

*For immediate release*

Spencer Museum of Art exhibition honors  
the memory of a KU faculty legend:  
***Teaching from Prints: The Legacy of John Talleur***

**Nov. 15, 2003–Jan. 18, 2004**

**Spencer Museum of Art, Kress Gallery, The University of Kansas**

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JPEG publicity images available

**Lawrence, KS—** His aesthetic eye was exacting, extraordinary and, yes, excitable. His teaching, too, bore all of those traits and made him beloved among his students and admired by his peers.

“John’s collection was formed over the years not only with an eye to surrounding himself with the most stunning examples of printmaking, but also with the intent of using these prints as a means of sharing something wonderful with his students,” says Stephen Goddard, curator of prints and drawings for the Spencer. “Of course this is exactly what we hope to continue to do now that the prints are here at the Spencer.”

Now the Spencer honors the memory of the late John Talleur, K.U. Professor Emeritus of art and Honorary Curator of Prints at the Spencer Museum, with an exhibition that spans more than 500 years of artistic production and draws extensively from the bequest to the museum made by Talleur together with his daughter, Ann.

*Teaching from Prints: The Legacy of John Talleur* at once celebrates the art of printmaking and the life of one of its greatest advocates. The exhibition, organized by Goddard, will be on view from Nov. 15 through Jan. 18 in the Kress Gallery.

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The exhibition features a large selection of the prints collected by Talleur, select examples of prints made by him, and works that have been offered to the museum in his memory. Many prints from the John and Ann Talleur Collection were given to the museum in 1991 and most of the remainder was bequeathed to the museum after Talleur passed away in November 2001.

Goddard calls Talleur's combined gift the most important print donation to the museum since the old master print donation by the Max Kade Foundation, beginning in 1969, that put the Spencer Museum on the map as a center for print studies.

“John’s collection ranges from rare 15<sup>th</sup>-century devotional prints, to Dürer, Rembrandt, Piranesi and Goya, and on to a deep and thoughtful selection of works by 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century masters, including Max Beckman, Félix Buhot, Mary Cassatt, Eric Fischl, Käthe Kollwitz, Auguste Lepère, Charles Meryon, Pablo Picasso,” Goddard says.

Talleur was born in Chicago in 1925 and he received his BFA from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1947. In 1951 he earned his MFA from the University of Iowa where he studied with Mauricio Lasansky. He received a Fulbright Fellowship in 1953 for study in France. Later that year he joined the faculty of the University of Kansas. In 1998 he was honored with the Governor’s Arts Award.

As Goddard notes, the Talleur Collection ranges widely over 500 years of print history, but is unified by its focus on the technical and aesthetic possibilities of various print media. In effect, the collection is both lovely to behold and, just as importantly, a rich instructional resource for teaching the special qualities of etching, engraving, lithography, and woodcut.

Talleur, who once remarked “it’s hard to be an aesthete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” had a tremendously discerning eye and he became utterly joyous at the sight of something beautiful. This exhibition strives to convey this joy of looking, and to give an introduction to the surprises of print history that Talleur loved to share with students when they visited his collection.

Talleur also was a superb printmaker and *Teaching from Prints* includes a sampling selection of prints from his long career. Talleur’s early etchings and engravings betray his training with the

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somewhat stern Lasansky at the University of Iowa, while his more recent hand-made books and color woodcuts reveal his irrepressible, ebullient personality.

“I was lucky enough to co-teach classes with John on several occasions, and it was a joy to see him print and to see his theatrical, technical demonstrations, for example, John demonstrating how Goya did aquatint,” Goddard says. “His profound knowledge of print history and his great joy of using this knowledge is everywhere present in his own prints. In *Teaching from Prints* his work will keep very good company with the prints that he collected.”

Programs and events associated with the exhibition include:

- **Nov. 20**, 7 p.m., SMA Auditorium, lecture, David Becker, independent curator and scholar, on “Rodolphe Bresdin (1822-1885): The Inextricable Engraver.” Supported by the Franklin D. Murphy Lecture Fund.
- **Dec. 4**, 12:15 p.m., Kress Gallery, Tour du Jour: SMA curator Steve Goddard.
- **Dec. 6**, Children’s Art Appreciation Class: “Start the Presses!,” 10-30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$. Pre-registration required. Contact Karen Gerety at 864-0137 or [kcgerety@ku.edu](mailto:kcgerety@ku.edu)
- **Dec. 7**, 2 p.m., Kress Gallery, Gallery Walk: “Remembering J.T.”

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Also find the Spencer...

- On the Web: [www.ku.edu/~sma](http://www.ku.edu/~sma)
- E-mail: [spencerart@ku.edu](mailto:spencerart@ku.edu)

#### Gallery hours

Tues., Wed., Fri., & Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thurs. 10a.m.–9 p.m.

Sun. Noon–5 p.m.

Closed Monday

- Free parking in Lot 91 after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all day weekends, excepting home football games.
- Parking garage adjacent to Kansas Union is \$1 per hour weekdays, free on Saturdays and Sundays (but unavailable on home football games).
- No admission fee; \$3 donation suggested.