

AW ARTWORDS **SPRING 2018**

**DAVID OWSLEY
MUSEUM OF ART**

**BALL
STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Vol. 23 No. 2

a newsletter for the Friends of
the David Owsley Museum of Art



IN THIS ISSUE: RICHARD DIEBENKORN, SMART PROGRAM FOR MUNCIE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AT DOMA, A NEW FACE AT THE MUSEUM, CALENDAR OF EVENTS, AND MORE!



ARTWORDS

David Owsley Museum of Art

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WRITERS

Robert G. La France (RGL)
Tania Said (TS)
Rachel Buckmaster (RB)
Cathy Bretz (CB)

DESIGN

Aubrey Smith Creative

COVER ART

Untitled, 1952

Richard Diebenkorn, *American (1922-1993)*, gouache on paper, © Richard Diebenkorn Foundation

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

This spring, the David Owsley Museum of Art features the blockbuster exhibition, *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942-1955*. Organized by the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation in collaboration with the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, California, the exhibition marks an important milestone for the museum. Since joining Ball State University in 2014, I have believed that DOMA's historic building and stellar collection rightfully belong to a greater network of significant art museums across the country. It is a privilege and an honor to host an exhibition from the Crocker Art Museum connected to three other important venues: the Portland Art Museum in Oregon; the Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California; and the Academy Art Museum in Easton, Maryland. This show, and other future exchanges of loans and exhibitions, will help to bring DOMA and Ball State University greater recognition.

Beginnings focuses on the famous California artist's student days and early career, which are ideal subjects for a university art museum. The 100 works of art on display document the artist's early experimentation with a variety of influences and successful Abstract Expressionist style before turning towards figuration in the mid-1950s. While of an immediate appeal to students, the museum is also presenting the exhibition to the wider public through a series of events and programs that spark the imagination and tap into local creativity. Please join us for special tours, a free lecture by the exhibition's curator Dr. Scott Shields, and painting workshops for adults and children.

Speaking of the latter, DOMA continues to engage with local K-12 students as well as other public and private schools in the region. In the fall of 2017, the museum successfully completed the SMART program, which brought fourth grade students in the Muncie Community Schools to

the museum. This was a monumental effort on the part of the museum education team, and you can read more about it in this issue of *ARTwords*. School tours, public docent tours, and signature programs like Meditation in the Museum and Final Fridays all play a role in a larger engagement strategy to connect the museum to both the public and the student body. Organizations such as the DOMA Alliance and Friends support this strategy, and we encourage you to invite everyone to join. Art in Bloom 2018, the fundraiser set for Friday evening, May 18 (followed by a free floral exhibition throughout the weekend of May 19-20), is one of many great opportunities to show a friend all that the museum has to offer. As a reminder, those May dates are also the final weekend for the Richard Diebenkorn show, so you and your friends can enjoy both spectacles. I'll see you in the galleries!

Robert G. La France

▼ **Untitled, 1945**

Richard Diebenkorn, American (1922-1993)
watercolor and ink on paper
© Richard Diebenkorn Foundation



▼ **Untitled, 1949**

Richard Diebenkorn, American (1922-1993)
oil on canvas
© Richard Diebenkorn Foundation



▲ **Untitled (Albuquerque), 1952**

Richard Diebenkorn, American (1922-1993)
oil on canvas
© Richard Diebenkorn Foundation

▲ **Untitled (Horse and Rider), 1954**

Richard Diebenkorn, American (1922-1993)
oil on canvas
© Richard Diebenkorn Foundation



feb 1 - may 20
EXHIBITION

RICHARD DIEBENKORN: BEGINNINGS

CURATED BY SCOTT SHIELDS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF CURATOR, CROCKER ART MUSEUM
ORGANIZED BY THE RICHARD DIEBENKORN FOUNDATION, BERKELEY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
CROCKER ART MUSEUM, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

The famous West Coast artist Richard Diebenkorn (1922–1993) is best known as an abstract painter from the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles, California. Yet few realize that the artist developed aspects of his personal style while in the Southwest and Midwest. The exhibition *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942–1955* focuses on the initial years of the artist's career and the David Owsley Museum of Art is its sole Midwestern venue.

