

at **TheBenton**

September–December 2009



The William Benton Museum of Art
University of Connecticut
Connecticut's State Art Museum

Soon after the building that now houses the Museum was built in 1920, President Beach's office received a number of letters regarding the quality of the bricks used in its construction. Specifically, the bricks were of lower quality and very porous compared to a slightly more expensive and higher-grade brick from a Massachusetts kiln. Within a year, water infiltration was evident.



Ninety years later, the bricks and other problems related to water infiltration—flashing, crown mouldings, flat roof, aged gutters, rubble foundations, inadequate drainage—are being renovated this summer. The job foreman, Ken, wrings his hands over delays due to rain and other acts of God, but the Museum has waited forty-three years for this work. If the start of our fall schedule requires small changes, this uncertainty is a nuisance, but not a catastrophe. The work will be completed, the building will be dry, and the wait will be worth it.

In conjunction with the construction, we have loaned thirty-two of the Benton's best and most interesting paintings to the New Britain Museum of American Art this coming year. We are grateful to the Director, Douglas Hyland, for assisting us in the move.



This summer we were notified that a long-anticipated future gift to the Museum of \$1,000,000 was finalized with the University Foundation. We are extremely grateful to this anonymous donor for two reasons. First, of course, is the gift itself and everything that it will mean to the Museum in the future. Secondly, and as important at this time, is its symbolic value. The donor has demonstrated in the most explicit terms that he believes in the importance of the Benton

at the University of Connecticut because of what its collections, exhibitions, and programs can mean pedagogically and in the general principle that a humanistic education is visual as well as textural. Not every student can take an art history or studio class, but every student can easily find their way to the Art Museum. Almost every top twenty public university in the country has an art museum, some of which, like the University of Michigan's, are outstanding—and so should the University of Connecticut's art museum be outstanding. The benefactor clearly believes this as well.

We are looking forward to the fall season and the new academic year. Thank you for your ongoing support. We hope to see you here often in the coming months.

Thomas Bruhn
Interim Director

Exhibitions

The 44th Annual Art Department Faculty Exhibition

September 3–October 18

Reception: September 3, 5–7:30 pm

For artistic variety, contemporaneity and quality, the annual Art and Art History Department studio faculty exhibition excels. Painting, sculpture, illustration, graphic design, printmaking, photography and installation art are the dominant media. This year's featured artists are Randall Hoyt, graphic design; Janet Pritchard, photography; and Mark Zurolo, graphic design.



Plate VI [Jupiter Terrace], 12th Annual Report of the U. S. Geological and Geographic Survey of the Northwest Territories by F. V. Hayden, 1878", from the series *Views from Wonderland* by Janet L. Pritchard © 2008

Women's Work, Women's Dreams: A Century of Swedish Women's Arts

September 24–December 18 / Reception: September 27, 1–3 pm



A Lake in the Province of Dalarna, wool tapestry

“Work and dreams—the two have long gone hand-in-hand for Swedish women artists as well as for women and men artists throughout the world,” Ann Charters writes in the introduction to *Women's Work, Women's Dreams*, the catalogue that accompanies the Benton's exhibition of the same title.

But what were the dreams of the Swedish woman whose place was considered to be in the home or whose work was necessary to create a home for her family?

The works in this exhibition reflect the visions of Swedish women who broke from their traditional roles of women, mothers and homemakers to explore their creativity as textile designers, weavers, painters, sculptors and glass artists.

Their art resonates with dream-like images of free-flying birds evoking flight and escape from domestic confinement, year-round idyllic visions of midsummer blossoms, and spare Nordic landscapes filled with greenery, water, space and light.

Women's Work, Women's Dreams celebrates a remarkable legacy from a country whose art and artists are little known to American viewers. The Benton Museum is grateful to Samuel and Ann Charters for sharing their extraordinary collection of Swedish Art and Art Glass and for curating this exhibition.

