As I review this newsletter, the special relationship of the Allen Memorial Art Museum to Oberlin College comes clearly into focus. Given the artistic inclinations of our students, the Artists on Artists exhibition will undoubtedly inspire identification and reflection; the Italy on Paper show was organized with the direct involvement of students; and Ephemeral Installations and the Aesthetics of Nature is the brainchild of Janet Fiskio of the Environmental Studies Department, and relates to a class she’s teaching during the spring semester.

Oberlin students are a vital, integral part of museum operations. We currently have 16 student assistants working with us in various capacities. Some are highly visible at our front desk; others are behind-the-scenes in our offices. In addition, an enthusiastic cadre of students helps us with educational programming by serving as docents, giving tours, and helping with Tuesday Teas and Community Day.

The AMAM staff enjoys working with and getting to know all the students who become engaged in the life of the museum—their presence enriches us and, we hope, provides encouragement and support to a new generation of museum professionals, artists, and arts advocates.

Please visit us often. And if you’re not yet a member, we invite you to join!

Katherine Solender
Interim John G. W. Cowles Director
Italy On Paper

February 7 - July 29, 2012
Ripin Print Gallery

*Italy on Paper* takes the Grand Tour’s visual and literary legacy as its starting point and focuses on 19th- and early 20th-century representations of Italy by leading European and American artists and photographers. With more than forty works on paper from the museum’s holdings and materials drawn from the Oberlin College Library, the exhibition explores the ways in which the three canonic Grand Tour stops—Venice, Rome, and Florence—were framed as travel destinations and tourist attractions. A selection of travel narratives, maps, guidebooks, and stereoscopic slides further contextualize and exemplify Italy’s appeal to the Western eye.

This exhibition was curated by Dr. Liliana Milkova, Curator of Academic Programs, and Dr. Stiliana Milkova, with assistance from Sara Green (OC ’12). Additional research conducted by Hanna Exel (OC ’12) and Thomas Huston (OC ’13).

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*left:* Alfred Stieglitz
(American, 1864-1946)
*A Bit of Venice,* 1894-98
Aquatint photogravure
Gift of Marilyn W. Grounds,
1981.42.3

*top right:* James Abbott McNeill Whistler
(American, 1834-1903)
The Piazzetta, from the *First Venice Set* (det.), 1880
Etching
Gift of Paul F. Walter (OC ’57),
1979.19

*right:* Rudy Pozzatti
(American, b. 1925)
*Palazzo, Florence* (det.), 1955
Etching, engraving, aquatint, soft-ground, and lift ground
Gift of the Print Club of Cleveland,
1955.53
Artists On Artists

February 7 - July 29, 2012
Ripin Print Gallery

For nearly as long as artists have been making art, they have also appeared as its subject. Featuring more than 150 works culled from the AMAM collection spanning the 16th to the 21st centuries, this exhibition considers the theme of the artist as portrayed by the artist. The installation includes prints, drawings, photographs, paintings, and sculpture by figures such as Käthe Kollwitz, Pablo Picasso, Rembrandt, Edward Steichen, and Andy Warhol. Artists appear as protagonists in three pictorial forms: portraits, self-portraits, and copies or appropriations of other artists’ work. These genres all explore the role of the artist, and by extension reflect each creator and his or her own status.

The exhibition was curated by Denise Birkhofer, Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art.
Ephemeral Installations and the Aesthetics of Nature

January - May, 2012
Education Hallway

This teaching exhibition was organized in conjunction with the spring semester class “Nature, Culture, and Interpretation,” taught by Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Janet Fiskio. Professor Fiskio selected works on paper from the AMAM collection to exemplify two aesthetic frames central to Western modes of experiencing nature—the sublime and the pastoral. Students in her spring semester class will research the works in the exhibition and write extended labels discussing the constructions that shape our perceptions of nature.

The exhibition was curated by Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies Janet Fiskio and the AMAM Academic Programs Department.

