



Museum Herald

A PUBLICATION OF THE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

2012 EDITION

Tanner's 'Mary' on Tour

La Salle University Art Museum's iconic painting of *Mary* (1898) by Henry Ossawa Tanner is on tour as part of the highly successful traveling exhibition, "Henry Ossawa Tanner: Modern Spirit," organized by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA).

During its PAFA run from Jan. 28 to April 15, 2012, the exhibition was viewed by more than 64,000 visitors, including about 5,400 schoolchildren, and garnered positive press coverage in local and regional media. The show also received a great deal of scholarly attention, with the first technical study of Tanner's artistic materials and methods and with the publication of an exhibition catalogue. The presence of La Salle's painting was noticed by many, including a reporter from the *Catholic Standard and Times*, who wrote a special feature article on the exhibition early this spring.

In addition to loaning Tanner's *Mary* to PAFA, the Art Museum also loaned Hubert Robert's *The Tomb of Virgil at Posilipo, Naples* (1784) to the Palazzo Te in Mantua, Italy, for a special exhibition on the impact of Virgil on European art. The painting was on display in Mantua from October 2011 to January 2012. "These loans allow the paintings to be re-contextualized within exhibitions that present the public with exciting new information, interpretations, and art historical discoveries," said Klare Scarborough, Ph.D., Director of the La Salle Art Museum.

Tanner's *Mary* will continue to inspire and enrich the lives of many as it travels. "Henry Ossawa Tanner: Modern Spirit" opened on May 26 at the Cincinnati Art Museum and will travel to the Houston Museum of Fine Arts in October, returning to La Salle in January 2013.

Spotlight on Recent Art Acquisitions

We would like to thank the individuals who have made donations of museum-quality artwork this past year. We appreciate your support as we work to improve and expand our collection.



Giovanni Battista Piranesi (1720–1778), *Villa Panfilii furori di Porta S. Pancrazio*, 1776, etching. Gift from the Estate of Helen F. North, Ph.D.



Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859–1937), American, *Mary*, 1898, oil on canvas, 84-P-298. Purchased with funds given by Mr. and Mrs. Ragan Henry.

From the Director

This marks our second annual newsletter. This past year, we presented a full schedule of exhibitions and public programs that served the La Salle community as well as broader public audiences. This spring, we hosted a group of Buddhist monks, who created a sand mandala in the Renaissance Gallery while educating visitors about Tibetan spiritual traditions. Overall, we received close to 6,500 visitors, including about 1,300 schoolchildren.

We also expanded our collections with gifts of artwork from both alumni and non-alumni supporters, as well as an oil painting donated by the Rosenbach Museum and Library. Our new acquisitions of artwork from Europe and America, as well as Africa and Asia, enhance the Art Museum's educational mission within an increasingly global world. Also, with your support, we were able to conserve seven paintings and 12 original works on paper.

We are looking forward to a full lineup of exhibitions, programs, and other activities in the coming year. Please enjoy this newsletter and come visit with us again soon!



Klare Scarborough, Ph.D.,
Director and Chief Curator

News on Exhibitions

This past year, we presented exhibitions showcasing La Salle faculty artists, emerging artist Sarah Hunter, 2011 PEW Arts Fellow Jane Irish, and pop artist Andy Warhol. The solo shows were well-reviewed in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and the Jane Irish show was named one of the Institute of Contemporary Art's Curatorial Hot Picks and was featured on WHYY's "Newsworks" Web site. The Warhol exhibition was supported by a grant from The Samuel S. Fels Fund and was reviewed by the local CBS affiliate, KYW News Radio; by *The Philadelphia Inquirer*; and in feature articles in the *Bucks County Courier Times*, *The Intelligencer*, and the *Burlington County Times*.

This coming year, the fall semester begins with our fifth annual exhibition of artworks by faculty members who are professional artists. Following this, our fall solo exhibition will present drawings and sculpture by Howard (Hao) Tran, an assistant professor at Lycoming College, whose work explores interesting issues of identity and culture.

