Picasso’s Guernica Tapestry
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What’s in View

Gallery Spotlight
Sublime Light: A Survey of American Photographs from the Permanent Collection

Aphrodite and the Gods of Love
Renowned works from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

ON THE COVER
Guernica Tapestry
After 1937 painting by Pablo Picasso
Gift of the artist and Archival inkjet print
David Halliday (born 1958)
Arthur Roger Gallery
On loan from Mrs. Nelson A. Rockefeller, L.2011.18
© 2012 Estate of Pablo Picasso / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

This is the season of shared treasures! All of SAMA is thrilled and intrigued by the addition of literally hundreds of loans to the San Antonio Collects series of exhibitions. Besides the treasures on view from local collections in our three main exhibitions, San Antonio Collects: African American Art (in the 3rd floor in the American department), San Antonio Collects: Gentilly (in the focus gallery) and San Antonio Collects: Contemporary (in the Coveden exhibition hall), our curators have also asked many local collectors to share works of art from their personal collections to enrich the permanent collections. Spectacular works of art from all over the world that are in private collections here in San Antonio are interspersed into the permanent galleries of the museum. Each work of art on loan to the museum is identified with a label that says San Antonio Collects. On your next visit, use these hidden gems as an excuse to devise your own treasure hunt.

One of the biggest treasures to arrive at SAMA this spring and summer is the exceptionally beautiful and important Guernica Tapestry made for Pablo Picasso in 1955. The Rockefeller Family has agreed to place their Guernica Tapestry, the first of three tapestries made for Picasso, at SAMA for an extended loan period. Picasso painted his Guernica in response to the aerial bombing of the Basque towns of Guernica by the German allies of the fascist rebel General Franco during the Spanish Civil War. Guernica masterfully depicts the horrors of war, especially the suffering of civilians. Picasso commissioned a pair of Passion scenes, Resurrection and Judgement of Paris, to be woven by Sophie Baume Dürrbach, which was a prominent weaving studio in Paris. Nelson Rockefeller bought the tapestry in 1955 from Picasso, and for many years it hung at the United Nations in New York City at the entrance to the Security Council as a reminder of the evils of war.

At SAMA, it is hanging in the Rockefeller wing in the The Robert J. Kleberg Jr. and Helen C. Kleberg Gallery with a group of Latin American modernist paintings that are equally vocal about the perils of war. Save it for last on your treasure hunt.

If you are exhausted after looking for, and finding, so many exceptional works of art in SAMA’s right now, make sure to stop by the “Scene at SAMA” for a signature cocktail and cool jazz on the second Friday of every month. Remember too, that the café is open for dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings, and every Friday features a live jazz performance.

See you at SAMA!

Sincerely,

Katie
Katherine C. Luber, Ph.D.

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America’s much celebrated family, the Rockefeller Family was once compared to the Medici of Renaissance Italy. And Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller (1908-1979) was once referred to as the “Cosimo d’Medici” of the Family, because of his lifelong devotion to the arts. He served on the boards of the Met, MoMA, and other prestigious museums and, while Governor of New York, he established the New York Council for the Arts, the first of its type in the United States. Nelson Rockefeller, like other members of his family, was passionately involved in the visual arts and actively collected art throughout his life. His tastes were focused in three areas: “primitive” art, modern art, and Mexican folk art. Most of Rockefeller’s “primitive” collection was given or bequeathed to the Met and is now housed in the Michael C. Rockefeller Wing, named after Nelson’s son who was lost in New Guinea. His modern collection was given or bequeathed to Kykuit, the family estate in North Tarrytown, NY and to New York City’s Museum of Modern Art, founded by Nelson’s mother Abby Aldridge Rockefeller. The majority of his Mexican folk art collection was given to the San Antonio Museum of Art.

**Picasso’s Guernica Tapestry**

A painting by Pablo Picasso (Spanish 1881-1973), dated 1937, woven by René and Jacqueline de la Baume Dürrach in 1955. It was given to the Museum of Modern Art in 1955 by Nelson A. Rockefeller.
Acquired it. Because of SAMA’s close relationship with the Rockefeller family, the museum received a number of Picasso’s most important works and one of the most iconic paintings of the 20th century. Picasso’s most important works and one of the most iconic paintings of the modern era and is visited by millions of people each year. All who view it are free to offer their own interpretations about this provocative work of art, just as Picasso had wanted.