Richard Long
(English, b. 1945)
Photo offset lithograph
Ellen H. Johnson Bequest, 1998.7.71

Harold E. Edgerton
(American, 1903-1990)
Atomic Bomb Explosion, 1932-51
Gelatin silver print
Gift of the Harold and Esther Edgerton Family Foundation, 1996.15.3
Ongoing Exhibitions

In the AMAM’s first-floor galleries, newly-reinstalled works of art spanning six millennia are on display, with over 250 on view for the first time in years or even decades. The breadth and depth of the Allen’s collection is apparent, with Ancient Near Eastern, Egyptian, Islamic, Cypriot, Greek, Etruscan, Roman, Asian, African, Native American, medieval, Renaissance, baroque, and 18th- to 21st-century works on view, including paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, prints, drawings, and photographs.

A recent acquisition, Sir Thomas Lawrence’s portrait *Sir Robert Wigram*, hangs in conjunction with that of his wife (acquired by the AMAM in 1986 to honor the memory of former curator Chloe Hamilton Young) in the Sculpture Court, which also features the newly-conserved, striking silver-plated sculpture *France Weeping Over the Loss of Alsace*, a 1979 gift of former OC trustee and AMAM Visiting Committee member the late John N. Stern (OC 1939). The nearby Stern gallery, named after Mr. Stern, is hung with many of the AMAM’s important collection of paintings that date from ca. 1900-1950.

*Ellen Johnson Gallery*

*On View*

above (in foreground):
Jean-Louis Grégoire
(French, 1840-1890)
*France Weeping Over the Loss of Alsace*, 1872
Bronze with silver plate
Gift of John N. Stern (OC 1939), 1979.31

above (at right):
Sir Thomas Lawrence
(English, 1769-1830)
*Portrait of Sir Robert Wigram, 1st Baron, MP* (1743-1839), 1815-16
Oil on canvas
R.T. Miller, Jr. Fund, 2010.14
Making and Meaning in Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Europe (ca. 1300-1625)"

“Making and Meaning” is a one-week course that Curator of Collections Andria Derstine and Assoc. Prof. Erik Inglis, a specialist in medieval art, will co-teach at the AMAM from June 17-22. The course, sponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges in Washington, DC, aims to help professors—from select US colleges that do not have the resources of a campus art museum—improve their teaching of pre-modern European art. Twenty professors will convene at the AMAM for instruction by Derstine and Inglis, as well as a hands-on conservation session with paintings conservator Heather Galloway. Additional visits to Oberlin College Library’s Special Collections, the Interuseum Conservation Association, and the Cleveland Museum of Art have also been planned.

New EXCO course features AMAM works

This spring semester marks the first collaboration between the museum and Oberlin’s Experimental College. The EXCO course ‘Real’ Music: Divergent Ideas of the ‘Real’ in 20th- and 21st-Century Music will use works from the AMAM collections to discuss the theory and philosophy of the real through concepts and movements such as originality, authenticity, naturalism, illusionism, realism, photorealism, and hyperrealism. The class is led by Ian MacMillen, an Affiliate of Oberlin’s Russian Department.

Conservation Workshop

In April, the AMAM will partner with the Department of East Asian Studies on a second-module course, The Book in East Asia Conservation Workshop, which focuses on the conservation and handling of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean books in traditional formats, as well as on papermaking. Works from the collection will offer invaluable hands-on learning opportunities.
We invite you to support the Stephanie Wiles Museum Publication Fund. To make a gift by check, please mail it to:

Allen Memorial Art Museum,
87 North Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio 44074.

Please indicate “Wiles Fund” in the memo area of your check.

