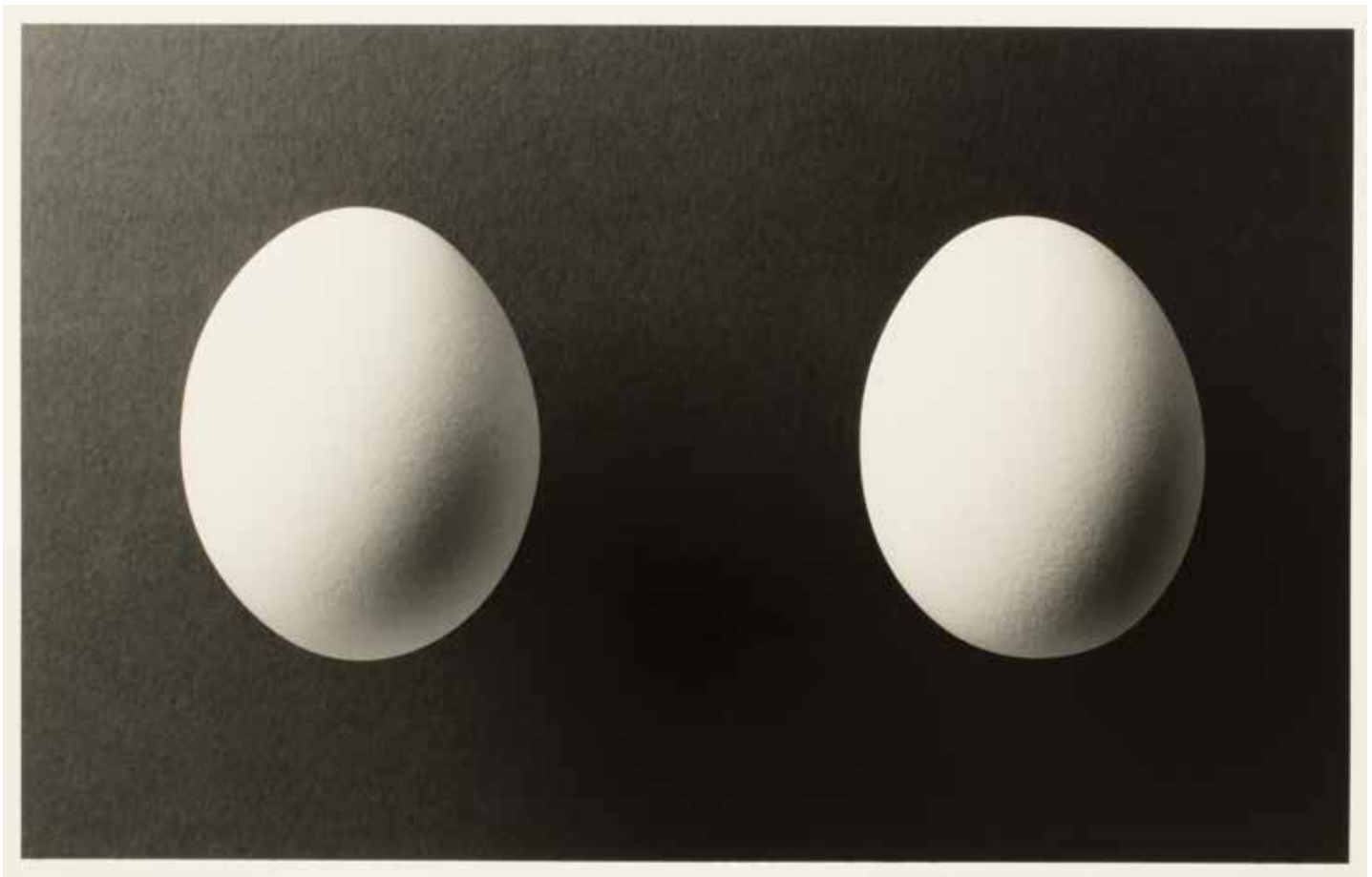


DAVID
OWSLEY
MUSEUM OF
ART BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

