As we welcome students and faculty back for the 2010-11 academic year, museum offices are still located on the third floor of the Oberlin Inn while the renovation is underway. Nevertheless, we continue to enrich the College and Conservatory curriculum with a wide variety of programs. A new museum class, “Photography and Politics,” will add a much sought after photography course to the curriculum. Our Academic Programs Office has also worked with faculty to offer “Contraband Canvases,” a mini-course that explores the genesis of the Nukus Museum in Uzbekistan and includes a public screening of the powerful 2010 documentary Desert of Forbidden Art (see p. 12) and an opportunity to meet the film’s directors.

The AMAM’s loan exhibition, Side by Side: Oberlin’s Masterworks at the Met, closed in New York on August 29. It will be on view at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. through January 16, 2011. We extend our sincere thanks to Phillips Director Dorothy Kosinski, Chief Curator Eliza Rathbone, and Assistant Curator Renée Maurer—and many other generous colleagues at the Phillips—who have worked with us to bring these extraordinary works of art to Washington.

The summer also gave us the opportunity to work on several important projects in preparation for the museum’s reopening in late spring 2011. We completed writing the first general handbook to the AMAM collection, to be published by Marquand Editions in April 2011. One hundred and seventy-five of the museum’s most important works will be featured with spectacular new photographs by Dirk Bakker. To provide a road map for the years leading up to 2017, when we will celebrate the AMAM’s centennial, we began developing the museum’s second long-range plan. Under the guidance of Katie Solender (OC ’77), AMAM staff met with groups both on campus and within the community to discuss values and priorities for a new strategic plan.

Our biggest current project, of course, is the renovation of the museum’s facilities to ensure that we take care of our historic building and improve the way we care for and provide access to our art collections. Work continues apace as new mechanical systems are installed and new art storage spaces are completed. A fuller update can be found on pages 8-9. Visit our museum blog (http://amamblog.tumblr.com) for continuing reports on the progress of the renovation and our many programs and educational activities. As always, we appreciate your support of the Allen.
Side by Side: Oberlin’s Masterworks at the Phillips

The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.

Twenty-five old master and modern works from the Allen Memorial Art Museum are juxtaposed with works from The Phillips Collection, underscoring the relationship of art through the ages and Duncan Phillips’s belief in “the antiquity of modern ideas… the modernity of some of the old masters.”

Paintings by Erhard Altdorfer, the Cavaliere d’Arpino, Cézanne, Monet, Picasso, Kirchner, Rothko, Barnett Newman, and others are installed in contexts that explore how art across time can be juxtaposed to create new ways of looking at art. Outstanding Dutch and Flemish works by Hendrick ter Brugghen—his Saint Sebastian Tended by Irene of 1625 is considered one of the most important Northern Baroque paintings in this country—and Sweerts’s Self-Portrait (ca. 1656), are included along with Rubens’s Finding of Erichthonius of about 1632-33. Oberlin’s Rubens painting is shown with the Phillips’s radiant Luncheon of the Boating Party made about 1880 by Auguste Renoir; throughout his career, Renoir was inspired by Rubens’s colors and compositions.

Austrian artist Oskar Kokoschka’s Sposalizio (Double Portrait) of 1912 was donated to the AMAM by the artist’s friend Lotte Franzos and is displayed near the Phillips’s portrait of Franzos by the same artist—both paintings provide a window on Kokoschka’s attempts to capture the psychological state of his sitters through expressive means. AMAM works by Rothko, Gottlieb, and Newman are displayed outside the Phillips’s beautiful Rothko room—providing a fuller story about these artists’ role in defining the nascent New York School and Abstract Expressionism.

Organized by Andria Derstine and Stephanie Wiles, with curators Renée Maurer and Eliza Rathbone of The Phillips Collection.

Events in Washington, D.C., at The Phillips Collection

September 16, 6:30 pm: Colette Crossman, former AMAM Curator of Academic programs, and Renée Maurer, Assistant Curator at the Phillips, discuss surprising and provocative conversations between Oberlin and Phillips Collection works.

September 23, 6:30 pm: Arthur K. Wheelock Jr., Curator of Northern Baroque painting at the National Gallery of Art, discusses Oberlin’s renowned Ter Brugghen, Saint Sebastian Tended by Irene.

September 30, 6:30 pm: A string quartet from The Oberlin Conservatory of Music responds to Side by Side: Oberlin’s Masterworks at the Phillips. Reservations required.

