

# NEWS

from the Worcester Art Museum

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## WORCESTER ART MUSEUM HONORED AS FRIEND OF ART EDUCATION

(WORCESTER, MASS., May 16, 2005)—The Council of the Massachusetts Art Education Association has named the Worcester Art Museum its MAEA Friend of Art Education for 2005. The honor — awarded this year at the MAEA Spring Conference, held May 6 at the museum — annually recognizes an individual or institution for work in the field of Art Education in Massachusetts.

“I was so pleased that MAEA chose to give us this recognition,” said Honee A. Hess, the museum’s Director of Education. “MAEA is a volunteer organization of art educators, so to be honored by peers who are actively engaged in the pursuit of making art accessible is really an honor.”

The Worcester Art Museum has long been an integral force for offering art education to the community. It reaches out to school-aged children, as with the 20-year-old Art pARTnership with Worcester’s Elm Park Community School, while also throwing open its doors to art education and art educators. Each year, more than 20,000 youths and adults are provided free or low-cost guided visits to the museum, and thousands more benefit directly from professional art instruction, many via scholarship.

The numbers are only half the story though, according to Kim Kent, of Methuen, President of MAEA. “It is not the statistics that made Worcester Art Museum a friend of education,” said Kent. “It is the spirit of generosity and respect that WAM brings to its work with art teachers and MAEA that earns this award.”

For proof positive, one need look no further than the museum's Art All State program. Initiated nearly 19 years ago in response to a request by an art teacher, Art All State has brought more than 2,600 students to WAM for intensive, life-changing experiences. The program provides direction, inspiration, and hope that art will continue to be a part of these youths' lives after high school. Art All State was a collaborative accomplishment, that of art teachers, the MAEA, and so many others from the entire WAM museum community — the director, grant writers, special event coordinators, donors, volunteers, and education staff.

"The museum welcomes teachers into its ranks as collaborators," said Hess, "and it really thinks of itself as an educational institution."

#### 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 \$8 for adults, \$6 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](http://www.worcesterart.org).

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