Stephanie Wiles Museum Publication Fund Established

Intended to support museum publications, this fund was established by the Allen Memorial Art Museum’s Visiting Committee to honor former director Stephanie Wiles. One of Stephanie’s long-term goals for the AMAM was to build a publications program. She believed that such an enterprise should include scholarly catalogues related to the collection and exhibitions, as well as publications of a more general nature, such as museum guides and brochures. Stephanie felt strongly that a forward-looking publications plan would enable the AMAM to move ahead in critical areas to disseminate museum collections more widely. Primary among these goals is the publication of collection catalogues, a project last undertaken by Wolfgang Stechow in the 1960s and 1970s and Roger Keyes in the 1980s.

The creation of the Wiles Fund is an important step in realizing Stephanie’s vision and a fitting tribute to her. We are all indebted to her for the many successes she achieved during her seven and a half years as director of the AMAM. As the Visiting Committee stated in its resolution of appreciation, We will miss “her expertise, energy, and leadership, her love of art and devotion to arts education, and her poised administration, guidance, and care for people studying and working with and around her—all of which have strengthened the AMAM, Oberlin College, the local community and the broader cultural realm.”

Stephanie Wiles, John G.W. Cowles Director, 2004-2011

Sally Moffitt joined the AMAM in November 2010 as the museum’s new Administrative Assistant. For the past seven years, she has worked in many different areas within Oberlin College, including the Office of Career Services, the Oberlin Center for Technologically Enhanced Teaching (OCTET), the Comparative Literature Department, and as the Editorial Assistant for The College Mathematics Journal.

Erika Raberg (OC ’09) comes to the AMAM as Curatorial Assistant to the Office of Academic Programs, where she develops, leads, and co-leads museum visits to the Wolfgang Stechow Print Study Room for courses throughout the College and Conservatory. She recently returned from a two-year fellowship in Japan through the Oberlin Shansi Foundation, where she taught English at Obirin University and wrote for an art blog. (Shansi, which was founded in 1908, promotes understanding and exchange between Asia and America and awards grants and teaching fellowships at partner institutions in Japan, China, India, and Indonesia.)

Denise Birkhofer joined the AMAM in September 2011 as the new Assistant Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art. She holds a BA from the University of Iowa and completed her MA and PhD coursework in art history at the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University, focusing on art after 1900 in Europe and the Americas. Her scholarship has appeared in such publications as Woman’s Art Journal and Anamesa, and has been presented at such forums as the College Art Association Annual Conference; the International Latin American Art Forum at the University of Texas, Austin; and Photo Archives and the Photographic Memory of Art History, for which she presented research funded by a grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. Before joining the AMAM, Birkhofer held various positions at institutions such as New York University’s Grey Art Gallery, The Museum of the City of New York, the Des Moines Art Center, and the University of Iowa Museum of Art.

Sally Moffitt

Denise Birkhofer

Erika Raberg (OC ‘09)

News & Notes
Sunday Object Talks

Beginning February 12 through May 13, 2:00 pm
(except March 25, April 1, and 8)

This program of Sunday afternoon talks, geared towards the informal visitor to the AMAM, begins its fourth year with presentations on works from the permanent collection and rotating exhibitions. Please see the AMAM website for a complete list of objects and student presenters.

above: Robert Smithson (American, 1938-1973); Spiral Jetty, 1970; Silver print; Ellen H. Johnson Bequest, 1998.7.133

“First Thursday” Evening Hours

Visit the museum during these special evening hours! Galleries will remain open until 8:00 pm on these dates:

February 28
Film Screening: Robert Smithson, Spiral Jetty (1970), with introduction by Denise Birkhofer, Asst. Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art; 5:00 pm, Hallock Auditorium.

Special Screening

February 28
Film Screening: Robert Smithson, Spiral Jetty (1970), with introduction by Denise Birkhofer, Asst. Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art; 5:00 pm, Hallock Auditorium.

Tuesday Tea Talks

Join us on the second Tuesday of each month to hear a wide range of gallery talks that highlight works in the permanent collection or in current exhibitions. All talks begin at 2:30 pm and are followed by tea and light refreshments in the East Gallery.