Guernica: The Tapestry

In 1951, Pablo Picasso saw the work of master weavers René and Jacqueline de la Baume Dürrbach, whose studio was in the Vau region of the south of France. He was highly impressed by their mastery of tapestry technique and its use to restate two dimensional paintings into woven tapestries. Picasso asked them to weave tapestries of several of his most important paintings, and, in 1954, they wove their first piece based on one of his works. In 1955, the Dürrbachs wove the first of three tapestries after his masterpiece Guernica. Each weaving took about six months to complete. In 1960, France, another painting was woven for a Japanese collection, and the first was purchased by the late Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, a longtime friend of Picasso and a collector of his work. The painting had been more monochromatic, with blacks, whites, and shades of gray, in the tapestries the weavers introduced various shades of yellow and brown as well. As Rockefeller stated, “the subject had been sensitively and brilliantly adapted to the different medium, and the result was a stunningly beautiful work of art in its own right.”

Nelson Rockefeller served as Governor of New York from 1959 to 1973. During that period, he exhibited Guernica in Albany and private Rockefeller galleries in Tarrytown, N.Y., and Seal Harbor, Maine. In the early 1960s, the tapestry traveled to universities in New York and Maine as well as to four cities in Japan. After Rockefeller’s death in 1979, Mrs. Nelson Rockefeller lent the tapestry to the United Nations, where it was installed outside the Security Council with a plaque that read “in memory of Nelson A. Rockefeller and of his faith in and support for the United Nations.”

When Gen. Colin Powell and Amb. John Negroponte held a press conference after making his case for war in Iraq, they stood in front of Guernica, which had been mysteriously covered. Some say it was to simplify the backdrop for the cameras, others believe that it was to protect their message from the powerful anti-war images of Picasso’s tapestry. ☼

The San Antonio Museum of Art is pleased to announce Mary Free Sundays starting June 3. Admission to the museum will be free to the public between the hours of 10:00 am and 12:00 pm every Sunday to coincide with the extended hours, Café des Artistes will be opening at 10:00 am for brunch on Sundays. Additionally, on June 3 our First Sundays for Families will begin at 1:00 pm, providing the perfect opportunity for the public to spend the day enjoying SAMA’s treasures.

A special thank you to the Marys Family Foundation for helping SAMA be free to the community on Sundays. Remember that the museum is also free every Tuesday from 4:00 to 9:00 pm thanks to H-E-B.

The Museum is proud to announce its exciting new Second Friday “Scene at SAMA” Happy Hour, a monthly event that combines a particular aspect of the Museum’s world-class art exhibitions with a complementary musical genre and a unique specialty cocktail. Meet up with friends to start off the weekend at SAMA’s pavilion on the banks of the San Antonio River or make it a night of it with extended hours until 9:00 pm for both the Museum and Café des Artistes.

Scene at SAMA offers monthly extended hours, music, cocktails

The Museum is part of the Museum’s efforts to meet the needs of young professionals (or the young at heart!) to have a fun, sophisticated atmosphere to meet and enjoy cocktails, music and culture. The event is free with museum admission and is a collaboration between the San Antonio Museum of Art and KRTU Jazz 91.7.

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Exhibition series celebrates world-class collections in San Antonio

San Antonio Collects: African American – Featuring works from the Harriet and Harmon Kelley and Irene and Leo Edwards Collection opened with a private reception for local and national dignitaries, including Martin Luther King III, the son of the late Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., on the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. march in San Antonio. Due to the overwhelming positive response to the exhibition, its closing date has been extended to June 17, 2012.

San Antonio Collects: Gentile and Mission Life in San Antonio and Northern Mexico highlights the nineteenth-century artist Theodore Gentilz who painted the missions of San Antonio and Texas in its last days as a Republic. A variety of unique programs, including a member-only moonlight walk of the missions and a bike tour of the opposite wall, long enough to be traced on paper. Over time, this camera evolved through technological advances, diminished in size, and eventually became the modern portable camera.

A focus of Sublime Light: A Survey of American Photography from the Permanent Collection gathers more than fifty masterful and iconic images from SAMA’s holdings of photography and strives to illustrate the breadth and vitality of the medium over the last one and one half centuries. Although the first fixed image was recorded in 1826, artists were exploring the possibilities of recording light-generated images as early as the Renaissance using an optical device called the camera obscura. It consisted of a darkened room with a hole in one side, light rays from an external scene passed through a small hole in one wall to form an image on the opposite wall, large enough to be traced on paper. Over time, this camera evolved through technological advances, diminished in size, and eventually became the modern portable camera.

A selection of historic photographic images emerge from SAMA’s vaults for the exhibition, dating from the mid-to-late 19th century by largely unknown photographers or studios, and offers a rare glimpse into the early years of fine image to plate or paper. Early photographers, other precious and diminutive in size, are usually stiffly posed portraits or landscape subjects. These images are documentary in nature, or try to emulate still life or landscape paintings of the day. Examples include the daguerreotype (one-of-a-kind photographic image on copper plate, a “direct positive”) and the ambrotype (one-of-a-kind image on glass and colored by hand). Through further technological improvements and advancements, new processes which were inexpensive to produce, photographs became very popular. Examples of digitally manipulated photographs or images exploring the use of new technologies are featured in works by David Halliday, Geoff Winningham, Joan Miro Ramos and Maggie Taylor.