Vol. 25 | No. 1

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



IN THIS ISSUE: RECENT ACQUISITIONS, PROGRAM CALENDAR, DOMA'S COLLECTION DATABASE, BEHIND THE SCENES



ARTWORDS

David Owsley Museum of Art

SERVING EAST CENTRAL INDIANA SINCE 1936

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COVER ART

Two Eggs, Kenji Nakahashi, Japanese (1947-2017)

1984, gelatin silver print, Anonymous gift in memory of Kenji Nakahashi, 2018.020.021 © Center for Creative Photography, Arizona Board of Regents.

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MUSEUM STAFF

Robert G. La France, *Director*
Rachel Buckmaster, *Assistant Director*
Tania Said, *Director of Education*
Denise Mahoney, *Registrar and Collection Manager*
Randy Salway, *Exhibition Designer & Preparator*
Shannon Bryan, *Administrative Coordinator*
Cathy Bretz, *Education Coordinator*
Jordan Huffer, *Staff Photographer*
Noelle Giuffrida, *Assistant Curator*

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Shannon Bryan (SB)
Robert G. La France (RGL)
Denise Mahoney (DM)

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Aubrey Smith Creative



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This fall, the David Owsley Museum of Art opens the vaults to present students and the public with a glimpse into its collecting practices. *Recent Acquisitions: Connecting to the Past, Committing to the Future* features approximately 100 works of art acquired over the last three years. The objects on display not only celebrate the museum's nearly 85-year history and the Ball family's gifts but also demonstrate a dedication to the educational value of a wide-ranging, world art collection.

DOMA is an encyclopedic or universal art museum on a manageable scale that fits the university and region. The contents of its diverse and inclusive collection align with university courses and K-12 classes that emphasize critical thinking, literacy, the development of cultural competencies, and multicultural dialogues. In the last academic year, more than 5,000 Ball State University students

participated in pre-registered class visits to the museum. Ranging from art and art history to visual merchandising and writing courses, all incorporated elements of the world art collection into their coursework. An additional 3,300 public and private primary and secondary school students also registered for museum visits, including all Muncie Community Schools 4th-grade classes, thanks to a generous grant from the Ball Brothers Foundation. In all, the collection provided more than 35,000 visitors with access to information about world cultures, while the museum's educational programs served children with a multiplicity of learning styles. Please read more about our programs and statistics in the museum's annual reports, which are available online at bsu.edu/doma.

Several new and signature events accompany the special exhibition this

semester. New express talks by DOMA's registrar and collection manager, Denise Mahoney, address art by Latinx and Native American artists represented in the collection. Two Final Friday nights of PechaKucha talks, on September 27 and October 25, focus on the themes of "new" and "old" in honor of the *Recent Acquisitions* exhibition. DOMA continues to offer popular programs like Friday Meditation in the Museum and weekend docent-led tours. DOMA Alliance members will also enjoy lunchtime art talks by local and regional experts, including the deputy director of the Indiana Arts Commission, museum curators, and Ball State University professors. Please join and learn more! As we enter a new era at Ball State University defined by a bold strategic plan and a new budget model, the museum remains a tangible connection to the past and a manifestation of the university's more inclusive future.

RGL

▼ **Edine, Swoon, American (born 1977)**
 2017, 13 color silkscreen, 27/50
 Gift of Allen W. Bernard, 2018.001.003.



▼ **The White Review (La Revue Blanche), Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, French (1864-1901)**
 1895, lithograph
 Gift of Stan Griner and Laura Harmon, 2019.020.000.



◀ **Mask, Unidentified African Artist, Central Africa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Luba peoples**
 about 1900-1950, wood and pigment
 Gift of David T. Owsley, 2018.042.000.