October 7, 6:30 pm: Richard Spear, former AMAM Director, presents “This jewel of an art museum’: Oberlin at the Phillips.”

October 20, 6:00-8:00 pm: Join Oberlin College alumni for a gala reception at The Phillips Collection. For more information or to register contact: public.programs@oberlin.edu or (440) 775-6785.

October 21, 6:30 pm: Andria Derstine, AMAM Curator of Collections and European & American art, highlights the visual interplay and rich dialogues that result when masterworks from the collections of Oberlin and the Phillips hang side by side.

For more information, visit www.phillipscollection.org.

left:
Peter Paul Rubens
(Flemish, 1577-1640)
The Finding of Erichthonius (detail), 1632-33
Oil on canvas
R. T. Miller Jr. Fund, 1944.96

right:
Alberto Giacometti (Swiss, 1901-1966)
Figure (detail), 1951
Oil on canvas
Gift of Joseph and Enid Bissert, 1964.25
© Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ADAGP, Paris
Culture Revolution: Contemporary Chinese Paintings from the Allen Memorial Art Museum

October 16, 2010 - February 27, 2011
Akron Art Museum

This exhibition explores the work of four internationally renowned Chinese artists, Shen Jiawei, Wang Guangyi, Zeng Fanzhi, and Hung Liu. Political Pop meets expressionism, realism, history and nostalgia in works that comment on China’s present and future while evoking its political past. Recognizing the depth and diversity of China’s post-1978 art scene, the AMAM acquired these contemporary Chinese paintings with support from the Philadelphia-based E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Recent gifts to the AMAM collection include two new paintings by Hung Liu: *Yoke* (1997), a gift in 2006 from the Estate of Esther S. Weissman, and *Bird Bath* (2001), a 2010 gift of Driek and Michael Zirinsky.

Organized by the Akron Art Museum and supported by the museum’s Evelyne Shaffer Endowment for Exhibitions.

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AMAM Paintings, Sculptures, and Miniatures at the Cleveland Museum of Art

Through February 2011
The Cleveland Museum of Art

Fourteen works of art from the AMAM’s collections of 17th-19th century European art are integrated into the galleries of the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), where they will remain on display until spring 2011. The works formed the basis of a course co-taught in spring 2010 by AMAM curator Andria Derstine and CMA curator Jon Seydl. The Oberlin students visited the CMA to study the history and display of European art and to learn about the behind-the-scenes aspects of museum work, such as storage, conservation, art handling, mount-making, installation and exhibition design. Oberlin students wrote the gallery labels and longer texts about the works, and created podcasts available on both museums’ web sites. A brochure available at the CMA indicates the locations of the works, which are marked with AMAM-logo labels.

Included in the exhibition are eleven paintings by Batoni, Lawrence, Hogarth, Van de Venne, Hobbema, Chardin, Boucher, Oudry, Lagrenée, and Boilly, as well as two sculptures, one by the 18th-century artist Francesco Bertos and one cast in the 17th century after a model by Giambologna. Recently, the AMAM’s portrait miniature of a lady writing a letter, by Frédéric Dubois, was installed in a special case fabricated by the CMA especially for the display of miniatures.

Organized by Andria Derstine, Curator of Collections and Curator of European & American Art at the AMAM and John Seydl, Paul J. and Edith Ingalls Vignos, Jr., Curator of European Painting and Sculpture at the CMA.
Recent Acquisitions at the AMAM

The AMAM was recently able to reunite full-length pendant portraits by British artist Sir Thomas Lawrence after the two paintings spent decades apart. Lady Eleanor Wigram was acquired by Oberlin in 1986 in memory of AMAM curator Chloe Hamilton Young; the portrait of her husband, Sir Robert Wigram (1744-1830), was purchased this year on the London art market. Wigram was instrumental in convincing the English government to build the East India Docks in 1803 and was a director of the company in 1815, the year both portraits were likely started. He first came to London in 1762 where he became a surgeon, serving on ships to the East Indies from 1764-72. He later became a drug merchant in London and Member of Parliament, and was created a baronet in 1805.

The Wigrams—who together had 17 children—were known by contemporaries to have a close and loving marriage, and the portraits are evidence of their compatibility even as they allude to Sir Robert Wigram’s successful business dealings, the burgeoning of trade, and the language of fashion in the early 19th century.

