



MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM *of* ART
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MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES NEW EXHIBITION

Herb and Dorothy: A Glimpse into Their Extraordinary Collection

Exhibition Celebrates Local Insurance Company's 150th Anniversary

(Jackson, Miss.) . . . The Mississippi Museum of Art is partnering with its long-time fine arts insurance agency, Ross & Yerger Insurance, Inc., to help mark the Jackson-based insurance company's 150th anniversary. As part of its celebration, Ross & Yerger has chosen to sponsor the Museum's new exhibition *Herb and Dorothy: A Glimpse into Their Extraordinary Collection*. Opening April 10, the exhibition is on view in the Donna and Jim Barksdale Galleries for Changing Exhibitions through September 12, 2010.

The collection of fifty works of contemporary art was a gift from New York collectors Dorothy and Herbert (Herb) Vogel. The donors began purchasing art in the 1960s, using Dorothy's salary as a reference librarian at the Brooklyn Public Library to cover the expenses of daily life and devoting Herb's salary as a United States Postal Service worker to the acquisition of contemporary art.

By the 1990s, the number of pieces crowding the couple's small rent-controlled New York apartment reached into the thousands. At that time, the National Gallery of Art acquired a portion of the collection through partial

purchase and gift from the Vogels. In recent years, the National Gallery of Art, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) have worked with the Vogels to create a program entitled The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States.

The program targets one art institution in each of the fifty states to receive a share of 2,500 works. Primarily made up of drawings, the works donated by the Vogels also include paintings, sculptures, photographs, and prints by more than 170 contemporary artists, mainly working in the United States.

“We hope this will be a truly national program, and that it will make the work of the many artists we admire familiar to a wider audience. We also hope our gifts will enable museums throughout the country to represent a significant range of contemporary art,” said Dorothy Vogel.

Artists whose work was donated to the Mississippi Museum of Art, and which is on view in *Herb and Dorothy*, include such highly regarded contemporary artists as Will Barnet, Claudia DeMonte, Cindy Sherman, and Richard Tuttle.

“We are thrilled that the Mississippi Museum of Art was chosen as Mississippi’s recipient of these important contemporary works of art,” said Betsy Bradley, director of the Mississippi Museum of Art. “We are likewise grateful to Ross & Yerger for choosing to fund this exhibition as part of their 150th anniversary celebration. The company has not only served as the Museum’s fine arts agency for seven years, it has also stepped up to sponsor many of our programs and special projects throughout the years. Ross & Yerger’s long-time

support, not just of the Museum but of so many other cultural and community efforts, speaks to the company's commitment of investing in our city and state."

According to Dudley Wooley, Ross & Yerger's president and chief operating officer, this exhibition's timing and story provided a unique opportunity to celebrate the company's 150 years as a fine arts insurance provider in Mississippi.

"We saw it as the perfect vehicle through which we could thank our clients while, at the same time, a way to give back to our community," said Wooley. "Our company's centennial logo carries the phrase 'Celebrating 150 Years of Possibilities.' Sponsoring this exhibition presented a possibility that we did not want to pass up. We are very pleased to work with the Museum on this extraordinary exhibition."

In acknowledgement of Ross & Yerger's anniversary and its contributions to cultural, civic, and business communities, many of its carriers and business partners are supporting *Herb and Dorothy* as well. They are Chubb; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi; Travelers; Southwest Business Corporation (SWBC); Sun Life Financial; Mutual of Omaha; Chamber Plus, Inc.; Union Standard; and Matterhorn Financial Services.

To complement the exhibition, the Museum plans to screen a documentary film entitled *Herb and Dorothy* by producer and director Megumi Sasaki. The film follows the couple as they visit the studios of artists, museums, and other places significant to their story. It also features interviews with Dorothy and Herb Vogel as well as interviews with some of the artists whose work the

couple collected. The film will be shown on Thursday, April 15, at 5:30 p.m. at the Museum. Admission is free and open to the public. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

In addition, the NEA has funded the publication of a book, *The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States*, which is available for purchase in The Museum Store. The book retails for \$14.95.

IMLS provided funds for the disbursal of the art (under the supervision of the National Gallery of Art) and for the development of a web site, www.vogel50x50.org, to serve as both an information center and exhibition area for this project.

The Mississippi Museum of Art and its programs are sponsored in part by the city of Jackson and the Jackson Convention & Visitors Bureau. Support is also provided in part by funding from the Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, and in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Exhibition hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays. Admission: Adults \$5, Senior Adults (60+) \$4, children 6 - college \$3, children 5 and under free, Museum members free. Hours and admission may vary during major exhibitions.

For more information about this exhibition and other programs offered by the Mississippi Museum of Art, visit the web at www.msmuseumart.org or call 601-960-1515 or toll free 1-866-VIEW-ART. For more information on The Dorothy and Herbert Vogel Collection: Fifty Works for Fifty States program, visit the web at www.vogel50X50.org.