▲ **Autumn Maine Landscape, Marsden Hartley, American (1877-1943)**
 about 1908, oil on paperboard
 David T. Owsley Collection, L2017.007.000.



sept 19 - dec 20
EXHIBITION

RECENT ACQUISITIONS:

CONNECTING TO THE PAST, COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

The special exhibition of African, Asian, North American, European, and Oceanic art demonstrates the David Owsley Museum of Art's commitment to collecting the artistic heritage of the region, nation, and world. The display of nearly 100 recently acquired objects allows visitors to experience a variety of works of art that connect to the museum's past, engage with contemporary visual culture, and build a foundation for future study.

Several new acquisitions relate to works of art already in the museum's collection. For example, a gift of conceptual photographs by Kenji Nakahashi reconstitutes an exhibition of 20 works held at the Ball State University Museum of Art in 1984. The museum collected three photographs from that show; the new gift adds the remaining 17, providing modern audiences with a more complete view of Nakahashi's surprising and transformative images of everyday objects. In another example, significant abstract sculptures by Conrad Marca-Relli and James Rosati join more modest works on paper by mid-twentieth century American artists already in the collection. Similarly, a bequest of David and Mary Jane Sursa as well as a donation from Stan Griner and Laura Harmon enrich the museum's holdings of prints by Wassily Kandinsky, Pablo Picasso, Georges Rouault, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

Other recent acquisitions feature art from around the globe, highlighting the museum's inclusive approach to future collecting. Two different types of masks and a carved housepost represent the Bobo, Baga, and Yoruba peoples of West Africa. Ritual objects and religious sculpture from Japan, Tibet, and Southeast Asia join Chi-

nese export porcelain created for the European market. Donations from Ball State alumnus Jerry Cooper and the estate of Marjorie Zeigler expand the selection of Native American art on view. Oceanic art is exemplified by a body mask created by the Asmat people of Papua, Indonesia, and a club from the Marquesas Islands in French Polynesia.

In addition, visitors are invited to compare forward-looking Art Deco ceramics from local Muncie Potteries to contemporary designs for quotidian objects by Frank Gehry, Zaha Hadid, and Richard Meier. Paintings by American modernists like James Brooks and Marsden Hartley, as well as a sculpture by British modernist Ruth Duckworth, accompany contemporary prints by Marilyn Minter, Pat Steir, and Swoon. Finally, drawings and paintings by Elisabetta Sirani, Piat-Joseph Sauvage, and Charles François Daubigny display three centuries of European art.

Credit lines on the object labels commemorate important lenders and donors, while labels marked "David T. Owsley Collection" designate planned gifts. The resulting display of philanthropy through art illustrates the generosity of the university's many benefactors and their desire to enrich the cultural environment for Ball State students and regional audiences.

Recent Acquisitions was curated by Robert G. La France and features preliminary object research conducted by undergraduate curatorial assistants Jonah James ('20) and Lilly McClung ('20).

RGL

PROGRAM CALENDAR

SEP

ALLIANCE AND ART LEAGUE LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM Wednesday, 12 noon

11

“Recent Acquisitions: Connecting to the Past, Committing to the Future”

Dr. Robert G. La France, director of the David Owsley Museum of Art, will provide an overview of a wide variety of recent acquisitions and introduce Dr. Seth Beckman, the new dean of the College of Fine Arts.

Register at bsu.edu/doma/alliance by September 6.

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

Alumni Center

SEP

FINAL FRIDAY: NEW Friday, 6 - 9 pm

27

Enjoy museum late hours for viewing the collection and special exhibition, PechaKucha talks with emcees Braydee Euliss and C.S. Hendershot, an artist demonstration, an “un-tour” of the current exhibition, music with DJ Jannell, refreshments, cash bar, and more.

OCT

EXPRESS TALK: LATINX ARTISTS IN THE COLLECTION Wednesday, 12 noon

02

Join Denise Mahoney, collection manager and registrar, for a short conversation about the current works on view in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15) in the Contemporary Craft Gallery.

