

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Press Contact: Carmen Vendelin
215.951.1221 vendelin@lasalle.edu

PHILADELPHIA (February 5, 2014)—La Salle University Art Museum is proud to present the exhibition ***American Scenes: WPA-Era Prints of the 1930s and 1940s***, on view Mar. 12 – May 30, 2014.

This exhibition of fine art prints showcases some of the primary concerns of American printmakers during the 1930s and 1940s. Featuring works from the permanent collection of the La Salle University Art Museum and Works Progress Administration (WPA) prints borrowed from the Print and Picture Collection of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the exhibition tells the story of rural and urban life, of industrialization and hard times. The WPA employed artists between 1935 and 1943 as part of a wider New Deal project to put people to work during the Great Depression. Artists were hired without regard for ethnicity, race or gender and this diversity is reflected in the range of artists included in this exhibition. These artists depicted people laboring and at leisure. They illustrated the effects of the Dust Bowl and factory closures. Working in a variety of styles and media, these artists helped to define the American Scene. Printmakers represented in this exhibition include Thomas Hart Benton, Dox Thrash, Charlotte Angus, Elizabeth Banks, Bessie Rigrinsky, Edward Palmer, Horatio Forjohn, Michael Gallagher, Raymond Steth, Benton Spruance, and Hale Woodruff.

The exhibition catalogue—featuring introductory texts by La Salle University Provost Joseph R. Marbach and Free Library President and Director Siobhan A. Reardon; and essays by La Salle University curators and faculty—will be available for purchase via Lulu.com and Amazon.com. Additionally, the Free Library of Philadelphia’s Print and Picture Collection will host a collaborative website for the exhibition.

Free Public Exhibition Programming:

Programming for the exhibition will include the following free public lectures:

- Charles Gallagher, Professor and Chair of Sociology and Criminal Justice at La Salle University, will lecture on “Imagining Immigration: Images as Ideology,” on March 27, 2014, Holroyd Hall, Room 190, from 1-2 p.m.
- Sharon Musher, Associate Professor of History and Director of American Studies at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and author of the forthcoming book *A New Deal for the Arts* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), will lecture on “Re/visiting American Scenes: The New Deal’s Short-Lived Quest for Cultural Democracy” on April 1, 2014, in Holroyd Hall, Room 190, from 1-2 p.m.
- David George, Professor of Economics at La Salle University, will lecture on economics in the U.S. in the 1930s and 40s, on April 8, 2014, in Holroyd Hall, Room 190, from 1-2 p.m.

All three lectures will take place on the main campus of La Salle University. The exhibition will be accompanied by free educational programs for adult and special needs groups, as well as pre-K-12 school groups.

Supporters and co-sponsors of the exhibition and related programs include the Philadelphia Cultural Fund; the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; the Brother Daniel Burke Endowment Fund for Education; and La Salle University’s School of Business and Departments of Fine Arts, Sociology and Criminal Justice, Economics, and American Studies Program. Special thanks to the Free Library of Philadelphia and its Print and Picture Collection for their partnership in this project.

The La Salle University Art Museum is located on the lower level of Olney Hall on the campus of La Salle University at 19th Street and Olney Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Art Museum will also be open to the public from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on three upcoming Saturdays: April 5, April 12, and May 17. Admission is free, though donations are accepted. Please call to schedule group visits. Special tours can be arranged. For further information call 215.951.1221 or visit the website at <http://www.lasalle.edu/museum/>.