

THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE



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THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE CELEBRATES 90TH ANNIVERSARY BY HIGHLIGHTING 90 TREASURES FROM ITS PERMANENT COLLECTION

(DAYTON, OHIO) – June 23, 2009 – In celebration of its 90th Anniversary, The Dayton Art Institute will highlight its own art, with the exhibition *90 Treasures: From the Collection of the Dayton Art Institute*, on view June 27 – December 31. Located throughout the museum’s galleries, these works will be specially designated, so visitor may learn more about each work as they tour the museum.

“As we celebrate the museum’s 90th Anniversary, I am conscious of how significantly The Dayton Art Institute has benefited from the vision and dedication of our founders, the generosity and discerning taste of the collectors in our community, and the leadership exercised by its past directors and Boards of Trustees,” says Janice Driesbach, Director and CEO of The Dayton Art Institute. “As we look ahead, The Dayton Art Institute will continue to serve as a place of respite, enrichment and social interaction, enhancing our community for many years to come.”

The Dayton Art Institute’s permanent collection began in 1919, when Mrs. Julia Shaw Carnell donated Harriet Frishmuth’s bronze, *Joy of the Waters*, to the newly established Dayton Museum of Arts. Since then, the growth of the collection and the generosity of donors have been mainstays at the museum. The permanent collection now numbers 26,000 objects, ranging from pre-Columbian ceramics to video assemblage.

More than 1,000 works of art are on view at The Dayton Art Institute — all of them treasures. To choose the 90th Anniversary treasures, the expertise of four specialists was enlisted: The Dayton Art Institute's Chief Curator, Will South; Dominique H. Vasseur, *Curator of European Art, Columbus Museum of Art*; Lisa Morrisette, *Assistant Professor Art and Art History, Wright State University*; and Alejandra Gimenez-Berger, *Assistant Professor of Art, Wittenberg University*.

They have jointly selected 90 pieces from throughout the museum to draw attention to the wonderful collection that has been assembled over the past nine decades. *90 Treasures* represents a *recognition* of what The Dayton Art Institute means to the community. **90 Treasures** is the first exhibition organized by Will South, The Dayton Art Institute's new chief curator.

“As you walk through this grand building – which is itself a treasure – the purpose of the **90 Treasures** is to rediscover the depth and beauty of a collection that spans the history of the world and its cultures,” stated South.

90 Treasures is free and open to the public during regular museum hours. Visitors are encouraged to *turn their cell phones on* at the museum – a cell phone tour of the exhibition will allow visitors to learn more about the *90 Treasures* from the experts who selected the works.

A number of special 90th Anniversary events will also take place in conjunction with **90 Treasures**. For a complete list of events, see the insert in the June 21 *Dayton Daily News* or log on to www.daytonartinstitute.org for more details.

90 Treasures: From the Collection of The Dayton Art Institute is Sponsored by The Virginia W. Kettering Foundation, The Berry Family Foundation, The Dayton Power & Light Company Foundation, Premier Health Partners and Miller-Valentine Group, with Additional Support from DoubleTree Hotel. Media Sponsor is WHIO-TV.

For more information about this exhibition and other programs at The Dayton Art Institute, please visit www.daytonartinstitute.org or call 937-223-5277.

ABOUT THE DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

As one of the Miami Valley's premier fine art museums, The Dayton Art Institute — which is in its 90th year — offers a full range of programming in addition to exhibiting its collection. The galleries and Museum Store are open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday with extended hours on Thursday until 8 p.m. Free parking is available at the museum and the facility is fully accessible to physically-challenged visitors. CAFE MONET by Elegant Fare serves lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, please call 937-223-4278 or visit www.daytonartinstitute.org.

The Ohio Arts Council helped fund this organization with state tax dollars to encourage economic growth, educational excellence and cultural enrichment for all Ohioans. The DAI also receives support from the Montgomery County Arts and Cultural District.

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