Many of the elements that came to define Diebenkorn's mature work are present in his earliest paintings and drawings, which evolved rapidly from representational landscape scenes and portraits of military colleagues, to semi-abstract and Surrealist-inspired depictions of topography and the human form, to mature Abstract Expressionist paintings that he made while living in California, New Mexico, and Illinois. In 1955, the artist abandoned the nonobjective purity of Abstract Expressionism and, while keeping its painterly language, returned to representational painting. He reversed course yet again in 1967, after moving to Santa Monica, California, where he produced a new, highly acclaimed series of abstract compositions that he called Ocean Park.

The exhibition features 100 paintings and drawings from the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation in Berkeley that illustrate the early phase of Diebenkorn's career: the Sausalito (California), Albuquerque (New Mexico), Urbana (Illinois), and "early Berkeley" periods of Abstract Expressionism (1947–1955). The display ends with works that suggest the beginning of his second phase, the so-called Berkeley figurative/representational period (1955–1966), which was followed by the third and final portion of the artist's body of work, the Ocean Park (1967–1987) and Healdsburg (1988–1992) series of abstractions.

Diebenkorn's beginnings are a particularly appropriate topic for a university art museum. The subject invites current students to examine the artist's education and results of his youthful experimentation with various styles and media. As a group, the paintings and drawings on display reveal the forces that shaped Diebenkorn as

a young artist: the California landscape; his service in the Marines; his teachers and the work of other artists he admired (both those he knew personally and those he did not)—all of which helped him to find his own voice. Though his evolution was rapid by most artists' standards, he did not, as previous accounts have suggested through the omission of his formative work, suddenly arrive on the scene as an Abstract Expressionist prodigy. His path was as circuitous as it was exceptional and still inspires students, artists, and admirers today.

A beautifully illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition and is available for purchase. It includes a scholarly narrative of the artist's early years by Dr. Scott Shields and reproduces many paintings and drawings—especially the earliest ones—that have not been seen by the public except in the context of the artist's new catalogue raisonné (some had been unknown to the Richard Diebenkorn Foundation until recently).

Several educational programs and events accompany the exhibition at DOMA. Free public programming includes Music in the Museum on Thursday, February 8, with Dr. James Helton, professor of piano performance in BSU's School of Music; DOMA's (Almost) Final Friday program on March 23 features the theme of beginnings; and exhibition curator Dr. Scott Shields will present the Petty Memorial Lecture on Thursday, April 19. Other programs require a small fee and registration, such as the exhibition-related teacher workshop on Saturday, February 3, and two Sunday painting workshops, one for adults on February 11 and another for children on April 8. On Tuesday, March 6, West Coast native artist and Distinguished Professor Emerita Patricia Nelson hosts a Lunch and Learn program about Richard Diebenkorn, followed on Wednesday, March 28, with a lecture on mid-twentieth-century art by Peg Koetsch, Distance Learning Coordinator for the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Please consult the museum calendar and bsu.edu/doma for registration and costs.

-RGL

PROGRAM CALENDAR

JAN

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
Monday
Museum Closed

15

FEB

ADULT PAINTING WORKSHOP
Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

11

Learn to paint expressive abstractions from the Richard Diebenkorn exhibition and Scott Anderson, professor of painting, BSU School of Art. All supplies provided.

Sculpture Court

For ages 16 and up

Space is limited; register and pay online: \$40, \$35 (BSU affiliate), \$30 (DOMA Friends member)

MAR

ALLIANCE LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM:
Thoughts on DOMA's Four Italian Renaissance Madonnas
Dr. Robert Glass, assistant professor of art history, School of Art, BSU
Wednesday, 12 pm

Enjoy a comparative art talk about DOMA's Italian Madonna paintings with Dr. Robert Glass.

Alumni Center

*First-time guests free; \$20 for Alliance members**

FEB

RICHARD DIEBENKORN EXHIBITION TEACHER WORKSHOP
Saturday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

03

Teachers are invited to view the Diebenkorn exhibition with Dr.

Mary Carter, assistant professor of art education, and Tania Said, DOMA director of education, and experience a hands-on art workshop as a jumping-off point for incorporating the exhibition into their classroom learning. All supplies provided.

In collaboration with the Art Education Association of Indiana.

