



Alexander Calder, *Little Blue Oval*,
metal, 11.75 x 7 inches, 1944
*Bequest of Monawee Allen
Richards, Class of 1934 (94.020)*

Collection/Reflection:

A History of Wheaton's Permanent Collection

curated by Kayla Malouin '10

March 7-April 16, 2010

BEARD GALLERY, WATSON FINE ARTS, WHEATON COLLEGE

The Permanent Collection exists as it does today in large part due to generous donations of individuals and families from and beyond the Wheaton community. Beginning with the gift of Wheaton family portraits, alumnae (and since 1987, alumni), professors, and their friends and families have donated artworks and objects in order to provide valuable teaching tools and research materials for faculty and students. Many also hoped their gifts would be used to beautify the campus environment. Donors played, and continue to play, a significant role in creating and developing the college's collection, with which I have worked as a student employee for the past three years. Due to my personal contact with the collection and my understanding of how donors impacted it, I have chosen to make them the focus of this exhibition.



Boston and Sandwich Glass Company, *Emerald Green Cup Plate with Ship Motif*, pressed glass, diameter 3.5 inches, 19th C., *Laila Raabe Collection of Early American Glass, Class of 1944 (50.012)*

The term “donor” usually brings to mind an individual who has given financial assistance to an institution. A donor may, however, also be an individual who gives art or ethnographic objects, personal documents, or other memorabilia. Several patrons featured in this exhibition have been generous in donating both funds and objects, thus demonstrating the breadth of their philanthropy. Many



Tlingit Culture, *Rattle Top Basket*, grass, root and stone, height 2.13 inches, diameter 3.06 inches, *Gift of Dr. Eleanor B. Kilham, Class of 1876 (88.050)*

donors to art collections, in particular, hope to supply future generations with objects that better enable them to understand various periods of art history and to provide students with an opportunity to view and/or handle objects directly. This is especially true for Wheaton's Permanent Collection, as most patrons intended their donations to be used for teaching purposes.

Collection/Reflection explores the lives and collecting practices of several contributors to Wheaton's Permanent Collection, as well as their reasons for donating to our institution. Although each of the nearly 200 do-

nors to the collection is extremely important and valued, this exhibition focuses on twenty-two in particular. Gifts from these individuals or families can be categorized in one or more of five ways; these categories and their respective donors are listed on the following pages. Without these patrons, the Wheaton College Permanent Collection would not be the remarkable teaching resource it is today, as it would not be as large or as eclectic. Both factors are beneficial to a liberal arts college like ours, as our students and faculty have diverse interests, many of which can be served by the collection.



Roberta Delaney, *Reflected Shadows*, 1/5, lithograph, 8 x 8 inches, 1994-5, Gift of Roberta Delaney (2002.006n)

The Wheaton College community treasures the Permanent Collection for the aesthetic pleasures and the opportunities for learning it provides. On behalf of the Permanent Collection, I express sincere gratitude to every donor for their invaluable contributions in creating and building a collection for the college and surrounding community. Due to the scope of this exhibition, I am unable to acknowledge every contributor. I would, however, like to acknowledge several whose donations are not featured in this exhibition: Edgar L. Ashley; Edgar and Lucky (Dallo) Eisner, Class of 1953; Marion Lothrop, Class of 1907; Jeanette Kittredge (Thomas J.) Watson, Class of 1902; E. Stanley Wires; and Morton Wolf.



Honoré Victorin Daumier, *Le Placeur* (from *Bohemiens in Paris*), hand colored lithograph, 12.06 x 8.75 inches, 1842, Wheaton College Collection (Purchased with the Shippee Memorial Fund) (76.005)



(above) Kitagawa Utamaro, *Two Women Looking at Scroll*, woodcut, 15 x 10 inches, 18th C., Gift of Eleanor Norcross, Class of 1872 (76.174) (left) Master of Jean Charpentier, "DuBourg" Book of Hours, illuminated manuscript, 6.42 x 4.8 x 0.79 inches, ca. 1475-1490, Purchased with the Adra M. Newell Endowment Fund (2005.013)

Donors by Category

Please note that the gifts of several donors featured in this exhibition belong to more than one category. All names are listed alphabetically.

1. Large, Unified Collections: In this category, the donor has created a focused collection and has given it to Wheaton as a single donation. Making his first donation in 1971, Professor J. David Bishop gave his collection of prints in honor of his wife Professor Doris Taylor Bishop; while in 1977, Dr. Victoria Cass donated her collection of more than 100 pieces of eighteenth century Wedgwood.

- Professor of Classics Emeritus J. David Bishop: prints
- Dr. Victoria (Maxwell) Cass, Class of 1934: Wedgwood
- Madeline Hunter Farnsworth, Class of 1937: ceramics
- Dr. Eleanor Bridge Kilham, Class of 1876: Native American and First Nations artifacts and baskets
- Edward T. & Adra M. Newell: mainly Roman and Egyptian art, artifacts, and coins
- Edwin O. Raabe: American glass

2. Large, Eclectic Collections: Each donor has given a variety of artworks, sometimes dozens in number. For example, Professor Thomas J. McCormick and his wife Margaret have donated works of art in a variety of media, while Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Shippee have given works created by many different artists.