February 14
Erika Raberg (AMAM Curatorial Assistant, Office of Academic Programs) will discuss the work of contemporary artist and “experimental geographer” Trevor Paglen, who has tracked and photographed classified reconnaissance satellites in the Earth’s orbit. Paglen’s work invites us to consider the complex visual texture of secrecy itself and how it operates in contemporary society.

March 13
Melissa Duffes (AMAM Media and Publications Coordinator) will present “Search for Singularity,” a talk on picturesque tourism and the search for an ‘authentic’ experience by 18th- and early 19th-century travelers in England and Scotland.

April 10
Libby Murphy (Oberlin College Assistant Professor of French) will present “Paris and Modernism,” a discussion of Paris as a hotbed of avant-garde experimentation in the 1920s, with a focus on the places and people that helped artists, writers, sculptors, architects, composers, and fashion designers come together and collaborate.

May 8
Senior Tuesday Tea: This special program will feature an Oberlin College Senior, selected through a call for papers by the AMAM, who will present a talk focusing on one of the works in the museum’s collection.

above: Robert Smithson (American, 1938-1973); Spiral Jetty, 1970; Silver print; Ellen H. Johnson Bequest, 1998.7.133
OHC-AMAM Junior Docent Camp: “A Week at the Museums”
June 25-29, 9:00 am until 3:00 pm

The Oberlin Heritage Center and Allen Memorial Art Museum are teaming up to offer a behind-the-scenes camp for teens. Campers will tour an art museum, history museum, and a historic house and find out answers to questions like “How do you choose what goes on the wall?” “Where does all of this stuff come from?” and “Is this really 300 years old?!” Kids will learn about daily museum operations, in the galleries and in the collections, by talking with professionals, trying activities just like the pros, and working on a mini project that friends and family can see at the end of the week. This camp is perfect for youth wanting to learn more about museums and careers in art and history. Participants can also volunteer at the museums following the camp to earn service hours. Registration forms will be sent to members later this spring. For more information, you can also contact camp instructors Liz Schultz at tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org or Jason Trimmer at jtrimmer@oberlin.edu.

FAVA-AMAM Kids Summer Camp
August 20-24, 9:00 am until 3:00 pm

The Firelands Association for the Visual Arts (FAVA) and the Allen Memorial Art Museum (AMAM) will collaborate on this summer art camp for kids ages 6-12. Students will learn a variety of materials, mediums, and techniques from practicing artists from around the city and region. The camp will end with a “closing reception” featuring a display of all the work produced by students during the camp. For more information, or to register, please contact the AMAM Education Department at (440) 775-8671, or email jtrimmer@oberlin.edu; you can also contact James Peake, Educator at FAVA, at favaeducation@oberlin.net, or call (440) 774-7158.

Community Day
Saturday, March 10, 1:00 until 4:00 pm

Come explore, learn, and create at this special event for families! Education staff and student docents will be on hand to help you with projects and take you on thematic tours of the museum’s collection.

FAVA-AMAM Teen Workshop
Saturdays: March 17, 24, 31, and April 5

The collaboration between the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts (FAVA) and the Allen Memorial Art Museum (Oberlin College) continues its popular run. Created specifically for middle- and high-school aged students, this workshop features an intensive studio based course accompanied by an academic component presented by the AMAM staff.

This semester’s workshop will delve into the world of textiles with a sampling of the numerous forms of fiber arts, including sewing, embroidery, quilting, fabric dyeing, and more. Students will complete individual projects as well as contribute to a collaborative piece for public display. Each class will include a short lecture to give students a historical context for the artwork they are creating. This teen workshop series traditionally concludes with a student exhibition and gallery reception at FAVA.

All materials will be provided free of charge. This class fills up quickly and will be limited to 15 students. For more information, or to register, please contact the AMAM Education Department at (440) 775-8671, or email jtrimmer@oberlin.edu; you can also contact James Peake, Educator at FAVA, at favaeducation@oberlin.net, or call (440) 774-7158.