The Spirit of Afghanistan: Carpets of War and Hope

October 29–December 18

Reception: October 30, 5–7 pm

Three decades of wars have deeply marked the entire culture of Afghanistan, yet artistic expression, particularly through carpets, has been maintained in spite of hardships including displacement to refugee camps.



War Carpet, Afghanistan, weaving, post-1979, Private Collection

In traditional Afghani carpet-weaving, patterns tended to be geometric or floral, reflecting the Islamic rejection of anthropomorphic depictions. However, by the mid-1980s, in response to the 1979 Soviet invasion, Afghani weavers, principally women, were creating carpets that showed Russian tanks, helicopters and guns. The subtle geometric borders often contained rows of bullets and grenades. Most recently, these “war carpets” have included references to the American conflict and even to 9/11. Although many of the carpets have Arabic or Persian woven into their designs, the Afghani who created them found a market for these rugs in the West. In part this may be for their presumed anti-war sentiments but also, while the rugs are generally traditional in design and relatively inexpensive, they are nonetheless a contemporary artistic expression of a centuries-old craft.

In this exhibition of over fifty contemporary Afghan carpets showing both war and traditional designs, the rugs offer a commentary on modern Afghanistan history and, in their maintenance of a vibrant tradition, a measure of hope for the future.

This exhibition is funded in part by the University of Connecticut Human Rights Initiative.

Coming Spring 2010

Amazing Stories to Weird Tales: Covering Pulp Fiction

This exhibition of more than 40 paintings will draw on the collection of Robert Lesser and will include original oil paintings that were used as cover art for such pulp magazine classics as *The Shadow*, *Doc Savage* and *Amazing Stories*. Frank R. Paul, Norman Saunders, Rudolph Belarski and Virgil Finlay are among the artists whose work will be featured.

The Store & Café Muse

Journey to Sweden This Fall!

It's just a quick trip to The Store to give you a feeling of shopping in Stockholm! Stationery items by Lotta Jansdotter, fine linens by Mierco and enchanting children's books by Swedish authors and illustrators are just some of the exhibition-related items you will find featured in The Store throughout the fall. If you are a fan of Café Muse's “Tea for Two,” bring a friend and indulge in our new afternoon “Coffee Break” featuring a pot of fresh brewed Swedish coffee and delicious pastries. Both “Tea for Two” and “Coffee Break” will be available Thursday–Sunday from 1–3:30 pm.

The Store's annual Holiday Sale will kick off on Sunday, December 13th. Come and enjoy the Santa Lucia Day event, decorate a Dala horse cookie and get your holiday shopping started! Sale continues through December 18th.

Staff Changes

It is our pleasure to announce that Eve Perry has joined the Benton staff as Assistant Curator for the coming year. Eve received her BFA from Brigham Young University and her MA in Art History from UConn in May. You may know her as the curator of the much-acclaimed spring exhibition, *Anatomically Correct: Medical Illustration 1543 to 2008*. We are very fortunate to have Eve on board.

With mixed emotion, we will be sending off to new adventures two long-term members of our student staff. Alexandra Ostasiewicz and Kaitlin Widlak have been especially invaluable to the museum, filling gaps brought about by our reduced staff. Both young women, 2009 graduates, have shared their specialized skills—Ms. Ostasiewicz in photography and Ms. Widlak in registraral procedures. We wish them all good things in the future.

In Memoriam

Norman Kraeft passed away on June 2 at his home in Arizona. Norman and his wife June, who predeceased him in 2004, were benefactors of the Benton in several ways, but one stands out in particular. In December 1999, the Kraefts established for the Museum an endowment for the acquisition of American prints made between 1790 and 1950. American prints, particularly between 1900 and 1950, were their passion, and as dealers in these works they were instrumental in reestablishing the careers of many of these artists. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their past work and for the art that will come to the Benton in the future. We will miss them both.

Education

Educators Alert!