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Ancient Greece exhibition will bring Aphrodite to SAMA this fall

For the first time in SAMA’s history, the Museum will host an exhibition focusing on the art and culture of ancient Greece this fall. *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love* features works from the renowned classical art collection of the National Archaeological Museum, Naples, Italy. The exhibition explores Aphrodite’s many facets through graceful images of the goddess in marble, silver and bronze; wrive offerings dedicated in her honor; Athenian vases depicting the preparation of brides, and personal articles such as mirrors and jewelry. The exhibition is enhanced by seven breathtaking works lent by the National Archaeological Museum in Naples, Italy, including a stunning statue of Aphrodite from the Roman amphitheater in Capua and well paintings and a silver cup discovered in the ruins of Pompeii. While the exhibition is on view, the Museum will host a range of related programs including lectures, films, concerts, family activities and more.

The prints are by artist Okumura Masanobu (1686–1764) and remained in the pleasure quarters of Japan. The three great capital cities of Japan — Edo, Osaka, and Kyoto — were rivals in the Imperial era. Edo (near present-day Tokyo), Osaka and Kyoto were known respectively as the political, commercial, and cultural capitals of Japan. Each city had spacious entertainment districts, which included famous brothels, and the pleasures offered in each city were the subject of lively comparison. This rare and complete set of twelve prints dating between 1710-15 depict sexual encounters in the pleasure quarters of the three capitals. Each of the capitals is represented by four prints. A small, round dot in each print indicates the city where the scene takes place. The prints, titled Love on Three Capitals, belong to the shunga genre, an erotic art tradition that began in the Heian period and remained popular in Japan up to modern times.

Adad Hannah to bring photographs, tableaux to SAMA

Canadian artist Adad Hannah creates staged photographs and video tableaux that reinterpret art historical masterpieces and raise questions about the change and evolution of a work’s meaning over time. For *Adad Hannah: Intimate Encounters* at the San Antonio Museum of Art, Hannah will exhibit projects created in response to an antique bust of Eros and Aphrodite, a painting of Adam and Eve by Auguste Rodin. Chosen because of their subtle erotic overtones, these selections from Hannah’s creative process will complement the concurrent exhibition *Aphrodite and the Gods of Love*.

Located at the Prado Museum in Madrid, Spain, the bust of Eros and Aphrodite is shown in Hannah’s photographs and videos with a woman and man respectively about to kiss the lips of the god and goddess depicted in the sculpture. Also produced at the Prado, the Prado, Blinding Adam and Eve includes photographs and videos of a young man holding and implement to conceal the fig-leaved genitals of Adam and Eve in Albrecht Dürer’s painting of the biblical duo. For *Unwrapping Rodin*, a photographic sequence shows the nude statue in various stages of undress as wrapping paper has been peeled from it.

For the SAMA exhibition, Hannah has been invited to visit San Antonio to select a week from the collection of the San Antonio Museum of Art. Once he has found a week from the collection to inspire him, Hannah will produce a new series of photographs and videos, with volunteers from the San Antonio community serving as models. The new project will be exhibited with the three projects cited above as SAMA’s feature exhibition for the 2012 edition of *FondoarteUSA*.
Gala celebrates San Antonio Collects: Contemporary

SAMA hosted its annual gala on March 22 celebrating the opening of the exhibition San Antonio Collects: Contemporary. The evening honored the late Linda Pace and other San Antonio contemporary art collectors, highlighting their role as leaders in the field as collectors and their commitment to the contemporary art community.

Chaired by Guillermo Nicolás, SAMA’s West Courtyard was transformed into a fabulously vibrant party that was enjoyed by over 375 guests. The RK Group designed a menu that complimented the contemporary art theme, while Henry Brun entertained the audience with chic samba music by Judi DeLeon & the Brazilian ‘12 Ensemble. Guests danced into the night at the amazing after-party: The Happening.

The Happening

Partygoers continued the celebration with a contemporary art inspired night of dancing live music under the pavilion on the Gloria Galt River Landing. Guests enjoyed specialty cocktails served at the Buddha bar and live entertainment streamed from behind a larger than life shadow box.

All proceeds from the evening’s events provided crucial operating support for SAMA’s collections, exhibitions and educational programming.