A new photograph by Rudy Burckhardt, Willem de Kooning, 22nd Street, 1938, shows the 34-year old abstract expressionist standing in front of a large painting (now lost). Burckhardt, who moved to New York from his native Basel in 1935 at the age of 21, developed many long-standing professional and personal relationships with artists such as Jackson Pollock, Red Grooms, Alex Katz, and Robert Rauschenberg (all represented at the AMAM).

Louise Nevelson, New York, November 9, 1986, taken a year after Allen Ginsberg’s first exhibition of photographs, epitomizes his newly revisited passion for photography. In the early 1980s, Ginsberg rediscovered negatives and drugstore prints he had taken over the previous forty years, and with the help of friends and assistants, he began to both reprint his old pictures and to make new ones, the camera gradually replacing his notebooks as a way of record-keeping. The AMAM’s new photograph of Louise Nevelson, taken during Ginsberg’s first—and last—meeting with the artist, was captioned by the photographer some time after her death in 1988.

The AMAM also received generous gifts from Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz of New York. The Ehrenkranzs presented the AMAM with the book Her Story, a compilation of 13 poems by Anne Waldman, illustrated with 13 original etchings by the artist Elizabeth Murray (American, 1940-2007), published in 1990. The Ehrenkranzs additionally donated two sculptures of reclining figures by Lucas Samaras, the first works by that Greek-born American artist to enter the AMAM collection.

Alumni Michael (OC 1964) and Driek (OC 1965) Zirinsky recently donated four paintings by Chinese and Australian artists to the AMAM collection, including Chinese artist Hung Liu’s Bird Bath (2001). The work joins paintings Ma (1993) and Yoke (1997), as well as a 2004 lithograph, Needlework by the artist.

Sir Thomas Lawrence (English, 1769-1830)
Portraits of Eleanor, Lady Wigram, 1815-1816
Oil on canvas
R. T. Miller, Jr. Fund and Mrs. E.F. Prentiss Fund in memory of Chloe Hamilton Young, 1986.17

Sir Thomas Lawrence (English, 1769-1830)
Sir Robert Wigram, 1815-1816
Oil on canvas
R. T. Miller, Jr. Fund, 2010.14

Allen Ginsberg (American, 1926-1997)
Louise Nevelson, New York, November 9, 1986, 1986
gelatin silver print
Charles Olney Fund, 2010.8
AMAM BUILDING RENOVATION

Phase I

Phase 1 of the AMAM’s renovation project was completed in the 1977 Robert Venturi addition this summer. Work in the 1977 building included an upgrade of the 33-year old mechanical and electrical systems, along with the addition of new fire suppression systems and upgrade of security systems. A new basement mechanical room was installed to replace the one formerly located above the ceiling of the Ellen Johnson Gallery.

A newly renovated art storage space is one highlight. The purchase of new painting storage screens, seen in the picture below, was generously supported through a National Endowment for the Humanities “Stabilizing Humanities Collections” grant.

Additional projects completed in the Ellen Johnson Gallery include a new gallery lighting system and new insulated windows.

Phase II

Phase II demolition and excavation work began in earnest in the 1917 building this summer. Renovation and excavation for two art storage areas are underway. The scope of work includes asbestos abatement, removal of old concrete, re-routing of storm piping, and removal of old ducts. There is also significant excavation work necessary to install subsurface drainage, an extensive waterproofing system, and new floor slab in the new art storage area. This will allow appropriate floor to ceiling height for the new art compact storage system as well as air distribution, fire protection, and fire detection systems.

One of the most visible projects that will greet visitors when we reopen is new gallery lighting planned for the Cass Gilbert building. The scope of works includes removal of old insulation in the attic, installation of an attic lighting system to simulate daylight, new insulated glass units between the attic and galleries, and new in-gallery lighting.

We are very grateful to Pat and Merrill Shanks (OC 1963 and 1961, respectively) and Mrs. Fay Stern for their leadership and generous gifts that will significantly enhance the museum’s ability to showcase our collections.

New moveable screen system includes rolled textile storage screens.

Window replacement in the Ellen Johnson Gallery.
Curatorial Assistants

As part of an ongoing effort to provide outstanding students with meaningful post-graduate experience, the AMAM currently has two curatorial assistants supporting research and teaching at Oberlin College.