The Benton is open Thursday through Sunday, but did you know that tours could be scheduled for any Tuesday or Wednesday? We continue to do what we do best—introducing students to art! Tour hours are 10 am–3:30 pm Tuesday through Friday and 1–3:30 pm on weekends. If you would like to arrange a tour for your group, please visit our website at www.thebenton.org and click on Education or contact Tracy Lawlor, Education Coordinator, 860-486-1711, tracy.lawlor@uconn.edu



Students Lead The Way

UConn students make impressive docents! This past year we began training interested students to give exhibition tours for their peers. Some of our docents are art history majors, but others are science, engineering and political science majors. The field of study is not as important as a desire to learn about art, an interest in working with people, and dependability. If you or someone you know is interested in our Student Docent Program, please contact Tracy Lawlor, 486-1711, tracy.lawlor@uconn.edu. Keep in mind that we still maintain our veteran Docent Program with volunteers from the campus and community. New docent training begins in September.

Walkers Of The World, Unite!

We are pleased to introduce something new to our program schedule: *Walk, Talk, Art!* — an art tour that begins at The Benton and takes the experience of looking at art *outside* museum walls. These campus-wide tours are available from April 15 through October 15 for groups of four or more. Our walking pace will vary, depending on the participants. If you would like to schedule *Walk, Talk, Art!* for your group, contact Tracy Lawlor, 860-486-1711, tracy.lawlor@uconn.edu



September

September 3, 5–7:30 pm  



Opening Reception for *The 44th Annual Art Department Faculty Exhibition*

September 5–9 



The Benton will be closed for Labor Day.

September 10, 12:15–12:45 pm  



Gallery Talk: Randall Hoyt, Associate Professor of Communication Design

September 18, 9:15 am  

Lecture: The Gene & Georgia Mittelman Distinguished Lecture in the Arts / Art and Art History Fall Convocation / Speaker: Robert Storr, Dean of the School of Art, Yale University / Note: This event will be held in The Student Union Ballroom.



September 24, 12:15–12:45 pm  

Gallery Talk: Mark Zurolo, Associate Professor of Communication Design



September 27, 1–3 pm  

Reception for *Women's Work, Women's Dreams*



October

October 8, 12:15–12:45 pm  

Gallery Talk: Janet Pritchard, Associate Professor of Photography

October 8, 4 pm  

Lecture: *Women's Work, Women's Dreams: A Century of Swedish Women's Arts* / Speakers: Ann Charters and Samuel Charters, guest curators

October 10, 1:15 pm  



Film: *Count of the Old Town* (*Munkbrogreven*), 1935

October 11, 1:15 pm  



Film: *Swedenhielms*, 1935

October 15, 12:15–1 pm  



RecitalsPlus: A performance by advanced music students in the School of Fine Arts

October 15, 4 pm  



Panel Discussion: *20th Century Swedish Social Policy & The Arts* / Panelists: Ann Charters and Samuel Charters, guest curators; Jean Givens, Professor of Art History; Lyle Scruggs, Associate Professor, Comparative Politics, West European Politics, and Comparative Political Economy

October 17, 1:15 pm  



Film: *House of Angels* (*Änglagård*), 1993

October 18, 1:15 pm  



Film: *House of Angels: The Second Summer* (*Änglagård--Andra Sommaren*), 1994

October 22, 12:15–12:45 pm  

Gallery Talk: The Collection Connection - A Museum educator will discuss works by Dürer and Rembrandt from the Benton collection.

October 24, 1:15 pm  



Film: *Winter Light* (*Nattvardsgästerna*), 1962

October 25, 1:15 pm  

Film: *Under the Sun* (*Under Solen*), 1998

October 29, 12:15–1 pm  

RecitalsPlus: A performance by advanced music students in the School of Fine Arts