SEP

EDUCATOR EXHIBITION OVERVIEW Monday, 4 pm

30

Meet Dr. Robert La France, museum director and curator of *Recent Acquisitions: Connecting to the Past, Committing to the Future* and Tania Said, director of education, to learn about educational opportunities associated with the new exhibition.

OCTOBER 5-8

DOMA will be closed for Fall Break.

SEP

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY FAMILY WEEKEND Saturday & Sunday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

14, 15

Enjoy self-guided activities with an available brochure, including “Indiana Art” and “Museum Fun for all Ages.” Saturday visitors may also meet the Museum Host at 1:30 pm and take a tour about abstract art at 2:30 pm.

OCT

ALLIANCE LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM Wednesday, 12 noon

09

“What Arts and Humanities Month Means”

Paige Sharp, deputy director for the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC), will talk about her work, the evolving role of the arts, and highlight some of her favorites in the David Owsley Museum of Art’s collection.

Register at bsu.edu/doma/alliance by October 4.

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

Alumni Center

► Paige Sharp

deputy director for the Indiana Arts Commission



JOIN THE FRIENDS OF DOMA

with a minimum contribution of \$25 at bsu.edu/doma/friends, or call 765-285-5242 for more information.

*JOIN THE DOMA ALLIANCE

with a minimum annual contribution of \$50. 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 or register online at bsu.edu/doma/alliance.

Meditation in the Museum

Most Fridays at 3 pm in the DOMA Asian Art Gallery or African Art Gallery (unless otherwise noted)

Sponsored by the Ball State Meditation Partnership

September 13 - Meditation and peace education with Dr. George Wolfe

September 20 - Coloring your stress away with the Counseling Center

September 27 - Entering the state of non-desire with Dr. George Wolfe

October 4 - Compassion: Improving your relationship with self and others with the Counseling Center

October 11 - The role of thoughts in meditation with Dr. George Wolfe

October 18 - Guided meditation with music with the Counseling Center

October 25 - The heart and the experience of surrender with Dr. George Wolfe

November 1 - Channeling your creativity into mindfulness practice with the Counseling Center

November 8 - Awakening your faculties of insight and realization with Dr. George Wolfe

November 15 - Guided meditation for relieving stress with the Counseling Center

November 22 - Liberation from past impressions with Dr. George Wolfe

December 6 - Laughter yoga with Certified Laughter Yoga leader Cindy Cash in the Sculpture Court

Museum Hosts Available on most Saturdays at 1:30 pm

Docents answer your questions and provide an overview of the museum every Saturday a Docent’s Choice tour is offered.

**Docent’s Choice Tours
Most Saturdays at 2:30 pm**

Docents select a theme and works of art

FALL 2019



program CALENDAR

OCT

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

Saturday & Sunday,
1:30 - 4:30 pm

19, 20

Enjoy self-guided activities, including "Indiana Art" and "Museum Fun for all Ages."

Saturday visitors may also meet the Museum Host at 1:30 pm and take a tour about the current exhibition *Recent Acquisitions: Connecting to the Past, Committing to the Future* at 2:30 pm.

OCT

FINAL FRIDAY: OLD Friday, 6 - 9 pm

25

Enjoy museum late hours for viewing the collection and special exhibition, PechaKucha talks with emcees Braydee Euliss

and C.S. Hendershot, an artist demonstration, an "un-tour" of the current exhibition, music with DJ Jannell, refreshments, cash bar, and more.

NOV

EXPRESS TALK: NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS IN THE COLLECTION Wednesday, 12 noon

06

Join Denise Mahoney, collection manager and registrar, for a short

conversation about the current works on view in honor of American Indian Heritage Month (November 1-30) in the Contemporary Craft Gallery.