The San Antonio Museum of Art will host its Destination: Paris event on Thursday, September 27, 2012. Formerly the Backyard River Bash, this outdoor event is sure to draw a large crowd to SAMA’s beautiful West Courtyard and Gloria Galt River Landing.

This year’s chairmen, Karen Lee and David Zachry, invite you to bring your friends to enjoy a taste of Paris with a fabulous evening that includes a live performance by The Klocks, and an array of refreshing cocktails and Parisian delicacies provided by Page Barteau Catering. There will also be an opportunity for a chance to win a trip to Paris!

Sponsorships are available at the $5,000, $3,500 and $1,500 level. Each level includes 20, 15 or 10 tickets based on your level of sponsorship. In appreciation for your support, sponsors will be recognized in all print materials related to the event. Individual tickets are available for $200 per couple or $100 each.

We hope you will join us for what is sure to be a fun evening at SAMA! This unique event will provide crucial operating support for SAMA’s collections, exhibitions and educational programming. For more information and to make your reservation please call (210) 978-8106.

Circle Members Dinner set for fall, Ruiz-Healy to chair

Become a Circle Member today and receive an exclusive invitation to the San Antonio Museum of Art’s Fourth Annual Circle Members Dinner to be held in the fall of 2012. This year’s event will once again be chaired by Patricia Ruiz-Healy. Each year SAMA recognizes those who support the Museum’s membership program at $1,000 and above with an elegant reception, dinner and presentation featuring an honored guest nationally recognized for his/her involvement in the arts. This is a wonderful opportunity to mingle with other arts supporters in the San Antonio community and to expand your knowledge of the arts, including SAMA’s collections. As patrons who show a deep commitment to the Museum’s mission, Circle Members also enjoy invitations to private events, programs and travel opportunities throughout the year.

Updates about this year’s guest speaker and date of the Circle Members Dinner will be listed on the Museum’s website at www.samuseum.org. For more information on SAMA’s Circle Member program, or to join, you may contact Lana Shafer in the membership office at (210) 978-8133 or lana.shafer@samuseum.org. A formal save the date and invitation will be sent to all current Circle Members via mail.

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- Ms. Barbara C. Kyse

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- Mr. and Mrs. James W. Falls
- Mr. and Mrs. John E. Newman, Jr.
- Ms. Barbara C. Kyse

**Other gifts**
- Ms. Susan Toomey Frost

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**Spratling Trunk Show**

Join the SAMA Store for a unique shopping experience on Thursday, June 21 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. The show will feature unique reproductions of original Spratling designs. Conrado Ulrich, current owner of the Spratling company, will be at SAMA during this event to discuss the rich history of Spratling silver work. During this event, members will receive 10% off any purchase of Spratling merchandise, which is normally not eligible for membership discounts. Stop by the store today to look at the current Spratling merchandise we have in stock and get a taste of what is to come this summer.

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**Café wraps up Best in Outdoor Dining award**

The weather is heating up and it is time to enjoy dining al fresco on the season of warm and beautiful views of the San Antonio River.

Café des Artistes is excited to announce its win for the 2012 White Tie Award for the WOAM Best of San Antonio: Outdoor Dining. Now it is the perfect time to try the café if you have not had a chance to eat here before! Enjoy our menu from 6:00 – 9:00 pm for live music on the terrace or on Sunday for our amazing brunch bucket.

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**Membership & Development**

**Current Circle Members** as of February 29, 2012

We are grateful for SAMA’s Circle Members whose contributions provide important annual operating support and assist the Museum in presenting special exhibitions and dynamic educational programs for the current year.

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- Ms. Susan Toomey Frost

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Wooden figures of Amitabha Buddha, the subject of this sculpture, were very popular in Japan during the 12th and 13th centuries. According to Mahayana Buddhist doctrine, Amitabha Buddha resides in the Western Paradise, and the fortunate faithful can be reborn there in the next life. In this gorgeous example, Amitabha is shown with his hands in a symbolic gesture known in Sanskrit as a mudra. This mudra means “welcome to paradise” and is related to the Buddha’s role in the Western Paradise.

Consistent with Buddhist sculpture of the period, the figure is carved of wood and is constructed by the joined-block method. Traces of gold, pigment and lacquer suggest that the sculpture was originally painted and gilded. Some of the tiny jewels that adorned Amitabha’s crown survive intact. Considering the early date and great rarity of the figure, this image is in very good condition. The newly acquired Amitabha sculpture takes a place of pride amongst the fine group of Japanese Buddhist figures in SAMA’s Asian art collection.

The Buddha was acquired by the Museum early this year thanks to the generosity of Lenora and Walter F. Brown. The Museum is delighted to welcome a late 12th century Japanese Buddha into our permanent collection.