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Fact Sheet

“Graphic Masters II: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum”

Exhibition

“Graphic Masters II: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum”
June 19 – Jan. 10, 2010

Location

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Eighth and F streets N.W.
Graphic Arts galleries, second floor

Description

“Graphic Masters II: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum” is the second in a series of special installations that celebrate the extraordinary variety and accomplishment of American artists’ works on paper. These 39 exceptional watercolors, pastels and drawings from the 1920s to the 1960s reveal the central importance of works on paper for American artists, both as studies for creations in other media and as finished works of art. Traditionally a more intimate form of expression than painting or sculpture, drawings often reveal greater spontaneity and experimentation. Even as works on paper become larger and more finished, competing in scale with easel paintings, they retain a sense of the artist’s hand, the immediacy of a thought made visible.

Rarely seen works from the museum’s permanent collection by artists such as Isabel Bishop, John Steuart Curry, Stuart Davis, Dorothy Dehner, Sam Francis, Edward Hopper, William H. Johnson, Willem de Kooning, Charles Sheeler, Joseph Stella, Grant Wood and Andrew Wyeth are featured in the exhibition. Joann Moser, senior curator for graphic arts, selected the artworks in the exhibition.

Free Public Program

A gallery talk with Moser is scheduled for Thursday, July 30, at 5:30 p.m.

Publication

A souvenir book, titled “Graphic Masters: Highlights from the Smithsonian American Art Museum” and published by the museum in 2003, includes several works in the installation with entries by Moser. It is available for \$19.95 in the museum’s store and online.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum, located above the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metrorail station, is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., except Dec. 25. Admission is free. Museum information (recorded): (202) 633-7970. Smithsonian Information: (202) 633-1000; (202) 633-5285 (TTY). Web site: americanart.si.edu.

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