Space is limited; register and pay online: \$20, \$10 (AEAI member)

FEB

ALLIANCE LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM:
Awe at DOMA and In and Out of the Classroom
Dr. Rachel Fredericks, assistant professor of philosophy, Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, BSU
Wednesday, 12 pm

14

A specialist in ethics, moral psychology, and feminist philosophy, Dr. Fredericks' talk will address awe in art at DOMA and more.

Alumni Center

*First-time guests free; \$20 for Alliance members**

MAR

(ALMOST) FINAL FRIDAY: BEGINNINGS
Friday, 6 - 9 pm

23

Local emcee Braydee Euliss introduces PechaKucha talks to Muncie to highlight what is creative and cool about the area. Stay to enjoy art, music with DJ Jannell, refreshments, cash bar, artist demonstrations, and more.

FEB

MUSIC IN THE MUSEUM: BEGINNINGS
Thursday:
5 pm Reception;
6 pm Performance;
7 pm Special Exhibition Viewing

08

Enjoy the sounds of *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942-1955*, including Bach, Mozart, and mid-20th century American music, with Dr. James Helton, professor of piano performance, BSU School of Music.

MAR

COMMUNITY VOICES: LUNCH AND LEARN WITH PAT NELSON
Tuesday, 12 pm

06

Enjoy a box lunch and tour of *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942-1955* with Pat Nelson, professor emerita, BSU School of Art

Sculpture Court

For ages 16 and up

Space is limited; register and pay online: \$20, \$15 (BSU affiliate), \$10 (DOMA Friends member)

JOIN THE FRIENDS OF DOMA

Minimum contribution of \$25 at bsu.edu/doma select "JOIN/GIVE" or call 765-285-5242.

*JOIN THE DOMA ALLIANCE

Minimum annual contribution of \$50 (\$25 for Friends members). Larger donations are encouraged to support exhibitions, acquisitions, and conservation at the museum. If you wish to join or attend an Alliance meeting, call 765-285-5242. All are welcome. Programs are subject to change without notice. Call ahead to confirm at 765-285-5242. All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

SPRING 2018



program CALENDAR

MAR

MID-20TH CENTURY AMERICAN ART Wednesday, 10 am

28

Enjoy a talk about mid-20th century American art from Peg Koetsch,

Distance Learning Coordinator, Smithsonian American Art Museum, then visit *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942-1955* with a staff member.

Sculpture Court

Space is limited; register and pay online: \$5, free for BSU affiliates and Friends members

APR

ALLIANCE LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM:

Not So Respectable Women in the History of Art and the DOMA Collection
Dr. Heather McCune Bruhn,
instructor of art history,
Pennsylvania State University
Wednesday, 12 pm

11

In her presentation and return visit to Ball State University, Dr. McCune Bruhn will focus on depictions of not-so-virtuous women in the DOMA collection from the Ancient through Early Modern periods.

Alumni Center

*First-time guests free; \$20 for Alliance members**

APR

FINAL FRIDAY: PLACE Friday, 6 - 9 pm

27

Local emcee Braydee Euliss introduces PechaKucha talks to Muncie to highlight what is creative and cool about the area. Stay to enjoy art, music with DJ Jannell, refreshments, cash bar, artist demonstrations, and more.

APR

YOUTH PAINTING WORKSHOP Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

08

Explore the Richard Diebenkorn exhibition by learning to paint in an

expressive manner with Dr. Michael Prater, art education professor, BSU School of Art. All supplies provided.

Sculpture Court

For ages 10 - 15

Space is limited; register and pay online: \$30, \$25 (BSU affiliate), \$20 (DOMA Friends member)

APR

PETTY MEMORIAL LECTURE: RICHARD DIEBENKORN

**Thursday:
5 pm Reception;
6 pm Lecture**

19

Dr. Scott Shields, associate
director, Crocker Art Museum

Explore the artist's life and *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942-1955* with Dr. Scott Shields, exhibition curator and associate director and curator of the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

MAY

CONTEMPORARY ART IN CINCINNATI Wednesday

09

Contemporary art in Cincinnati abounds! Visit the internationally recognized 21C Hotel to

tour the art and have lunch at the 21C Metropole restaurant, then enjoy a tour of art and architecture at the Contemporary Art Center next door.

Space is limited; register and pay online:

Alliance members: \$100, includes transportation, lunch, and tours.

