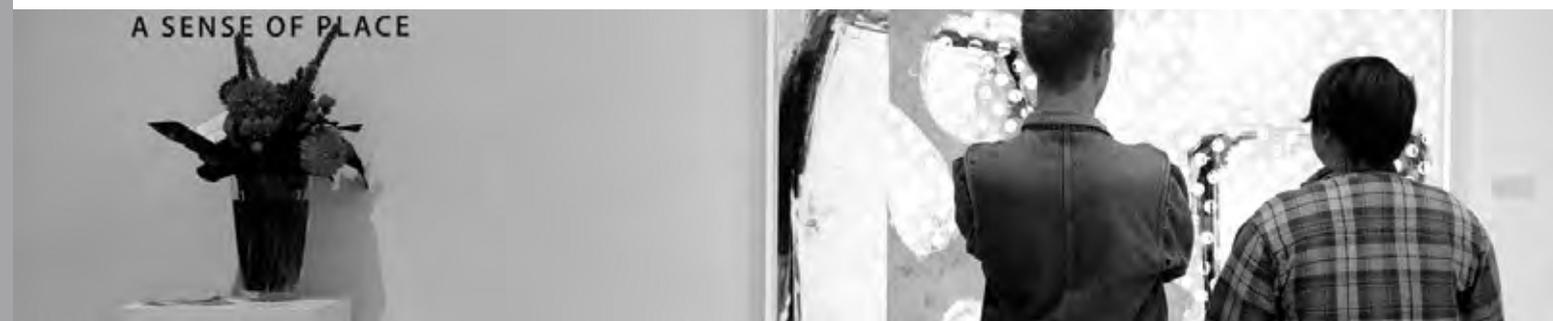


Collection Stories

Through generous support from St. Olaf's CURI (Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry) program, Liz Brindley '15 and Ola Faleti '15 spent the summer researching the Flaten Art Museum collection. The resulting *Collection Stories* — student-led video "tours" of the collection — highlight objects from disparate cultures, eras, and media under a united theme. In October, the students presented their research at the Universities Art Association of Canada annual conference in Toronto. View the videos at pages.stolaf.edu/collectionstories.

EXHIBITIONS

Nestled within a liberal arts college, Flaten Art Museum's exhibitions complement the expansive academic diversity at St. Olaf College.





Zackary Drucker: She Gone Rogue

SEPTEMBER 13 - NOVEMBER 2, 2014

Through photography and video, transgender artist Zackary Drucker explores the frontiers of gender, pushing beyond borders that attempt to contain identity. Together with her collaborators, Drucker puts queer consciousness front and center, giving voice to a long-silenced trans community. This exhibition brought together three of Drucker's most recent works for the first time. During her weeklong visit to St. Olaf, the artist held multiple class visits, led a CILA lunch on trans-sensitivity for faculty and staff, and presented a public lecture.



WENDELL ARNESON: A SENSE OF PLACE

SEPTEMBER 12 - OCTOBER 26, 2014

Highlighting work from Professor of Art Wendell Arneson's 2013-14 sabbatical, this exhibition also marked Arneson's retirement at the conclusion of the 2014-15 academic year. Arneson's paintings and drawings utilize a visual and conceptual tool of mapping to express ideas about memory, relationships, space, time, and place.

Art Works

Gifts from Dan '69 and Nancy Schneider

NOVEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 14, 2014

Over the past three decades Dan Schneider '69 and his wife Nancy have generously contributed more than 250 artworks to St. Olaf College. Displayed across campus and used to enhance coursework, their gifts feed the campus's contagious creative spirit. This exhibition brought together their gifts and written reflections from students, staff, and faculty as a way to examine the impact of visual art within the St. Olaf community. Prior to the reception, the Schneiders led an enlightening walking tour of campus collection highlights.





FOUND SPACE: FIFTH YEAR ART APPRENTICES
JANUARY 9 - FEBRUARY 20, 2015

This exhibition featured new work from 5th Year Art Apprentices Madeline Berger, Isaac Burton, Juan Yanqui Rivera, Madeleine Senko, and Caroline Wood. The emerging artists discussed their work — which included video, new media, installation, digital illustration, painting, photography, and collage — at a well-attended artist talk.



SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

MARCHING ALONG THE VOTING RIGHTS TRAIL

FEBRUARY 27 – APRIL 12, 2015

This exhibition explored the 1965 voting rights struggle through historic photographs by Stephen Somerstein and interactive installations by contemporary artist Nancy Musunguzi. Presented in conjunction with *A Long Walk Home*, a series of events celebrating the legacy of the American civil rights movement and honoring the death of James Reeb '50, the exhibition's programming included screenings of the Academy Award-nominated *Selma*, a gallery talk with Anne and Leah Reeb, and a performance by the Gospel Choir of St. Olaf.

Generously supported by the Glen H. and Shirley Beito Gronlund Annual Exhibition Series Fund.

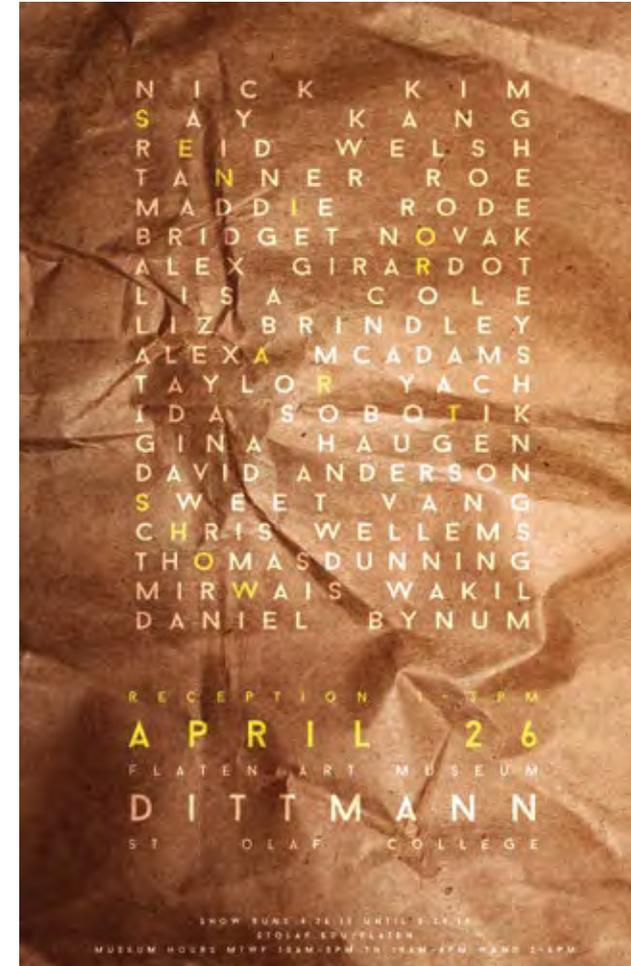
INTERROGATING GENDER

CURATED BY THE STUDENTS OF ART 277

MARCH 19 – APRIL 2, 2015

What do a centuries-old clay sculpture from Italy and a brand-new Nerf gun from the Hasbro Company have in common? Working with objects from the Flaten Art Museum collection and everyday consumer items, the students of Visiting Professor of Art History Christopher Tradowsky's *Art 277: Gender and Visual Culture* examined this and related questions in their collaborative curatorial project. *Malmestizo*, a project of 5th Year Art Apprentice Juan Yanqui Rivera, provided music for the show's well-attended opening reception in Groot Gallery.





SENIOR SHOW

APRIL 26 - MAY 24, 2015

LASTING LEGACY

APRIL 28 - MAY 24, 2015

These two annual exhibitions are culminating events in the curricula of St. Olaf studio art and art history majors. Cross-disciplinary themes ran through the young artist's work in the *Senior Show* as they drew on academic influences from their four years on the Hill. *Lasting Legacy* showcased pairs of objects from Flaten Art Museum's collection, selected and interpreted by art history majors.

