Whatever is There is a Truth
Robert Rauschenberg’s Prints

December 12, 2008 – October 4, 2009

The late Robert Rauschenberg (1925-2008) was central to the American art scene from 1950 until his death earlier this year. As an artist, he drew from a variety of disciplines and mediums and influenced generations of visual artists. He expressed social, cultural, and political ideas in his art, and successfully bridged Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art, while also revolutionizing the art of printmaking.

Through a variety of prints, the exhibition serves as a tribute to Rauschenberg’s life and legacy as a printmaker, while also celebrating the museum’s recent acquisitions of his prints. This fall the Haggerty received Rauschenberg’s Eagle Eye (Ruminations), 1999 from Robert Luta, MU ’60, and purchased twelve of the artist’s Stoned Moon prints. In addition to these works, the exhibition will also feature a selection from Horsefeathers Thirteen, 1972-76, lent to the museum by Emile Mathis and Lithographs by Rauschenberg from the collection of Mary and Michael J. Tatalovich. The prints from the Tatalovich’s collection will introduce the artists’ work from the early 1980s.

Rauschenberg’s prints reflect the collaborative approach to printmaking that resulted from his chance meeting in 1961 with Tatyana Grosman, founder of Universal Limited Art Editions. With the opportunity to experiment at ULAE and later Gemini G.E.L., he quickly became one of the most important and innovative printmakers in America. Using photogravure and other intaglio techniques, Rauschenberg reproduced images in his work creating a multiplicity of references that range from the personal to the political.

Current Tendencies
Ten Artists from Wisconsin

March 12 – June 14, 2009

The Haggerty Museum’s Current Tendencies: Ten Artists from Wisconsin will feature recent work and new installations by contemporary artists in Wisconsin. The ten artists in the exhibition—Jennifer Angus, Peter Bardy, Anne Kingsbury, Colin Matthes, Shana McCaw & Brent Buddberg, T.L. Solien, Sonja Thomsen, George Williams, Jr. and Xiaohong Zhang—will each have a unique space within the museum for their work. The artists in the exhibition range from established Wisconsinites like T.L. Solien and Anne Kingsbury to Peter Bardy, a self-taught sculptor from Milwaukee whose work has never been seen.

With site specific installations subverting spaces within the museum, this exhibition has work in all media from hand-crafted quilts to painting, drawing and video. Visitors will be greeted by a sculptural vignette entitled Lost in Transit by McCaw & Buddberg on the top of the entrance vestibule and a new project on the lead wall by Matthes. A major highlight of the exhibition is the work of Jennifer Angus. Angus, who lives and works in Madison, will mount insects from South America and Africa on hand-designed wallpaper to create a unique room installation. The exhibition will also include contemporary porcelain by Xiaohong Zhang, an artist-in-residence in the Arts/Industry program at Kohler and new work by the photographer Sonja Thomsen. Anne Kingsbury’s handcrafted quilting and leather dolls will be presented along with paintings of George Williams, Jr. and T.L. Solien.
stop.look.listen: an exhibition of video works
on view until February 22, 2009

The exhibition focuses on the work of 13 video artists who have created a mix of real life experience and fiction built around a particular event, idea or location. It breaks down the barrier between closed circuit video and feeds and promotes interaction by the viewer. The galleries are transformed into video installations.

FROM THE DIRECTOR…..

As I walked through the galleries this morning I was mindful of the early 20th-century French novelist Guillaume Apollinaire who emphatically stated, "I hate artists who are not of their time." He would have reveled in the visual thinking that informs the engaging exhibition of contemporary video stop.look.listen... in the Museum through February 22. The works pose existential dilemmas, call into question the boundaries of reality and illusion, and flesh out the human condition through often complex narratives. The format of the works vacillate back-and-forth from television monitors to large-scale projections on the wall drawing out the realization that much of our connection to the world today comes from a monitor or projector feeding an electronic image. The resultant moving images seemingly merge home video, the history of film, autobiography, and ad hoc popular culture into potent, stimulating visual experiences that are no longer foreign in a museum setting.

The medium was founded by Nam June Paik (the Haggerty owns Cage in Cage, 1994) who utilized a small video camera (known as a Portapak) in 1965 to record an event in New York City, later the same day playing the tape across town. The distinction between video art and cinema is that video does not utilize the typical conventions of cinema. Video art may not employ the use of actors, may contain no dialogue, and may have no discernible narrative or plot, or adhere to any of the other conventions that generally define motion pictures as entertainment. Like many of the exhibitions we present, this one requires multiple visits to fully grasp. And if by the time you have read this you have already viewed Mircea Cantor's powerful dilemma of a wolf and a deer in the same room, I think you will agree.