- Professor of Classics Emeritus J. David Bishop: prints and sculpture
- Madeline Hunter Farnsworth, Class of 1937: ceramics, drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture, and other artworks
- Professor of Art History Emerita Mary Heuser: drawings, prints, and sculpture
- Alexander B. V. Johnson & Professor of Art History Emerita Roberta J. M. Olson: drawings, paintings, prints, and sculpture
- Dr. Eleanor Bridge Kilham, Class of 1876: baskets, drawings, cuneiform tablets, and other artifacts
- Professor of Art History Emeritus Thomas J. & Margaret (Dorkey) McCormick, Class of 1946: ceramics, drawings, photographs, and prints
- Eleanor Norcross, Class of 1872: paintings and Japanese prints
- Mary Rich (Mrs. Thomas) Richardson: paintings
- The family of Elizabeth Wright Shippee Class of x1937, and Nathan and Patricia Shippee: drawings, paintings, and prints

3. Objects by Wheaton-related Artists or of Wheaton-related Subjects: This category has three subgroups of donors: A) Donors who have given objects created by Wheaton professors or alumnae/i; B) individuals who are simultaneously donor, professor or alum/na, and artist; and C) the Wheaton family.

- Professor of Art Roberta Delaney: her own lithographs and etchings
- Professor of Art History Emerita Mary Heuser: faculty and student artwork
- Professor of Art Emeritus Vaino Kola: his own paintings and prints
- Professor of Art History Emeritus Thomas J. & Margaret (Dorkey) McCormick, Class of 1946: artwork by Professor of Art Vaino Kola
- Eleanor Norcross, Class of 1872: her own paintings
- Judith Knight Nulty, Class of 1966: her own paintings
- Nathan and Patricia Shippee: art by Judith Knight Nulty, Class of 1966
- Eliza Baylies Chapin Wheaton: Wheaton family portraits

4. Objects by Renowned Artists: Several donors have given artwork by well-known artists. For example, in 1994, Monawee Allen Richards bequeathed a sculpture by Alexander Calder; while beginning in 1977, Mr. and Mrs. Newton Loud gave several prints by the Renaissance artist Albrecht Dürer.

- Professor of Classics Emeritus J. David Bishop: works by Pablo Picasso, Giovanni Battista Piranesi and James McNeill Whistler
- Dr. Victoria (Maxwell) Cass, Class of 1934: Wedgwood
- Marjorie Gelb Jones, J.D., M.A., Class of 1962: drawing by Ludwig Bemelmans
- Dr. Harry L. & Ruth (Massell) Kozol, and their son Jonathan Kozol: prints by Le Corbusier and Joán Miró
- Newton G. & Helen (Lewis) Loud, Class of 1921: prints by Albrecht Dürer, Rembrandt van Rijn and James McNeill Whistler

4. Objects by Renowned Artists (continued):

- Professor of Art History Emeritus Thomas J. & Margaret (Dorkey) McCormick, Class of 1946: prints by Winslow Homer, Giovanni Battista Piranesi and Francesco Piranesi
- Monawee Allen Richards, Class of 1934: sculpture by Alexander Calder
- Nathan and Patricia Shippee: works by Salvador Dali and Childe Hassam

5. Endowed Funds: These donors established endowed funds for new acquisitions, or, in the case of the Newells, part of their donated collection was sold and the resulting monies used to endow such a fund.

- Eliot Fitch & Christine Price Bartlett, Class of 1946: Eliot Fitch & Christine Price Bartlett '46 Art Fund for the purchase of objects by living American artists
- Kenneth C. & Louise McKeon Deemer, Class of 1933: Louise McKeon Deemer '33 Art Fund for the purchase of objects that may be used as teaching tools
- Edward T. & Adra M. Newell: Adra M. Newell Endowment Fund (The Newell Bequest) for the purchase of objects that must be of use to both the Art/Art History and Classics departments.



Vaino Kola, *Volcanic Matter #2*, oil and acrylic on canvas, 52 x 66 inches, 1992, Purchased with the Eliot Fitch and Christine Price Bartlett '46 Art Fund (92.008)

Sources for Collection/Reflection biographical panels

Much of the biographical information is taken from a co-authored paper, written by Kayla Malouin and Leah Niederstadt and presented and published at an April 2009 symposium in Istanbul, Turkey. Other sources include donor and object files from the Permanent Collection, Wheaton College exhibition catalogs, files from the Marion B. Gebbie Archives and Special Collections, and the internet. A special thanks to Ann H. Murray, Professor of Art History and Director of the Beard & Weil Galleries and to Zephorene L. Stickney, College Archivist & Special Collections Curator, for their time, insightful recommendations, and for their knowledge of Wheaton's Permanent Collection and the donors who built it. Thank you as well to Leah Niederstadt, Assistant Professor of Museum Studies/Art History & Curator of the Permanent Collection, for supervising this project, and to Betsy Cronin, Manager, Arts Events and Publicity, Chris Hyde, Visual Resources Curator, and Jessica Kuszaj, Assistant Visual Resources Curator and Assistant to the Manager, Arts Events and Publicity.



(left) Judith Knight Nulty, *Watch House*, 2/20, lithograph, 17.6 x 11 inches, 1982, *Gift of Judith Knight Nulty, Class of 1966 (83.054)*
(below) Harry John Johnson, *Coffee Pot, Lycia*, watercolor on paper, 4.44 x 6.75 inches, 1884, *Gift of Alexander B. V. Johnson and Roberta J. M. Olson (2004.001.001)*



