

# TRIBUTES

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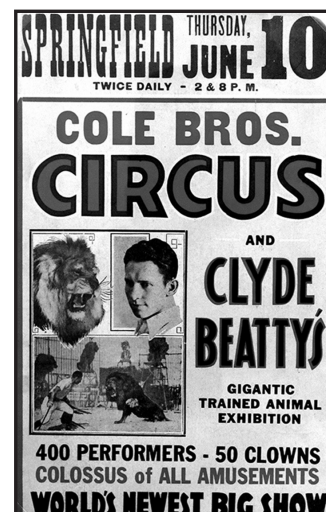
**Madelon Wells**  
by Jane Burns

Invite a Friend to become a Member of the  
Midwest Museum of American Art  
and share the experience!  
Individual memberships are a great value at  
\$20 for someone interested in building their  
interest, knowledge, and contact with  
original works of fine art!



"Mirabell", 1920, litho, ed. 23/50  
by Walt Kuhn (1877-1949)  
Gift of Dr. Steve Conant, Indianapolis,  
In Memory of Ruth & Elsie Conant

Vintage Cole Brothers Circus Poster,  
c. 1930s,  
Gift of Dr. Steve Conant, Indianapolis,  
In Memory of Ruth & Elsie Conant



So Long Winter, Hello Spring!!  
Wrapped with a Bow  
continues thru February 28  
Youth Art 2016 opens March 6  
UNDER the BIG TOP: The Circus as Art in America  
opens April 1

Midwest Museum of American Art  
429 S. Main Street  
Elkhart, IN 46516



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# MIDWEST MUSEUM BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART • 429 South Main St. • Elkhart, IN 46516 • (574) 293-6660  
Volume 38, No. 1 FEB/MAR/APR 2016 MUSEUM HOURS: Tues. - Fri. 10:00-4:00, Sat. 1:00-4:00, Sun. 1:00-4:00 (Free)  
MEMBER AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS  
[www.MidwestMuseum.US](http://www.MidwestMuseum.US)

## Youth Art Month 2016 March is National Youth Art Month

The Midwest Museum of American Art presents a Youth Art Month exhibition of selected work by high school students from Elkhart Central, Elkhart Memorial, Concord, Northridge and the Elkhart Area Career Center beginning **Sunday, March 6**, and continuing on view through **Saturday, March 26, 2016**. This event has been held annually for the past thirty-six years.

Awards to be given include Kappa Kappa Kappa, Alpha Rho Chapter, for the 32nd year. These monetary awards known as the *Curator's Choice Awards* will be given to ten students. For the twelfth year, there will be a **\$500 Scholarship Award**, named in honor of **Phillip Monteith**, given by the Elkhart Evening Optimists. Finally for the eleventh year, Kathy & Ken Zienty, will present the **Robert & Mary Boyer Awards** to several students for excellence in their art in the exhibition.

The Opening Reception for students, teachers, parents, and invited guests will be held on **Sunday, March 6, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**. Museum Members are invited to attend as well.

Sponsors for **Youth Art in Elkhart 2015** include Elkhart Luncheon Optimists, Elkhart Evening Optimists, June Holloway of Oklahoma City, Tri Kappa, Alpha Rho Chapter, Robert Boyer Memorial Fund, and State Farm Insurance—Rocky Enfield.

**Join Us for  
Our 37th  
Anniversary &  
Reception of**

**UNDER the BIG TOP:  
The Circus as Art in  
America  
on Sunday, MAY 1  
from 1-4PM  
You can dress like a  
clown if you like!**

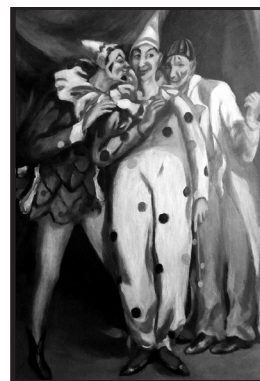


"Two Acrobats", 1920,  
lithograph, ed. less than 100  
by Charles Demuth (1883-1935),  
Gift of Dr. Steven Conant, Indianapolis,  
In Memory of Ruth & Elsie Conant

## UNDER the BIG TOP: *The Circus as Art in America* April 1 thru July 10

The Midwest Museum of American Art is pleased to present an exciting look at the Circus as a theme in American Art over the past century. The exhibit opens on **Friday, April 1** and will continue on view through the museum's 37th Anniversary and conclude on **Sunday, July 10**.

Utilizing the museum's permanent collection as a starting point, and works never-before-seen, the exhibit "**Under the Big Top**", will feature over fifty pieces. Augmenting the MMAA collection will be works by artists invited to interpret the subject matter of the circus. Paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture depicting clowns, acrobats, animals, & other circus performers will be displayed. Other works that are inspired by the circus without being a literal interpretation will present the energy and dynamics of the *Big Top* through the innovative use of color and shape.



Artist's selected from the museum's holdings represent those of notoriety on a local, regional and national level. Some of them include Alexander Calder, Charles Demuth, Walt Kuhn, John Steuart Curry, and Adam Grant. Contemporary Indiana artists invited to participate include, Todd Hoover (South Bend), Marcia Sindone (LaPorte), Jackie MacKenzie (Elkhart), & Kathy Zienty (Goshen). These are but a few of the 35 artists represented. Finally, vintage circus posters and other artifacts of circus and carnival life will add another folk art or material culture dimension to the exhibition.

MMAA is excited to present this exhibition to our membership and to the general public during the Bi-Centennial activities of our State in accordance with the historical connections of the circus and Peru, Indiana, where the International Circus Hall of Fame Museum is located. Join us *Under the Big Top*!