NOV

ALLIANCE LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM Wednesday, 12 noon

13

"A Far More Honest Vision: (Re)Framing American Art" Join Dr. Kelli Morgan, associate curator of

American art, Newfields, for updates about the Indianapolis Museum of Art and insights into the David Owsley Museum of Art's American art collection.

Register at bsu.edu/doma/alliance by November 6.

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

Alumni Center

NOV

AN ARTRAGEOUS AFTERNOON Saturday, 1:30 - 4:30 pm

16

Explore the *Recent Acquisitions: Connecting to the Past, Committing to the Future* exhibition

with artist demonstrations, mini tours, and more in a festive atmosphere with refreshments and music.

In collaboration with the Ball State University School of Art

DEC

HOLIDAY COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE Saturday, 6 - 9 pm

07

DOMA joins in the annual community holiday festivities with refreshments, children's art

and activities, pop-up shop, and live holiday music. Follow the pathway to the Glick Center for Glass and Rinard Greenhouse Holiday in Bloom from 6 - 9 pm or visit the Brown Planetarium for a program on "The Christmas Star" at 6:30 pm or 8 pm for more BSU Cultural Corridor fun. Also ride the MITS trolley between the Enchanted Luminaria Walk at Minnetrista and campus.

In collaboration with the David Owsley Museum of Art Alliance

DEC

ALLIANCE LUNCHEON AND PROGRAM Wednesday, 12 noon

11

"Recent Acquisitions: On View and Behind-the-Scenes"

Join Dr. Robert La France, director, Denise Mahoney, collection manager and registrar, and other DOMA staff to learn about the current special exhibition and collection.

Register at bsu.edu/doma/alliance by December 5.

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

Alumni Center

NOVEMBER 27 - DECEMBER 1
DOMA will be closed for Thanksgiving break.

DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 1
DOMA will be closed for holiday break.

related to the topics noted below.

September 14 - What is Abstract Sculpture? Form in Three Dimensions (Family Weekend)

September 21 - Architecture as Art

September 28 - How is Furniture Design Art? Understanding Living with Art

October 12 - When is a Portrait Just a Portrait? A Case of Identity

October 19 - Recent Acquisitions (Homecoming Weekend)

October 26 - What is War in Art? Conflicting Accounts

November 2 - What is the Story in Art? Finding the Narrative

November 9 - What Do Clothes Say? Fashion Sensibilities

November 16 - What are the Decorative Arts? Useful Products Designed for the Home

November 23 - What is Art Glass? The Art and Science

December 7 - Recent Acquisitions

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Visitors requiring accessibility accommodations should contact the David Owsley Museum of Art at least two weeks before the program whenever possible.

GROUP TOURS

Free tours are available for groups of 7 or more. Contact Cathy Bretz, education coordinator, cbretz@bsu.edu for more information.

SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMMING

Request SMART (School Museum Art-Readiness Tours) program information for fourth grade students or other school tour information from Tania Said, director of education, tsaid@bsu.edu.



ACCESSING DOMA'S COLLECTION DATABASE ONLINE A NEW CHAPTER

Like most major museums, the David Owsley Museum of Art is only able to exhibit a fraction of its encyclopedic collection in the galleries; currently about 10% of more than 11,000 objects are on view. While objects are in storage, they receive the same degree of care as those in the gallery by means of climate control, protection from light, and detailed object information recorded in the museum's database.

In early 2017, DOMA made a significant investment in purchasing EmbARK, a collections management software system designed specifically for museums and hosted by Gallery Systems. Data from the existing system was migrated into EmbARK and, thus, a long process of correcting and updating object records began and presently continues. Collections assistant

student workers, who provide essential help, are given controlled access to the system and can create new records for incoming objects and correct basic fields such as artist, title, date, medium, and location. The latter is especially critical as museum storage is becoming increasingly crowded. Previously, objects in storage were grouped by category; for example, ceramics in one cabinet and glass in another. These designations are no longer as important as they once were because as long as the location of the object is tracked correctly in the database, it can be quickly found.