October 30, 5–7 pm  

Reception for *The Spirit of Afghanistan: Carpets of War and Hope*



October 31, 1:15 pm  

Film: *Häxan: Witchcraft Through the Ages*, 1922





November

November 1, 1:15 pm  



The Third Wave (*Den Tredje Vågan*), 2003

November 5, 12:15–12:45 pm  



Gallery Talk: *Women's Work, Women's Dreams:* Talk by a Museum educator

November 6, 5–7:30 pm    

Special Event: En Svensk Fest: A Swedish Celebration. 5:15 pm: Lecture by Jean Givens, Professor of Art History / 6:15 pm: Traditional Swedish folk music performed by Nutmeg Spelmanslag / Doors open at 4:45 pm. Cash wine bar and refreshments

November 7, 1:15 pm  



Film: *The Man on the Roof*
(*Mannen på Taket*), 1976

November 8, 1:15 pm  



Film: *Kopps*, 2003

November 12, 12:15–1 pm  



RecitalsPlus: A performance by advanced music students in the School of Fine Arts

November 12, 4 pm  



Lecture: *The Spirit of Afghanistan: Carpets of War and Hope*. Speaker: Ann W. Norton, guest curator and Professor of Humanities in Art History, Non-Western Art and Culture, Providence College

November 13, 2:30–4 pm  



Studio Workshop: Geometric Design Inspired by Islamic Art. Conducted by the Museum's Education Department

November 14, 1:15 pm  



Film: *Dreaming of Rita* (*Drömmen om Rita*), 1993

November 15, 1:15 pm  



Film: *My Life as a Dog* (*Mitt Liv som Hund*), 1985

November 19, 12:15–12:45 pm  

Gallery Talk: *The Spirit of Afghanistan*: Talk by a Museum educator

November 21, 1:15 pm  

Film: *Afghanistan Unveiled*, 2003



November 22, 1:15 pm  

Film: *Kandahar* (*Safar e Ghandehar*), 2001


November 23–December 2 

The Benton will be closed for Thanksgiving.



December

December 3, 12:15–12:45 pm  



Gallery Talk: *Women's Work, Women's Dreams*: Talk by a Museum Educator

December 4, 2:30–4 pm  


Studio Workshop: Still Life. Conducted by the Museum's Education Department

December 5, 1:15 pm  



Film: *Turtles Can Fly*
(*Lakposhtha Parvaz Mikonand*), 2004

December 6, 1:15 pm  



Film: *Kite Runner*, 2007

December 10, 12:15–1 pm  

RecitalsPlus: A performance by advanced music students in the School of Fine Arts

December 12, 1:15 pm  



Film: *Fanny and Alexander*
(*Fanny och Alexander*), 1982

December 13, 1:30–3:30 pm  

Special Event: Santa Lucia Day Celebration. Make a Santa Lucia crown. Decorate a Dala horse cookie. Enjoy Swedish storytelling. Savor saffron buns, coffee, and cider.

December 13–18 

Sale: The Store's annual Holiday Sale

December 17, 12:15–12:45 pm  

Gallery Talk: *The Spirit of Afghanistan*: Talk by a Museum educator

 No Admission Fee

 Gallery Talk

 Reception

 Lecture

 Store Event

 Workshop/Studio

 Music Event

 Film

 Special Event

 Museum Closed

Unless there is a fee indicated, all events are free. Events are subject to change. Please check online at www.thebenton.org or call 860.486.4520.

The Benton will be closed

September 5–9

November 23–December 2.

Gallery hours

Thursday & Friday 10 am–4:30 pm

Saturday & Sunday 1–4:30 pm

The Store and Café Muse close at 4 pm each day.

TheBenton

The William Benton Museum of Art
School of Fine Arts, University of Connecticut

272600

The William Benton Museum of Art

University of Connecticut
245 Glenbrook Road, Unit 2140
Storrs, CT 06269-2140

860-486-4520
www.thebenton.org

Admission is free / Donations are gratefully appreciated.

Gallery Hours

Thursday & Friday 10 am-4:30 pm
Saturday & Sunday 1-4:30 pm

The Store & Café Muse

Close at 4 pm each day.

The Benton will be closed

September 5-9
November 23-December 2

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Storrs, CT 06268
Permit No. 3

