

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center www.fineartscenter.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 13, 2009

WHAT: University Gallery Opens Permanent Collection Study Room to the Public

WHEN: October 2009

**WHERE: University Gallery
Fine Arts Center
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 413-545-1986 for more information or
go online to <http://www.fineartscenter.com/universitygallery/>**

IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to <http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/pressRoom/>

University Gallery opens Permanent Collection Study Room to the Public

After 35 years of collecting, the University Gallery has opened its permanent collection to the public, by appointment, as of October 26, 2009.

The collection, which was started by professor emeritus Walter Kamys as a teaching collection for art students, has grown to over 2500 works on paper. It is the most expansive compilation of contemporary photographs, drawings, and prints to be housed in a Massachusetts public institution outside of Boston. By opening a collection study-storage room, we will renew our commitment to serve UMass students and faculty, the Five College community, and the public at large.

Loretta Yarlow, director of the University Gallery is pleased to have brought the collection to this stage of development. "It took several years," she said recently, "of organizing, cataloging, and digitizing the collection. We needed appropriate storage and viewing space to enable research and study of individual art works. Without the generous help of our donors, the project would not have been possible." The UMass collection database (with digital images, provenance, artists' bios, etc.) is linked to the Five College Museums/Historic Deerfield Collections Database.

As we move forward to this new level of public involvement, the University Gallery will increasingly engage students by teaching visual literacy and imparting tools they can use to not only look at, but really see and understand the artwork before them. This is a vital skill for students living in a media-saturated world, and it is our goal that all UMass

students, by the time they graduate, will be able to skillfully navigate the visual, as well as the textual world.

We will arrange for requested artworks to be available at a particular time for a class of up to 10 students, or individual faculty or student visits. The collection study room will be open to the public by appointment. To view artworks online, please follow instructions at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/universitygallery/permanent/collection.html>.

To make an appointment to view specific artworks in our collection study room, please visit our website at: <http://www.umass.edu/fac/universitygallery/permanent/collection.html>.

For further questions, please call the Collection Registrar, Justin Griswold at 545-1986, or email him at justgris@admin.umass.edu.

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