The winter exhibition will address the concept of ambiguity in Symbolist-era prints. Carmen Vendelin, the Curator of Art, will be joined by Siobhan Conaty, Ph.D., associate professor of art history; Marc Moreau, Ph.D., Chair of the Philosophy Department; and Vince Kling, Ph.D., professor of German and literature, in writing catalog essays

CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS FOR 2012–2013:

- "Howard Tran Drawings and Sculpture," Sept. 19–Nov. 29, 2012
- "Strategic Ambiguity: The Obscure, Nebulous, and Vague in Symbolist Prints," Dec. 6, 2012–March 1, 2013
- "Charles Searles: The Mask of Abstraction," March 11–May 31, 2013

and presenting talks in support of the exhibition. La Salle University alum and Temple graduate student Rachel McCay and undergraduate curatorial intern Emily Levy, '13, are writing catalog entries and wall text for the exhibition and catalog. The exhibition and catalog are supported by a grant from the International Fine Print Dealers Association.

The spring 2013 exhibition will feature abstract paintings, drawings, and sculptures by the late Philadelphia artist Charles Searles. Director and Chief Curator Klare Scarborough will teach a fall undergraduate exhibition seminar at La Salle, in conjunction with a graduate seminar taught at Temple University by Susanna Gold, Ph.D. Students in both seminars will write exhibition labels and text panels, along with entries for a catalog publication.

Conservation Updates

We made major headway this year conserving paintings on permanent display, following the recommendations of a 2009 Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)-funded conservation survey. Thanks to generous support from the Stockman Family Foundation, six paintings received conservation treatments to stabilize and consolidate insecure paints: Jacob de Heusch, *Arcadian Landscape* (18th century); Alex Katz, *Study for Portrait of Neil Welliver* (1964); Anonymous, *Florentine Lady in Mourning* (16th century); Walter Williams, *New Day* (1954); Dorothea Tanning, *The Temptation of Saint Anthony* (1945–1946); and Bruges School, *The Baptism of Christ* (c. 1480). For details on the conservation, please see the online exhibition at <http://artmuseum.lasalle.edu>.

Additionally, we conserved a portrait of *Whistler by the Thames* (1871) by Walter Greaves, received as a gift from the Rosenbach Museum and Library. The painting stands out as one of Greaves' finest works, but it had major condition issues, including a large tear. Conserved with generous support from the Irwin Nat and Marjorie M. Pincus Endowment Fund and the Art Angels, this painting is now featured on permanent display in the 19th Century Gallery.

Finally, with support from the Art Angels, we conserved original drawings dating from the 16th to the 20th century by important artists such as Martin Freminet, Anders Zorn, and Cecilia Beaux. The conservation was done in tandem with an American Heritage Preservation Grant, a special initiative of IMLS and Bank of America, which covered the costs of archival matting and reglazing for a

total of 12 drawings, along with fees for a professional conservation assessment. After completing the conservation required for nine of the artworks, the complete group of 12 drawings was exhibited this past spring in the 20th Century Hallway.

We are committed to the long-term preservation and care of artworks in the collection as we continue to explore funding opportunities to support our conservation needs.



Dorothea Tanning (American, 1910–2012), *The Temptation of St. Anthony* (1945–1946), oil on canvas, 85-P-314. Conserved in 2012 with Support from the Stockman Family Foundation.

Education and Community Outreach Programs

This past year, the Education and Community Outreach programs served more than 2,000 youth and adults. We engaged classes from area schools and summer youth programs through a combination of free, year-round in-gallery, outreach, and multiple-visit programs. We reconnected with previous partners, including the Cultural Arts Center at Philadelphia Developmental Disabilities Corporation (PDDC) and Young Scholars Frederick Douglass Charter School. We also added new partners, such as the Ambler YMCA.

In March, we hosted the annual Archdiocese of Philadelphia High School Art Exhibition in our Community Art Gallery, featuring work by more than 200 students from 19 Catholic high schools. The opening was attended by more than 200 parents, students, teachers, school administrators, and La Salle University leaders. We also showcased artwork by La Salle digital arts students through the summer. Looking at spring 2013, we have already scheduled the next annual Archdiocesan High School Art Exhibition, with the opening reception and awards ceremony taking place on April 13, 2013.

We look forward to another fantastic year in 2012–2013, as we grow our Education and Community Outreach programs and expand our network of community partnerships. We will also continue to seek funding to subsidize the transportation costs of Art Museum visits for qualified K–12 schools with low-income students.