Besides correcting errors in the system, including misspellings or incorrect dates, larger conversations such as categorizing various objects have been taking place. For example, a painting may be a 19th-century American

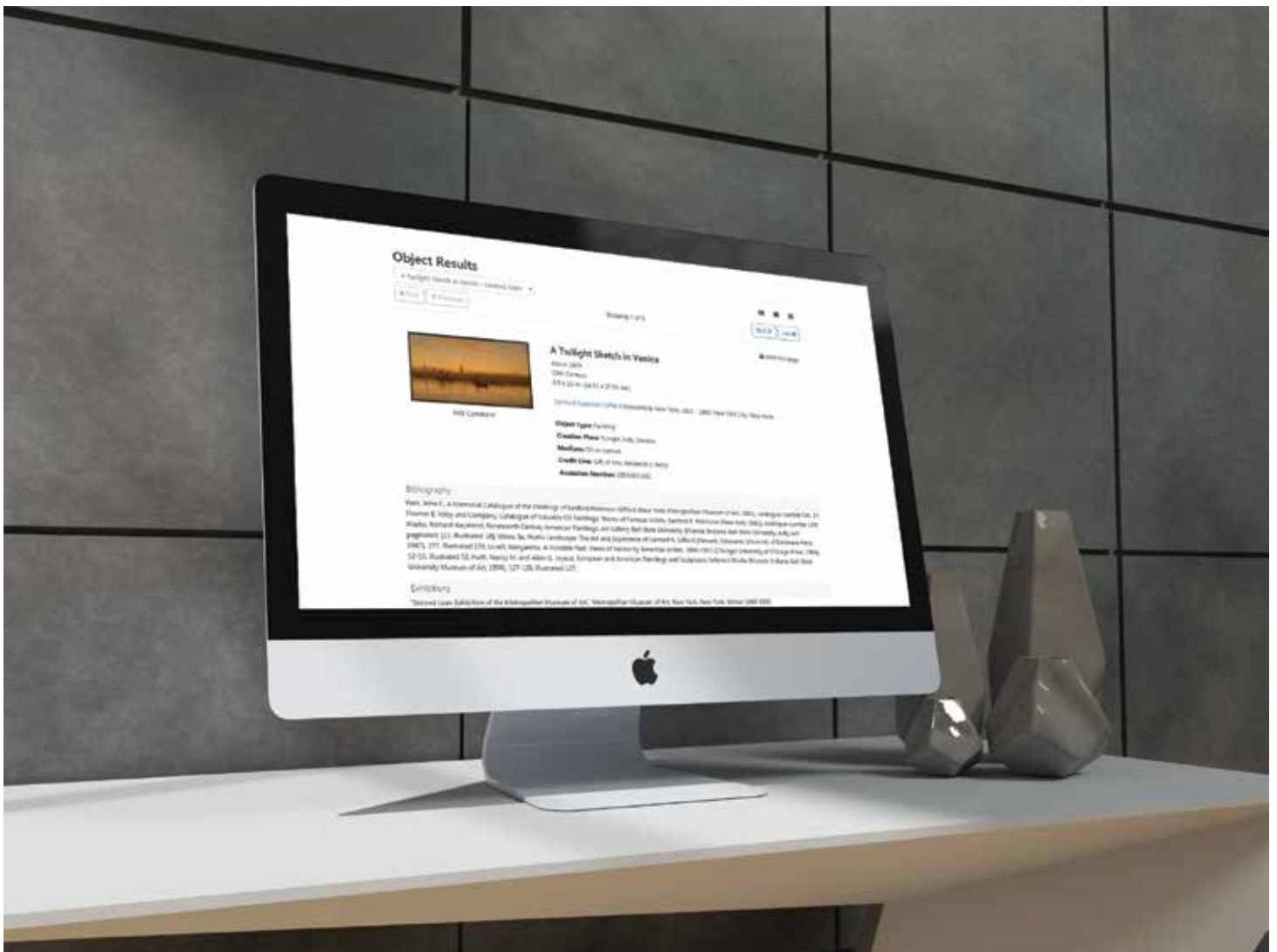


database UPDATES

Impressionist landscape and can be tagged in the database using those three designations. But are there other terms that may be useful for future object searches by students, scholars, and art lovers? Through a generous grant awarded by the Ball Brothers Foundation, DOMA recently hired a part-time consultant well-versed in museum collection management systems, Erin Richardson, PhD and Principal of Erin Richardson Consulting, to assist with data cleanup and work with museum staff to create policies and procedures for entering information.

EmbARK is an enormous database with almost unlimited potential for storing and organizing all kinds of information relating to objects in the collection. But the most exciting part is the online component, Web Kiosk. Once we have cleaned up much of the basic data, it will then be made available online via a well-designed web page. This will enable anyone to search and view the collection from an internet-connected browser. We plan to launch this search page by the end of 2019—stay tuned!

DM





MAKING ROOM FOR

THE KING

Visitors taking frequent walks through the galleries at DOMA can't help but notice that the works of art on the walls and pedestals often change places. Unlike moving artwork in a private home—which usually only depends on personal preferences—displaying art in the galleries involves many curatorial, space, and design decisions. DOMA's educational mission is the top priority for director and chief curator Robert La France. Thinking about the individual galleries and the museum within the framework of chronology, style, geography, and theme informs his decisions, and DOMA staff and students work under his guidance to complete these changes. The recent addition of William Beechey's *Portrait of King George III*—the famous tyrant who lost the American colonies—is a good example of how a seemingly small change can set in motion a domino-like series of complex art moves.

King George III arrived at DOMA in the summer of 2016 and was displayed briefly in the Brown Study Room. This popular work, with important artistic and historic value for the campus community, was

