

NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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WORCESTER ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION

NEW TO VIEW: RECENT ACQUISITIONS IN PHOTOGRAPHY

DECEMBER 17, 2005 – APRIL 16, 2006

(WORCESTER, Mass., December 8, 2005) – On December 17, The Worcester Art Museum will open an exhibition of outstanding photographs that have recently been acquired by the Museum.

New to View begins the Museum's second century of photography with a selection of its newest photographic treasures, acquired during the past five years, and never before on view. In 1904, the Worcester Art Museum became one of the nation's first to exhibit photography as fine art. This eventful history was documented in last year's anniversary exhibition *Photography at the Worcester Art Museum: Keeping Shadows*, which is still on national tour. In recent decades, as recognition of photographic art has grown, and the popularity of collecting has ignited a thriving market, the Museum has kept pace with careful purchases and generous gifts to the collection.

New to View showcases this dynamically growing collection. Among the works shown are historical photographs from the nineteenth century, including the work of Josiah Johnson Hawes. Hawes was one of Boston's first professional photographers, as was the portraitist John Adams Whipple, and Edwin Hale Lincoln, who made dynamic photographs of ships under sail. The exhibition also features *Outward Bound* a platinum print by the father of creative photography in America, Alfred Stieglitz, who placed a shipboard portrait in a setting that presaged Modernism. In the Surrealist masterpiece *Le violon d'Ingres*, Man Ray decorated his lover's back with the f-holes of a violin, transforming the image and provoking a range of associations. Important acquisitions of contemporary photography are also shown, including a haunting portrait by Bill Jacobson, Seamus Ryan's crisp studies of abstract form in seashells, and a fascinating view from inside a camera obscura by Abelardo Morell.

About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum, which opened to the public in 1898, is world-renowned for its 35,000-piece collection of paintings, sculpture, decorative arts, photography, prints, drawings and new media. The works span 5,000 years of art and culture, ranging from ancient Roman mosaics to Colonial silver, Impressionist paintings and contemporary art. Dedicated to the promotion of art and art education, the Museum offers a year-round studio art and art appreciation program that enrolls over 6,000 adult and youth students each year. Public tours are offered Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m., September through May. Audio tours are also available in English and Spanish.

Museum hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. (evening hours sponsored by Commerce Bank), and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and full-time college students with current ID, and FREE for Members and all youth 17 and under. Admission is also FREE for everyone on Saturday mornings, 10 a.m.-noon (sponsored by The TJX Companies, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric, a National Grid Company). The Museum is located at 55 Salisbury St., Worcester, Mass., easily accessible from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), Route 290 and Route 9. Free parking is available near entrances on Salisbury, Lancaster and Tuckerman streets. For more information, call (508) 799-4406 or visit the Museum web site at www.worcesterart.org.

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