### NOTICE

Anyone who collects or owns original works of art with a "circus" theme or artifacts from the circus including vintage posters, carnival prizes, banners, etc. and is willing to place these on loan to MMAA, please contact Curator Brian Byrn before March 15 for review.

## ***WRAPPED with a BOW*** ***continues thru February 28...***

Museum members still have an opportunity to see the nearly 100 never-before-seen works from the MMAA Permanent Collection that have been selected from over 3,500 works donated in the past five years. If you didn't get to hear Curator Brian Byrn's introduction to the exhibit in December, there will be two more gallery talks to do so. (*see Noon-Time-Talks next column*)

## **37th Anniversary Celebration** **All during MAY • *You're Invited !!!***

Visit the Midwest Museum of American Art during the month of May and celebrate 37 years of changing exhibits, educational programming, preservation, and collection building.

## **Museum's Collection in the Spotlight**

Over the past three decades MMAA has received national recognition for its original oils by Norman Rockwell and Grandma Moses. In recent times, the international success of the 2008 Guggenheim Museum sponsored tour of original works of American Art in Beijing, China, for the Olympics (with a small side trip to Moscow), included the MMAA owned painting "Sheaves of Corn" by Grant Wood. This exhibit was seen by 4.5 million visitors. The largest publicly owned collection of signed Norman Rockwell lithographs & collotypes in the country as well as the largest publicly owned collection of Overbeck Art Pottery in the world, continue to further the museum's notoriety in America.

Closer to home, the Indiana State Museum has requested to borrow works from the MMAA Collection over the years. In the Autumn/Spring of 2014-15, the water color, "Gloucester Harbor", 1927, by William Forsyth, was loaned to a major exhibit there. Curator Emeritus, Rachel Perry, commented, "This is the best watercolor of Gloucester by Forsyth I've ever seen". Recently Mark Ruschman, Curator of Art at the ISM, has requested the photo-realist watercolor, "Still Life with White Lilies & Pears", by South Bend artist, Jacqueline Gnot, be loaned to the exhibit "200 Years of Indiana Art: A Cultural Legacy", opening in March thru early October 2016. This work was previously acquired by MMAA as the Jack & Karen Cittadine BEST of SHOW in the 37th Elkhart Juried Regional.

**Visit MMAA often & Celebrate its heralded Collections!**

## **The ARTIST'S ATTIC** **unique ODDITIES and • •** **cast-off treasures**

If you are doing your *Spring cleaning* early... remember the Midwest Museum is looking for donations of "unique junk-tique" for its Artist's Attic fund raiser sale. You may call the museum for pick-up of objects, books, furniture, reproduction prints, statuary, ceramics, etc. at 293-6660. The items will be placed on sale **Friday & Saturday, JUNE 3-4 & Sunday, JUNE 5** during the three-day event which benefits the museum's educational and acquisition funds. Remember—one person's junk is another person's treasure!

## **NOON • TIME • TALKS**

**FREE Gallery Talk every Thursday at 12:20-1:00 PM**  
**Films begin at 12:15... get an early seat!**

### **FEB 4 FILM: *The Art of Romare Bearden* (30m)**

This film highlights the visual narratives of this preeminent African American artist who explored in his work the places he lived: the rural South, Pittsburgh, Harlem, and the Caribbean.

### **FEB 11 "Wrapped with a Bow" - Part II**

Curator Brian Byrn presents a discussion about the second gallery of three of the current exhibit.

### **FEB 18 FILM: *George Bellows* (30m)**

Arriving in New York from Ohio in 1904, Bellows depicted America on the move—the rapid growth of the city, bustling crowds, skyscrapers, and awe inspiring construction projects.

### **FEB 25 "Wrapped with a Bow" - Part III**

Curator Brian Byrn presents a discussion about the third gallery of three of the current exhibit.

### **MAR 3 FILM: *Gauguin: Maker of Myth* (30m)**

This film examines Gauguin's use of mythological & religious motifs to tell stories as well as his reinvention of myths from Polynesian legend & his European heritage.

## **March is National Youth Art Month**

A special series of gallery talks by art educators highlights public school programs.

### **MAR 10 Art Educator**, from an area High School

### **MAR 17 Art Educator**, from an area High School

### **MAR 24 Art Educator**, from an area High School

### **MAR 31 FILM: *Joan Miró* (32m)**

"*Joan Miró: The Ladder of Escape*" celebrates one of the greatest of Modern artists and the development of his unique visual language.

### **APR 7 "UNDER the BIG TOP" - Part I**

Brian Byrn, Curator, introduces the new exhibit "UNDER the BIG TOP: *The Circus as Art in America*".

### **APR 14 FILM: *El Greco* (29m)**

"*El Greco: An Artist's Odyssey*" features the artist's haunting portraits of saints & scholars, biblical scenes, martyrdoms & miracles in a visionary style charged with emotion and drama. Picasso considered him the prophet of Modernism.

### **APR 21 JOHN SLOAN (1871-1951)**

Brian Byrn, Curator, returns to the topic of John Sloan & The Ash Can School who set the tone for the beginning of painting in the early 20th Century.

### **APR 28 John Steuart Curry (1897-1946)**

Curator Brian Byrn presents a discussion about this Kansas-born Regionalist painter whose image of John Brown, the Abolitionist, shocked the public when he presented it in a mural in State Capital of Topeka during the late 1930s.

*(more films continue in May... stay tuned)*



# The Midwest Museum Welcomes its New and Renewing Members

November 1, 2015 through February 1, 2016

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# Has donated for 10 consecutive years

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In Honor of  
Jane Burns' Birthday  
 by Joyce Cleaveland



In Honor of the  
MMAA's 37th Anniversary  
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 Dr. George & Margaret Rapp