frequently requested to be displayed for tours and study. Since fine art should rarely be moved, La France, equipped with 3-D models of the museum (a project of College of Architecture and Planning graduate student and DOMA fall 2018 exhibition design intern Taylor Henderson) and layout designs by intern Luisa Temmen, first considered a rehang of the entire Burkhardt Gallery, but ultimately chose a smaller though no less challenging option of rehang-ing the west wall. Under the direction of exhibition designer and preparator Randy Salway, specially trained student assistants spent two and a half days carefully moving, measuring, and repositioning all the works of art on that wall. Interns from the curatorial and education team prepared the accompanying label text, reviewing it for accurate content, consistent formatting, and clear, thought-provoking wording. When asked about the experience afterward, student assistant Noah Dale commented that handling the art was the most nerve-racking and exhausting part of the process—but he really enjoyed it! In all, four paintings and five sculptures were moved to new locations—making room for the King.

SB



ARTWORDS

a newsletter for the Friends of the

**DAVID
OWSLEY
MUSEUM** OF
ART BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

Muncie, IN 47306-0420

Fall 2019

Vol. 25 | No. 1

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



◀ **Venus and Cupid, Piat Joseph Sauvage, French (1744-1818)**

about 1775-85, oil on canvas

David T. Owsley Collection, L2018.002.000

New to the Galleries

VENUS AND CUPID

Venus, the ancient Roman goddess of love, is accompanied by her winged son Cupid and two of her attributes: doves and a myrtle tree. Cupid enjoys his mother's affectionate embrace and temporarily discards the bow and arrows with which he pierces lovers' hearts.

This picture is painted in grisaille, a French term for describing decoration in tones of a single color usually to imitate stone sculpture. The painted wooden frame also resembles veined marble. The painting's subject and technique reflect a revival of ancient Greek and Roman art and ideals during the Age of Enlightenment.

Born in Tournai, a French-speaking city in modern Belgium, Sauvage moved to Paris and became the foremost painter of grisailles in eighteenth-century France.