Franny Brock has been a member of the AMAM’s full-time staff since graduating from Oberlin College in May 2009. Working with Andria Derstine, Curator of Collections and Curator of European & American Art, Franny co-organized the exhibition and organized public talks and tours for Out of Line: Drawings from the Allen from the Twentieth Century and Beyond, which was on view from September 1 to December 23, 2009. She spent much of the winter and spring preparing the American entries of the AMAM database for public access through the eMuseum catalog; they have been fully searchable online since June. Currently, Franny is conducting research on the AMAM’s Renaissance works in preparation for a 2012-2013 loan from the Yale University Art Gallery.

This fall, another recent graduate, Anna-Claire Stinebring (OC ’09), will serve as a curatorial assistant to the museum’s Office of Academic Programs. Working with Liliana Milkova, Anna-Claire will supervise the Mudd classroom where faculty and students continue to teach and learn from about 300 works on paper from the museum’s collection. She has considerable experience in this area, having spent much of her undergraduate time as the Print Room and research assistant, and helping to arrange the transfer of AMAM works on paper to the Mudd classroom. As a student, Anna-Claire organized the highly successful exhibition, Starry Dome: Astronomy in Art and the Imagination.

Beyond Oberlin

During the fall semester, visitors to New Haven, Cleveland, Toledo, and Houston will be able to visit works from the AMAM collection included in a range of special exhibitions. A standout among these is the AMAM’s magnificent drawing by American artist John La Farge (1835-1910) that will be on view with paintings and drawings from La Farge’s 1890-91 voyage to the South Pacific islands taken with his friend, the historian Henry Adams.


John La Farge, Ford at the Upper End of the Vai-Te-Piha (Tautira River), Tahiti, 1891, watercolor and gouache in John La Farge’s Second Paradise: Voyages in the South Seas, 1890-91 on view at the Yale University Art Galley (October 19, 2010–March 27, 2011).

Kurt Schwitters, Grey and Yellow (Grau und Gelb), 1947, paper, newspaper, and canvas collage with gray-blue tissue paper, paint, and red crayon or chalk on brown cardboard in Kurt Schwitters: Color and Collage on view at The Menil Collection, (October 22, 2010–January 30, 2011).

Two African objects—Benin Kingdom, West Africa, Leopard Hip Ornament, 18th century, bronze and the Foliage Master, Sierra Leone, West Africa, Afro-Portuguese Saltcellar, late 15th-early 16th century, ivory—are integrated into the permanent collection galleries of the Toledo Museum of Art and on view through January 2011.
"Photography and Politics"

This fall, AMAM Curator of Academic Programs Dr. Liliana Milkova will teach a module course entitled "Photography and Politics." The course will place special emphasis on revolutionary, totalitarian, and war contexts, and examine photographs in the AMAM’s collection with an eye towards recovering and reassessing contemporary political meanings for these works. Four public lectures will accompany the class and offer students an opportunity to meet prominent practitioners and scholars in the field. Artist and geographer Trevor Paglen will talk about photographing secret government operations in the war against terrorism, while National Gallery of Art's Mark Levitch will discuss photography in France during World War I. Art critic Andy Grundberg will address photography's role in the Culture Wars of the late 1980s and early 1990s, and anthropologist and Yale University Art Gallery Curator David Odo will describe how the West used early tourist photography of Japan to construct scientific knowledge.

Please see the Program Calendar (p. 19) for dates and times for this lecture series.

This lecture series is made possible by the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Art Department Baldwin Fund, as well as contributions from the History Department and the Department of French and Italian.

“Contraband Canvases: How Modern Soviet Art Found a Home in the Desert”

In mid-October, the Allen Memorial Art Museum, in collaboration with the Oberlin Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, will offer a course on the life and achievements of Igor Savitsky (1915-1984), who rescued 44,000 works of unsanctioned Soviet art and founded a museum to house it far from the eyes of the Kremlin. Today, the Nukus Art Museum, located in Karakalpakstan, Uzbekistan, holds the second largest collection of Soviet avant-garde art in the world. This collection of artwork, suppressed during Stalinism and the following decades, offers fresh perspectives on the art and history of the USSR. The remarkable story of the man and the museum he created is captured in the 2010 award-winning documentary “Desert of Forbidden Art.” The course will feature lectures on the history, politics, and culture of the area, as well as a screening of the film and a round-table discussion with directors Amanda Pope and Tchavdar Georgiev.