Cultural Partnerships

PDDC's Cultural Arts Center offers adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities the opportunity to express themselves and foster community connections through the creative and performing arts. For the past three years, La Salle University Art Museum and the Cultural Arts Center have partnered on a program called Cultural Collaborations. Program participants learn about the Art Museum's collection and create a visual dialogue with the artwork. Their work is then exhibited in the Art Museum's Community Art Gallery. This painting was inspired by the Indian miniature paintings in the Art Museum's collection.



Richard Johnston, *The Gods, and All the People and Creatures of the Universe Emerge from a Lotus Held by the God Vishnu*, 2011, ink and watercolor.

Spotlight on Interns

This year, the Art Museum had its second museum education intern. Melissa Umlauf, '12, earned internship credits for her work with the Curator of Education. Some of Umlauf's tasks included developing lesson plans for pre-K–12 groups, teaching lessons to preschool groups, and developing self-guided tours on "Exploring Color in Modern Art" and "Exploring Shapes" for families with young children. Umlauf's passion for working with young children was a great asset to the Art Museum this year. In the fall, she will begin graduate school at Dowling College in New York to study education. We wish her well in her future endeavors!



Museum Education Intern
Melissa Umlauf, '12

Spotlight on Schools



The Pony Class from Building Blocks Child Development Center

The 4-year-old Pony class from Building Blocks Child Development Center visited the Art Museum every two weeks in the fall and spring of this year. During each visit, they looked at two or three artworks, read a story, and made a themed art project to take home. Many of their gallery lessons were developed to complement their preschool curriculum. We look forward to continuing this partnership!



ART MUSEUM

1900 West Olney Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
19141-1199 USA

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1167
Philadelphia, PA

Art Angels and the Brother Daniel Burke Endowment Fund

We would like to thank contributors to the Art Angels Fund for their generous support this past year. Your gifts are placed in an unrestricted account, which means that we can direct the funds to projects with the greatest needs, such as conservation, exhibitions, and educational programs. We would also like to thank contributors to the Brother Daniel Burke Endowment Fund, which generates income to support vital educational needs of the Art Museum. Please contact the Art Museum Director for information about donating to either of these funds, or send your check directly to the La Salle University Advancement Office, 1900 W. Olney Ave., Box 809, Philadelphia, PA 19141, with "ART MUSEUM" and the fund name on the memo line.

Art Museum Hours

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday by appointment.

Please call ahead during summer and University holidays to confirm hours.

Art Museum Contact Information

Art Museum Phone: 215.951.1221
E-mail: artmuseum@lasalle.edu
Web site: www.lasalle.edu/museum

Electronic Communications

Please help us conserve resources. Sign up for our e-mail updates at artmuseum@lasalle.edu. Also, let us know if you would like to receive future newsletters by e-mail only.

Admission and Group Tours

Admission is free. Group tours are given by appointment. Please call to make special arrangements for large groups of visitors.

Art Museum Staff

Klare Scarborough, Director and Chief Curator; Carmen Vendelin, Curator of Art; Miranda Clark-Binder, Curator of Education

Volunteers

Robert Croker, Karen Schoenewaldt, Nora Pincus Schwarz, Alison J. Leedy, Whitney Lopez, Rachel McCay

Committee for the Arts

William E. Kelly Jr. (Chair), Brother James L. Butler, F.S.C., Daniel K. Fitzpatrick, Brother Brian Henderson, F.S.C., Laura Kind McKenna, Patricia D. Wellenbach; *Ex Officio*: Brother Michael J. McGinniss, F.S.C., William Sauter, Alice L. Hoersch, Joseph Marbach, Klare Scarborough

Advisory Council

Dennis Boylan, Paul Brazina, Camille DiLullo, Amelia Longo, John D. Rilling, Nora Pincus Schwarz, Robert M. Vogel, Thomas P. Witt



Walter Greaves (British, 1846–1930), *Whistler by the Thames* (1871), oil on canvas, 11-P-546. Gift of the Rosenbach Museum and Library. Conserved in 2011 with Support from the Irwin Nat and Marjorie M. Pincus Endowment Fund and the Art Angels.