EDUCATION

Visual art enriches the liberal arts experience. Flaten Museum offers interdisciplinary learning opportunities and customized curricula to foster critical engagement with visual art.

Kate Fisher's Art 207: Ceramics students compared form, material, and meaning in vessels from across the globe.

Jake Erickson's Religion 230: The Theology of Creation students studied six objects on the topic of theology, creativity, and environmentalism.

Dean Krouk's Norwegian 246: Edvard Munch and Nordic Literature students examined nine works by Munch and the artist's impact on Norwegian literature.

Louis Epstein's Music 345: Race, Identity and Representation in American Music History students blogged about and borrowed 10 objects for their Rølvaag exhibition.

Tiffany Ng's Music 342: Music of the Baroque Era students studied eight paintings, exploring Baroque crossover in visual art and music.

Carleton College's Jessica Keating borrowed three Albrecht Dürer prints for her Early Modern Art History course. (She reported, "Wow. Your Dürer holdings are impressive!")

What faculty say...

"A museum visit and class session with Zackary Drucker were central to course content and a specific writing assignment. [My students reported that] 'reading' one of Drucker's photos through a gender studies framework was challenging. Drucker's visit was a useful forum to discuss artist intent and reader participation in the creation of meaning."

— DIANE LEBLANC, DIRECTOR OF WRITING AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

"Sitting on the floor beneath the wonderful black and white photos [in *Selma to Montgomery*] was an important setting for our discussion about the civil rights movement, including my own experience in 1967 in a small town near Selma, Alabama. I appreciate the current emphasis on using the Flaten Art Museum in connection with coursework."

— BRUCE NORDSTROM-LOEB, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY

"Music often seems like an indirect way of illustrating our nation's history, but our study of physical objects in the Flaten Art Museum's collection actually made the musical evidence visceral and immediate. Even better, my students were able to use the collection to practice relating visual and musical representations of race and identity."

— LOUIS EPSTEIN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MUSIC

What students say...

"Having visiting artists like Zackary is essential at places like St. Olaf, where many of us may be open to new ideas, but relatively few have had first hand experiences with them. To meet someone actively involved with the trans movement, whose art is all about sharing personal experience, really provides a new level of understanding. It humanized the issues for me."

— SENIOR, COMPUTER SCIENCE MAJOR

"Having the opportunity to respond to artwork for the Schneider exhibition made me feel more connected to a piece that I've been drawn to for years. Writing about the work from a personal perspective helped me understand why this work speaks to me and how it might connect to other viewers in a museum."

— SENIOR, STUDIO ART AND ART HISTORY MAJOR

"In the wake of increased national attention and movements surrounding police brutality on black bodies in America, I thought the Selma exhibit was an important historical reminder of the progress that has been made and the progress that this country has yet to make regarding racial equality."

— SENIOR, ENGLISH AND FRENCH MAJOR



ACCESSIONS

The collection is a valuable tool for teaching and learning across the curriculum. Thanks to the generosity of donors, the museum acquired several outstanding objects with which to enhance our pedagogical mission.



Zackary Drucker
Distance is where the heart is, home is where you hang your heart, #13, 2011
Digital pigment print on paper
2014.144
Gift of Luis De Jesus, Los Angeles

When Zackary Drucker transitioned from male to female she kept her given male name. Her choice flies in the face of many trans folks' desire to "pass" in their new identity, and affirms the fluidity of gender and sexual identity. In this photo series, Drucker revisits her hometown of Syracuse, New York and dons her mother's clothing and costumes. Literally "trying on" various gendered identities, Drucker tinkers with sexuality, exoticism, vulnerability, and power and challenges us to consider the way everyday gestures, objects, and styles construct gender.

Terrance Guardipee
Yellow Thunder/Blackfeet Warrior
2014.288
Gift of John D. and Lois M. Armstrong

A Seattle-based artist of the Blackfeet Nation, Terrance Guardipee represents his nation's heritage and contemporary culture through "ledger art." The genre originated in the late nineteenth century when state-supplied accounting ledgers became a medium for Plains Indians to visually record their stories. Guardipee was one of the first Native artists to revive the tradition, putting a contemporary spin on this traditional medium.