The great American artist Robert Rauschenberg passed in May. He was for many the quintessential figure of the second half of the 20th century. His works infused new life into the detritus of the street, bridging Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art.

A recent gift to the museum by Robert Luta '60 Arts & Sciences (Eagle Eye, 1999) provided a compelling reason to look more closely at the artist's significant contributions. The exhibition will focus specifically on his efforts as a printmaker, a medium that throughout his career he completely reconceived. Beginning in the early 1960s he created painterly prints filled with images he clipped from newspapers and magazines. Working collaboratively with talented printers, he challenged the limits of methods and materials; rethinking customary approaches to lithography, screen print, and intaglio; adopting new processes such as digital imaging, and printing on unconventional papers, cardboard, fabric and plastic. He and his work were very much of their time.

See you in the Museum.

Wally Mason

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE HAGGERTY

Gallery Talk With Janet Biggs
Janet Biggs, who lives and works in New York City, will give a gallery talk at the Museum at 6 p.m., Thursday, February 12. Her video installations and performances are condensed yet epic. She has captured such events as horses galloping on treadmills at Cornell University’s veterinary school, Olympic swimmers synchronized to a print installation, and icebergs floating in Iceland’s Glacier Lagoon.

Student Fine Art Night
The annual Student Fine Arts Night will take place from 7 to 9:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 18 at the Museum. This one night only event features an exhibition of art and performances by Marquette University students. The event is coordinated by the Marquette Art Club and the Haggerty Museum. The event is free and open to the public.

The State of Art: Open Forum on the Visual Arts in Wisconsin
The forum will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 26 at the Museum. Discussion leaders will be: Debra Brehmer, arts writer, co-owner of Portrait Society Gallery and art history instructor at Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design; Poly Morris, director of Development, Marketing and Outreach at UW Peck School of the Arts and Milwaukee Arts Board member; Jane Simon, curator of exhibitions, Madison Museum of Contemporary Art; and George Trzougros, executive director, Wisconsin Arts Board.
In keeping with the sunflower centerpieces, the evening was mellow and golden as supporters of the Museum gathered at the 24th annual Haggerty Gala to honor John and Rosemary Monroe, recipients of the Kairos Award presented annually to honor Friends of the Museum for their distinguished service to the fine arts and activities in the community. A total of $51,596 was raised to benefit the Museum’s Exhibition and Education Fund thanks to the extraordinary efforts of chairpersons, Deb Gannon, Tricia Ognar and Sarah Rock.

Friends of the Haggerty Fall Gala 2008

The South of France with the Haggerty Friends

Friends of the Haggerty Museum and members of the travel committee along with Wally Mason, director of the Museum, enjoyed a wonderful trip to the South of France (Sept. 4-14). While in France, the group stayed in Saint Remy de Provence and Nice. Highlights of the trip included various sites where Van Gogh and Gaugain painted along with visits to the Angladon Museum, Musée Granet, Cezanne’s workshop and Rosary Chapel designed by Henri Matisse.

Mark Your Calendars!

Our next destination is Minneapolis for a long weekend in September, 2009. We will visit the Institute of Art with its Michael Graves expansion, the internationally acclaimed Walker Art Center and the Frank Gehry designed Weisman Art Museum along with other art destinations including a number of private collections. An evening with area Marquette alums is also being planned.
Haggerty News
Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University

Calendar of Events

December

7/Sun Closing — Turn the Pages Slowly: Rare Books and Manuscripts from the Haggerty Collection
12/Fri Opening — Whatever is There is a Truth: Robert Rauschenberg’s Prints
24/Thurs Museum Closed
25/Fri Museum Closed

January

Date/TBA Art Associates Winter Cocktail Party - in the Museum
1/Thurs Museum Closed
12/Mon Friends of the Haggerty Museum Board Meeting - 12 noon, Alumni Memorial Union
16/Fri Gallery Night — Museum open until 9 p.m.
17/Sat Gallery Day — continuation; Museum open until 4:30 p.m.

February

12/Thurs Gallery Talk with Janet Biggs - a presentation on the exhibition stop.look.listen. — 6 p.m. in the Museum
18/Weds Student Fine Arts Night, 7 to 9:30 p.m.
22/Sun closing - stop.look.listen: an exhibition of video works

March

12/Thurs Opening — Current Tendencies: Ten Artists from Wisconsin
26/Thurs Open Forum — “The State of Art: The Visual Arts in Wisconsin,” 7 p.m. in the Museum

In addition, metered parking is available on Clybourn Avenue between 13th and 16th Streets.