7th Annual Oberlin Chalk Walk!
Saturday, June 23, 2012, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm
(Rain date: Sunday, June 24)

Join us this June for the seventh annual Oberlin Chalk Walk! Held on the sidewalks of downtown Oberlin and sponsored by the AMAM in conjunction with Oberlin Main Street-Chamber, the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts (FAVA), and the Oberlin Public Library, this day-long public event showcases professional “sidewalk painters” and gives artists of all ages the chance to create their own masterpiece. All materials are provided to participants free of charge!

The AMAM and FAVA will hold public workshops around the city and region leading up to this year’s event. Please contact the AMAM Education Office at (440) 775-8671 for more information.
FEBRUARY
9  First Thursday Evening Hours: Spring Exhibitions Reception, 5-8:00 pm
12  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
14  Tuesday Tea Talks: Erika Raberg, 2:30 pm
19  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
26  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
28  Film Screening: Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty* (1970), 5:00 pm

MARCH
1  First Thursday Evening Hours: concert by Chartreuse, 6:00 pm
4  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
10  Community Day, 1-4:00 pm
11  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
13  Tuesday Tea Talks: Melissa Duffes, 2:30 pm
17  FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 1-4:00 pm
18  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
24  FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 1-4:00 pm
31  FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 1-4:00 pm

APRIL
1  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm
5  First Thursday Evening Hours: Lecture by Stiliana Milkova, 5:30 pm
5  FAVA-AMAM Workshop, 1-4:00 pm
10  Tuesday Tea Talks: Libby Murphy, 2:30 pm
15  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm
15  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
22  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
29  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm

MAY
3  First Thursday Evening Hours: Lecture by John Pearson, 6:00 pm
6  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm
6  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
8  Senior Tuesday Tea Talks, 2:30 pm
13  Sunday Object Talks, 2:00 pm
20  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm

JUNE
3  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm
17  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm
23  Oberlin Chalk Walk, 10:00 am-4:00 pm
25-29  OHC-AMAM Junior Docent Summer Camp, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

JULY
1  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm
15  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm

AUGUST
5  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm
19  Weltzheimer/Johnson House Tours, noon-5:00 pm
20-24  FAVA-AMAM Kids Summer Camp, 9:00 am-3:00 pm
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 1947 and completed in 1949, 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.

The Weltzheimer/Johnson House will reopen for public tours on April 1.

Tour information:
The Weltzheimer/Johnson House holds a public Open House on the first and third Sundays of each month, from noon until 5:00 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 jtrimmer@oberlin.edu.

Join the AMAM Museum Friends!
The AMAM’s first curator, Hazel King, founded the Museum Friends group in 1938. Over seventy years later, membership dues still provide crucial support for acquisitions, exhibitions, and public programs that offer enjoyment and encourage a greater appreciation and understanding of art through direct study of original works.

As a Museum Friend, you receive the membership benefits listed below. Most importantly, however, your support helps us maintain an active and vital presence within the local community and for the wider public. Please join today!

Membership categories:

Oberlin College Students $15
Senior Citizens and Students $20
Individual $40
Subscription to the AMAM Newsletter
Family $50
All of the above benefits for up to 4 family members
Contributing Members $100 or more
All of the above benefits, plus:
Allen Memorial Art Museum: Highlights from the Collection catalogue
The AMAM Annual Report
Recognition in Oberlin College’s annual gift report at the Peter Pindar Pease ($100-$249) or Historic Elm ($250-$499) levels
Supporting Members $500 or more
All of the above benefits, plus:
Membership in Oberlin College’s Arthur Tappan Society
Director’s Circle $1000 or more
All of the above benefits, plus:
Membership in Oberlin College’s Antoinette Brown Blackwell Society ($1,000-$1,832)

Note: Gifts of $1,833 and over qualify members for Oberlin College’s John Frederick Oberlin Society.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.oberlin.edu/amam/join.html or call (440) 775-8670.