ACCESSIONS LIST

Wendell H. Arneson
Ascension
mixed media on paper
Gift from Wendell H. Arneson

Terrance Guardipee
Yellow Thunder/Blackfeet Warrior
oil on ledger paper
Gift of John D. and Lois M. Armstrong

Zackary Drucker
*Distance is where the heart is, home is where
you hang your heart, #13*
digital pigment print on paper
Gift of Luis De Jesus Los Angeles

Wendell H. Arneson
Ark
oil on canvas
Gift of Wendell H. Arneson

Noah Sanders '14
Ikon #1: Messenger (Isaiah 61:1-3)
oil on canvas
Purchased by College Ministry Office

Noah Sanders '14
Ikon #2: Proclamation (Revelation 14:6-7)
oil on canvas
Purchased by College Ministry Office

Tanner Roe '15
Decisions
wood
Purchased by St. Olaf College Biology
Department



DONORS

Flaten Art Museum is grateful for many donors whose generosity is advancing the mission and impact of the museum. This year, we recognize the leadership of two families whose brand new gifts are paving the way for Flaten Art Museum's future.

The Glen H. and Shirley Beito Gronlund Annual Exhibition Series Fund

Glen H. Gronlund '55 and Shirley Beito Gronlund '56 established a five-year gift to support expenses associated with one exhibition each year. In its inaugural year, the fund supported *Selma to Montgomery: Marching Along the Voting Rights Trail*.

The Arnold Ostebee '72 and Kay Smith Endowed Fund for Mathematical Art

Arnold Ostebee '72 and Kay Smith joined the St. Olaf College faculty in 1980 as members of the Mathematics Department. This endowed fund reflects their interest in and appreciation for interactions between mathematics and the visual arts. The fund supports the acquisition, display, and conservation of artworks that combine mathematics and visual art.

Museum Staff

Jane Becker Nelson '04, Director (.75 FTE)
Mona Weselmann, Collections Specialist (.5 FTE)

Student Museum Assistant Graduate School, Job, and Internship Placement

Liz Brindley '15, Curatorial Intern, Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Ola Faleti '15, Editorial Intern, Dictionary.com, Oakland, California

Daniel Martinson '16, Family Support Intern, Project for Pride in Living, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Nicole Valencia '15, Vision Therapist in Training, McDonald Eye Care, Lakeville, Minnesota

Madison Van Wylene '16, Intern, Neuger Communications, Northfield, Minnesota

Evan Weselmann '17, CURI Summer Research Student, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

Keyu Yan '18, Curatorial and Collection Intern, Red Gate Gallery, Beijing, China

Student Museum Assistants

Liz Brindley '15
Daniel Bynum '15
Jeanette Byrnes '17
Thomas Dunning '15
Chris Hager '16
Stephanie Lewis '16
Daniel Martinson '16
Pumla Maswanganyi '16
Jordyn Myhran '16
Kayla Skibbe '16
Sophia Skoglund '18
Nicole Valencia '15
Shivani Vyas '17
Madison Van Wylene '16
Evan Weselmann '17
Keyu Yan '18

Advisory Task Force

Christopher Atkins, Minnesota Artists Exhibition Program Coordinator, Minneapolis Institute of Arts

Taylor Davis '16, student

Dan Dressen, Associate Provost, Professor of Music

Mary Griep, Professor of Art, Associate Dean of Fine Arts

Jane Becker Nelson, Director, Flaten Art Museum

Mary Titus, Professor of English and English Department Chair

Nancy Thompson, Associate Professor of Art History and Art and Art History Department Chair

Mona Weselmann, Collections Specialist, Flaten Art Museum



Museum Information

The Flaten Art Museum is located in Dittmann Center at St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue
Northfield, Minnesota, 55057

www.stolaf.edu/flaten

Fax: 507-786-3776

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 2-5 p.m.

The museum is closed during the summer, college breaks, and on holidays.

Contact

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Mona Weselmann, Collection Specialist

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