“Desert of Forbidden Art” Screening

Monday, October 18

King 106, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Lectures and the screening are open to the public.

Latino Heritage Month

On September 27, the AMAM will celebrate Latino Heritage Month with an afternoon exhibition mounted in the museum’s temporary print study room in Mudd Library. Organized by senior art history major Nicholas Thypin-Bermeo, the exhibition focuses on 1930s prints by the Mexican muralists Jose Clemente Orozco and Diego Rivera juxtaposed with more recent works by artists Gabriel Orozco (Jose Clemente’s son) and Cuban-born Ana Mendieta. Thypin-Bermeo, a member of the Latino Heritage Month Planning Committee, La Alianza Latina and Third World Co-op, comments that the exhibition will “highlight the complexity and multicultural nature of Latino identity, art and society.”

New Faculty Orientation

Despite the museum’s closure, the Office of Academic Programs participated in the New Faculty Orientation organized by the Dean’s office. More than 40 new faculty joined museum staff in the temporary Print Study Room in Mudd Library for an overview of the selection of works available for curricular use while the museum is closed, as well as for a demonstration and discussion of the different models of teaching with art.

To make an appointment to use the collection, or to find out more about the AMAM’s Academic Programs, please contact Liliana Milkova at lmilkova@oberlin.edu or 440-775-8645.
**Spring 2010 Programs**

Education and public programs continued with an active spring semester of talks, workshops, and outreach to area schools and art fairs. Student docents and the Curator of Education visited classrooms to give presentations on the museum and its collection, engaging more than 540 schoolchildren and members of the public in outreach programs.

For the sixth-grade curriculum on Ancient River Cultures, AMAM works were discussed with every sixth-grade classroom in Oberlin City Schools and Durling Middle School (Elyria). A series of “Art Potlucks” in collaboration with the Oberlin Public Library were held on the city school’s early release days. These three workshops provided young learners with the chance to experiment with a variety of artistic materials.

The spring FAVA–AMAM Teen Workshop was a particular success. More than a dozen middle and high school students learned about the history of photography and explored a variety of photographic techniques. On four consecutive Saturdays, participants experimented with photosensitive printmaking, photo collage, and photography exercises that included a scavenger hunt, a ‘photo walk,’ still life, and portraiture. Students also learned the basics for printing and developing photographs in a darkroom—an especially popular activity for a generation of kids whose sole experience with photography has been digital.

**Fall 2010 Programs**

This fall, the AMAM Education Department continues to be actively engaged in teaching about the museum’s collection through public programs (see p. 17), online resources (see p. 16), and outreach activities to regional school districts. Among the outreach programs that will continue are:

**Classroom Presentations:** AMAM Education staff and student docents will visit K-12 schools to give dynamic, interactive presentations based on the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) technique employed during gallery visits.

**Culture Kits:** The museum has prepared a kit on printmaking, focusing on woodblock prints. This kit includes two works of art: a 15th-century German and an early 20th-century Japanese woodblock prints. Also included is a series of fifteen prints illustrating the many stages involved in creating a full-color Japanese woodblock print. Educators will also discuss the history of printmaking, and lead students through an exercise where they create their own print.

**Architectural Tours:** While the museum is closed, tours of its historic architecture will be offered. The College’s Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house (located about a mile from campus) provides another opportunity for in-depth examinations of architectural issues, including the ideas behind “green” architecture. All tours can be connected to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum goals.

**Teachers:** please contact Curator of Education Jason Trimmer to discuss ideas and goals for bringing the AMAM into your classroom (jtrimmer@oberlin.edu); (440) 775-8671.

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_Oberlin Chalk Walk_

Oberlin’s fifth consecutive Chalk Walk was a resounding success with a 36% increase in the number of registered participants. Almost 500 people created their own chalk artwork, while hundreds more visited town, strolling through the streets to watch the artists at work.

"Art Potlucks” with student intern Alex Vargo

_FAVA-AMAM Photography workshop with guest instructor Clifton Barnes_
ONLINE RESOURCES

The AMAM seeks to stay in touch with the college and community through a variety of new online resources. This past year saw the launch of the Official AMAM Blog, which has now featured more than 60 news items, such as updates on the renovation project, podcasts, links to press reviews for the museum’s loan exhibitions, information on educational and academic programs, stunning new photos of the Weltzheimer/Johnson House, and more.