Friends members: \$125, includes transportation, lunch, tours, and Alliance membership

Public: \$150, includes transportation, lunch, tours, and museum and Alliance membership

Meditation in the Museum

Most Fridays at 3:30 pm in the DOMA Asian Art Gallery

January 19 - Meditation as the 4th state of consciousness with Dr. George Wolfe

January 26 - Guided meditation for relieving stress with the Counseling Center

February 2 - The heart and the experience of surrender with Dr. George Wolfe

February 9 - Coloring your stress away with the Counseling Center

February 16 - Entering the state of non-desire with Dr. George Wolfe

February 23 - Compassion: improving your relationship with self and others with the Counseling Center

March 2 - The role of thoughts in meditation with Dr. George Wolfe

March 16 - Channeling your creativity into

mindfulness practice with the Counseling Center

March 23 - Awakening your faculties of insight and realization with Dr. George Wolfe

March 30 - Guided meditation and music with the Counseling Center

April 6 - Liberation from past impressions with Dr. George Wolfe

April 13 - Mindfulness for academic success with the Counseling Center

April 20 - Meditation in the Diebenkorn exhibition with Dr. George Wolfe

April 27 - Meditation in the Diebenkorn exhibition with the Counseling Center

Museum Hosts Available on Saturdays at 1:30 pm

Docents answer your questions and provide an overview of the museum before a Docent's Choice tour.

Docent's Choice Tours on Saturdays at 2:30 pm

Docents will use a tour theme developed by Dr. Lara Kuykendall's AHS 450 Museum Theory and Practice students in partnership with DOMA for the DOMA Project (DOMAin).

January 27 - Feminism and Women

February 3 - The Abstract

February 10 - Politics

February 17 - Fashion

February 24 - Geology

March 3 and 10 - No tours due to Spring Break

March 17 - Religion

March 24 - Strength

March 31 - Creatures

April 7 - Battles

April 14 - Sexuality and Romance

April 21 - Ceremony and Ritual

April 28 - Tranquility



DOMA'S SMART PROGRAM

WITH MUNCIE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ENABLES ART MUSEUM AND CAMPUS VISITS

Last fall, DOMA launched a new program for over 400 Muncie Community Schools fourth graders from all six elementary schools funded by the Ball Brothers Foundation. The School Museum Art Readiness Tours (SMART) emphasize Indiana art with social studies and language arts connections, using a specially developed interactive tour and pre- and post-visit classroom activities.

“The SMART program partnership has offered an awesome opportunity for Muncie Community Schools fourth grades to visit and experience the fabulous David Owsley Museum of Art,” said Dr. Dea Moore-Young, director of elementary education, Muncie Community Schools. “The standards-based tours provide a fine arts connection to language arts, social studies, and visual arts for our students. In addition to the academic and cultural experiences, students learned about artists from Indiana and were able to see and experience the beautiful campus of Ball State University.”

Preliminary data shows that before experiencing SMART, 77% of Muncie Community Schools fourth graders had not visited DOMA and 54% of them had not visited any art museum.

“The Museum’s SMART program for all of the MCS fourth graders was an excellent way to introduce the students to a meaningful understanding of ‘another world!’” said Nancy Swickard, West View Elementary School’s art teacher. “After taking a poll, I discovered that the students who

said they had visited an art museum thought we were talking about a children’s museum! Clearly the gasps that we heard when entering the doors were signs that they were in a totally new, amazing place!”

DOMA docents were trained specifically to lead the special tours and incorporate the Indiana teaching standards. “The students were engaged 110% with the docents who introduced them to a fascinating, in-depth way to view art, encouraging them to describe what they were seeing, and logical thinking. They clearly enjoyed drawing fanciful teapots based on the ones in the collection too,” Ms. Swickard noted.

Art teacher Natalie McKalip from Longfellow Elementary School said, “Thanks for supporting the art department and building a stronger community connection. The SMART program has made a huge impact! It has changed how the fourth grade students view the museum, artwork, and their own creativity.”

In December, all Muncie Community Schools fourth grade students and their families were invited to a special SMART celebration in collaboration with the Back to School Teachers Store. This spring, other Delaware County schools will be invited to participate in the SMART program. Financial assistance for transportation will be available through a grant from the Muncie Art Students’ League.

