BMA PRESENTS SPECIAL EVENING ON THE ART OF COLLECTING

Talks, Tour, and Reception Celebrate “New Arrivals: Gifts of Art for a New Century”

BALTIMORE, MD (April 1, 2016)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) presents a distinguished panel of experts to speak at Collecting Now on Saturday, April 16, 7-9 p.m. in celebration of the stunning exhibition, New Arrivals: Gifts of Art for a New Century. The lively night features five short talks on aspects of collecting, from how collecting patterns have changed in the digital age to how the BMA has grown its world-class collection and how museums and private collectors preserve their works.

Speakers include acclaimed author Andrea Pitzer on her research into Vladimir Nabokov’s butterfly collection; Artistic Director of Rhizome at the New Museum Michael Connor on collecting in the digital age; Private collector Darnell W. Burfoot on collecting challenging artworks; Walters Art Museum Paper Conservator Elisabetta Polidori on how to care for works on paper; and BMA Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs Jay Fisher on how the BMA has grown its world-class collection.

Before the talks, Senior Curator Rena Hoisington leads a tour of New Arrivals’ more than 200 works by artists such as Degas, Kelly, Magritte, Matisse, Rodin, and many others. The exhibition highlights recent acquisitions given to the BMA during the museum’s enormously successful Campaign for Art.

Tour and talks followed by a reception in Antioch Court. Beer, wine, and sweet and savory hors d’oeuvres included. Tickets are $45 for Members and $50 for non-Members. Seating is limited. To purchase tickets, visit artbma.tix.com. For more information, call 443-573-1836.

SPEAKER BIOS

Darnell W. Burfoot is a private collector, social worker, and lifelong Baltimore City resident whose holdings span from master prints by Rembrandt, Giovanni Castiglioni, and Piranesi, to contemporary artists such as Alison Saar, Glen Ligon, Carrie Mae Weems, Zanele Muholi, and Alberto Giacometti. He’s served as a member of the BMA’s Friend Groups, including the Joshua Johnson Council, Print, Drawing & Photograph Society, and most recently, Friends of Modern and Contemporary Art.

Michael Connor is Rhizome’s Artistic Director and a Visiting Professor in the Department of Photo & Imaging at Tisch School of the Arts. He has curated exhibitions and projects for Yarat, Baku, Cornerhouse, Manchester, the Museum of Moving Image, New York, ACM, Melbourne, Bell Lightbox, Toronto, FACT, Liverpool, MocaTV, and BFI, London. His writing has appeared in Camille Henrot: Elephant Child, You Are Here: Art After the Internet (Cornerhouse), Digital Video Abstraction (UCPress), ArtAsiaPacific, and Artforum.com. Connor has lectured widely on topics relating to art and technology.

Jay Fisher is the BMA’s Interim Co-Director as well as the Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs. In the later role, Mr. Fisher oversees the Museum’s curators, conservators, and registrars. As a curator, Mr. Fisher concentrates on 19th-century and modern French prints and drawings. More recently, Mr. Fisher has focused on the BMA’s great holdings of Matisse drawings and prints. He has organized numerous exhibitions, including Matisse: Painter as Sculptor and Matisse as Printmaker. Mr. Fisher wrote the catalogue raisonné on the prints of Théodore Chassériau, and together with colleagues at the Walters Art Museum created an online database of the BMA’s and Walter’s collections of 19th-century French drawings. Mr. Fisher regularly lectures nationally and internationally. He is a graduate of Occidental College in Los Angeles and received an M.A. from Williams College in 1975.
Andrea Pitzer is the author of the acclaimed 2013 book, *The Secret History of Vladimir Nabokov*, which shed light on the iconic author’s life and works. Pitzer’s work has appeared from USA Today and Slate to Poet Lore. She founded Nieman Storyboard, the narrative nonfiction site for the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. She has spoken on narrative journalism in the U.S. and abroad. As an artist, she has shown oil paintings in juried exhibitions from Rhode Island to Louisiana, and her work is held in private collections from coast to coast.

Elisabetta Polidori is Associate Conservator of Paper and Book Materials at The Walters Art Museum and the Samuel H. Kress Fellow in Paper Conservation at the Northeast Document Conservation Center. NDCC is the first independent conservation laboratory in the U.S. to specialize in the conservation and preservation of paper-based collections. She received her M.A. in Conservation of Paper and Parchment from the Opificio delle Pietre Dure of Florence and her B.A. in Art History from the University of Florence. She gained extensive experience in the conservation and treatment of paper-based artifacts, working in private practice and public museums around the world, including the Smithsonian Institute and Museum of Fine Arts of Boston.

NEW ARRIVALS: GIFTS OF ART FOR A NEW CENTURY
The BMA celebrates the evolution of its world-class collection in this stunning exhibition of more than 200 artworks—many on view for the first time—with masterworks by Degas, Kelly, Magritte, Matisse, Rodin, and many others given to the BMA during its enormously successful Campaign for Art. Nearly every area of the collection is represented with objects spread across geography, culture, chronology, and medium.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
The Baltimore Museum of Art is home to an internationally renowned collection of 19th-century, modern, and contemporary art. Founded in 1914 with a single painting, the BMA today has 95,000 works of art—including the largest holding of works by Henri Matisse in the world. Throughout the museum, visitors will find an outstanding selection of American and European painting, sculpture, and decorative arts; prints and drawings from the 15th century to the present; works by established and emerging contemporary artists; and exceptional objects from Africa and Asia. Two beautifully landscaped gardens display an array of 20th-century sculpture that is an oasis in the city. The 210,000-square-foot museum is distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope. A $28 million multi-year renovation that began in 2010 has transformed galleries for contemporary, American, African, and Asian art, and improved visitor amenities and essential infrastructure. Since 2006, the BMA has provided free general admission so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION
The Baltimore Museum of Art is open Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year’s Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive at North Charles and 31st Streets, three miles north of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. For general Museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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