The museum also continued to develop podcasts to support learning about the collection. New podcasts were created for art on loan to the Akron Art Museum, and podcasts were used as a supporting resource for the Side by Side exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with links from the Met’s website. Oberlin College students enrolled in an exhibition practicum taught by AMAM curator Andria Derstine and Cleveland Museum of Art curator Jon Seydl (see p. 5) and created podcasts, wall labels, and web texts for 14 AMAM works currently on view at the CMA.

Our own podcast series gained national attention when Curator of Education Jason Trimmer, former Curator of Academic Programs Colette Crossman, and former technology intern Alexandra Michel (OC ’09) presented a ‘breakout session’ during the American Association of Museum’s online webinar “Technology, Interpretation, and Education.” They discussed the development of the series, and the many unique voices an academic museum can capture through audio presentations.

The recent launch of eMuseum on the collections section of the museum’s website marks an important step forward in making the majority of our collections available online. Although much photography and digitization remains to be completed, currently more than 10,500 artworks are accessible online and can be consulted via the eMuseum catalogue.

Please visit http://rubens.cc.oberlin.edu/emuseum/ for more information, or click on “Collections” on our homepage.

THURSDAY TEAS AT KENDAL

Our very popular Tuesday Tea series continues on Thursdays while the museum is closed. The Thursday Tea lecture series will take place in Kendal at Oberlin’s Auditorium. Lectures begin at 2:30 p.m. and are followed by tea, coffee, and cookies. Please note that parking at Kendal is limited.

We continue last semester’s theme “Approaches to Interpretation,” with presentations from several members of the Oberlin College faculty who make extensive use of the museum’s collection in their teaching.

October 14 – Professor Patrick Day (English)
November 18 – Professor Charles McGuire (Musicology)
December 16 – Professor Clayton Koppes (History)

COMMUNITY ARTS AND CULTURE DAY

Friday, October 15
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Community Day goes community-wide with the AMAM, FAVA, Oberlin Heritage Center, and the Oberlin Public Library all sponsoring events on a day when school is out, but learning is in!

The AMAM’s events will be held at the Weltzheimer/Johnson House, where students will build block structures, learn to read blue prints, and even draft plans for their own dream homes. Families that visit all four locations can enter a raffle to win some fun (and educational) door prizes.

FAVA-AMAM WORKSHOP

Saturdays: October 30, November 6, 13, 20, and December 4
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The collaboration between the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts (FAVA) and the AMAM continues its popular run. Created especially for middle- and high-school aged students, this workshop features an intensive studio based course focusing on artwork or media represented in the AMAM collection.

This semester, Curator of Education Jason Trimmer will lead a workshop exploring the many techniques of comic book (or sequential) art. The class will look at the development of the medium and some of its most well known expressions in popular culture. The workshop will conclude with the creation of a mini-comic compiling students’ best work.

All materials and instructional books will be provided free of charge. This class fills up quickly and will be limited to 15 students, so please call FAVA at (440) 774-7158, or the AMAM Education Department at (440) 775-8671 for more information and to enroll.
FALL ART RENTAL

Founded in 1940 by Professor Ellen Johnson, the Art Rental Program allows Oberlin students and members of the community to rent original works of art each semester—Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Andy Warhol, and Sol LeWitt—to name just a few. With more than 400 prints, paintings, photographs, and sculptures, the AMAM Art Rental collection has something for everyone!

This fall’s art rental features 10 new prints, including works by Giacometti, Ellsworth Kelly, Kollwitz, Picasso, Miró, and Saul Steinberg. Katsunori Hamanishi’s mezzotint Window—No. 18 is a fantastic new contemporary addition to the collection.

The AMAM extends deep thanks to the Oberlin College Class of 1960 for their 50th anniversary donation that will provide—for the first time ever—a dedicated art storage space in the museum for art rental. The Class of 1960’s generosity has also made it possible to enhance the collection through reframing and re-glazing works in the Art Rental Collection to stunning results.