-TS & CB



A NEW FACE AT DOMA: DENISE MAHONEY

Considering the astonishing fact that the David Owsley Museum of Art collection includes more than 11,000 original works of art—a number that grows each month—the incredible role of providing for the care, preservation, safety, documentation, movement, storage, and accessibility of the museum’s artworks and associated records is critical. This past October, DOMA was very fortunate to hire Denise Mahoney as the new Registrar and Collection Manager to tackle these tasks and more.

Denise is quickly becoming familiar with DOMA’s storage challenges, several recent acquisitions requiring attention, and EmbARK, the museum’s new hosted collection management system. “A main goal of mine is to make this wonderful collection accessible online in a way that is useful for scholars, students, and the gen-

eral public. Much work is needed behind the scenes to edit and update the data, but I am definitely up for the challenge.”

Before coming to DOMA, Denise was the Collection and Exhibition Manager for the Department of American Art at the Art Institute of Chicago. While there, she managed several exhibitions and was a contributing author to books such as *The Age of American Impressionism: Masterpieces from the Art Institute of Chicago* (2011) and *American Modernism at the Art Institute of Chicago* (2009). Denise received a BFA in Art History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an MA in Modern Art History, Theory, and Criticism from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

-RB



staff
UPDATE

DOMA: SMALL STAFF, LARGE TEAM

For many of us, a campus job in college was an initial foray into gaining professional experience. Also for many of us, the opportunity to provide such an experience to students today is a rewarding aspect of working at a university museum. Those experiences intersect at DOMA in a myriad of ways and with much benefit on all sides.

If you have visited DOMA recently, the first and last sight you most likely encountered was the smiling face of one of our Visitor Assistants. DOMA relies upon more than 25 student employees each semester to fill this role, with responsibilities ranging from upholding the safety and security of our galleries, answering questions and being available to guests, and monitoring the climate and any changes in gallery or object condition throughout the day. These students study in all disciplines—from art history to criminal justice to telecommunications—and will use their DOMA experience in various fields after graduating, “I love working at DOMA!” says senior Alexis Foreman. “Working here made me excited to change my major to art history and has pushed my interest in museum studies.”

DOMA also employs several interns, student assistants, and graduate assistants to work behind the scenes on social media and marketing, collection management, educational programming, curatorial research, exhibition preparation, and much more. Senior Telecommunications and History major Ryan Shank completed not one but two internships with DOMA. He says, “I had the opportunity as a media intern to work closely on the *SHIFT* exhibition with the



visiting curator. That experience sparked an interest in knowing more about curating, and the following semester I applied for a curatorial internship, working closely with Director La France and gaining experience with historical research.”

DOMA truly could not serve our guests nor maintain our collection without the dedicated contributions from our student team. In turn, the full-time staff works hard to provide these students with impactful, professional experience that will enrich their resumes, their careers, and their lifelong appreciation of the arts. Director of Education Tania Said adds, “many excellent students have worked at DOMA and go on to museum careers and become museum supporters. Hearing how DOMA continues to influence and inform what they do is very rewarding.”

-RB



New to the Collection

DEFIANCE

The dramatic image is a visual interpretation of Dmitri Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 in C major, Opus 60, titled Leningrad. Like the symphony, the painting expresses the Russian people's defiance of Nazi totalitarianism during the Siege of Leningrad in the U.S.S.R (now St. Petersburg, Russia). The siege lasted from September 8, 1941 to January 27, 1944.

Jewish-American artist William Gropper painted in the Social Realist style. His canvas extolls the spirit of the besieged Soviet workers, represented here by the red-shirted, blond-haired man brandishing a pitchfork.

This painting once belonged to a collection visualizing significant musical compositions assembled by the now defunct Farnsworth Radio and Television Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

-RGL

▲ **Defiance, about 1942-3**

William Gropper, American (1897-1977)

oil on canvas

Gift of David T. Owsley via the Alconda-Owsley Foundation, 2017.011.000



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MUSEUM OF ART **STATE**
UNIVERSITY

Muncie, IN 47306-0420

Spring 2018

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Museum Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday: 1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

2021 W. Riverside Avenue

Muncie, IN 47306

bsu.edu/doma

765-285-5242

Parking is available in the McKinley Avenue garage between Riverside and University Avenues.

Follow DOMA on social media