Katsunori Hamanishi (Japanese, b. 1949)
Window—No. 18, 2008
Mezzotint
Art Rental Collection Fund, RC2009.4

SEPTEMBER

11 Side by Side exhibition opens at The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C.
16 Phillips Gallery Talk: Colette Crossman and Renée Maurer, 6:30 p.m.
19 Phillips Gallery Tour, 12:00 p.m.
19 Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, 12-5:00 p.m.
23 Phillips Gallery Talk: Arthur K. Wheelock, Jr., 6:30 p.m.
26 Phillips Gallery Tour, 12:00 p.m.
29 AMAM Lecture Series: Trevor Paglen, Hallock Auditorium, 5:00 p.m.
30 Phillips Gallery Talks, 6:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
30 Phillips Gallery Concert: Oberlin Conservatory String Quartet, 6:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

3 Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, 12-5:00 p.m.
5 AMAM Lecture Series: Andy Grundberg, Hallock Auditorium, 5:00 p.m.
7 Phillips Gallery Talk: Richard Spear, 6:30 p.m.
11 AMAM Lecture Series: Mark Levitch, Art Classroom I, 5:00 p.m.
14 Thursday Tea Talks at Kendal: Patrick Day, 2:30 p.m.
14 AMAM Lecture Series: David Odo, Hallock Auditorium, 5:00 p.m.
15 Community Arts and Culture Day, Weltzheimer/Johnson House, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
16 Culture Revolution exhibition opens at the Akron Art Museum
17 Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, 12-5:00 p.m.
18 Film Screening: “Desert of Forbidden Art,” King 106, 7-9:00 p.m.
20 Oberlin College Alumni Reception at the Phillips, 6-8:00 p.m.
21 Phillips Gallery Talk: Andria Derstine, 6:30 p.m.
30 FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 12-4:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

6 FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 12-4:00 p.m.
7 Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, 12-5:00 p.m.
13 FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 12-4:00 p.m.
16 Wright After Hours for OC Students, Weltzheimer/Johnson House, 7-9:30 p.m.
18 Thursday Tea Talks at Kendal: Charles McGuire, 2:30 p.m.
20 FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 12-4:00 p.m.
21 Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, 12-5:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

4 FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 12-4:00 p.m.
5 Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, 12-5:00 p.m.
16 Thursday Tea Talks at Kendal: Clayton Koppes, 2:30 p.m.
19 Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, 12-5:00 p.m.
The Weltzheimer/Johnson House at Oberlin College is a Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian House that sits on a three-acre lot several blocks from campus. Designed in 1948 and completed in 1950, it is the first Usonian house in Ohio and one of the few in the nation open to the public. The Weltzheimer family lived in the house until 1963 when the property was sold to developers and “remodeling” efforts scarred the space. However, in 1968 Professor of Art Ellen H. Johnson purchased the home and began the restoration process. In 1992 at her death, the house was given to Oberlin College to serve as a guesthouse for the Art Department and the Allen Memorial Art Museum. The house is now open to the public for tours and programs.

Tour information:

The Weltzheimer/Johnson House holds a public Open House on the first and third Sundays of each month, from noon until 5 pm; guided tours begin on the hour. Admission is $5.00/person. Reservations are not required except for groups of 10 or more. Guided tours on days other than scheduled open house dates are open only to groups of 10 or more, including school groups.

Closed major holidays—New Year’s Day, Easter, Independence Day, and Christmas. For further information, program dates, or to schedule a tour, please call the AMAM Education Department at (440) 775-8671 or email jason.trimmer@oberlin.edu.

Over two full days at the end of June, the Weltzheimer/Johnson House was the subject of an extensive professional photography session. While it is regularly photographed by visitors, this is the first professional shoot in a number of years.

Freelance photographer Dirk Bakker captured many of the details and nuances of Wright’s design, and the fantastic results of his sensitive handling of the space will give the AMAM new and exciting images to use in future publications, including a new set of postcards.

Bakker has specialized in photographing art and architecture for over 40 years. He served as Director of Photography at the Detroit Institute of Arts for 30 years and has completed numerous collection and exhibition catalogues for museums around the world, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the National Gallery of Art. Dirk took time out of his busy schedule—including a photography project with the exhibition venue De Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam—to come to Oberlin.

Funding for the Weltzheimer/Johnson House project was made possible through house admission and tour fees, as well as the many generous donations made by visitors to the house over the past year. More photos from the shoot are available on the AMAM’s Flickr page: http://www.flickr.com/photos/allenartmuseum/sets/.

After December 19, the Weltzheimer/Johnson House will close for the season to help better preserve the house, and protect it from extreme wear-and-tear. The house will be closed beginning on December 20, through January and February, and will reopen for public open houses on March 20, 2011.