

SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

For immediate release

June 28, 2004

***Windmills to Workshops: Lawrence and the Visual Arts* opens July 17**

July 17—Sept. 26, 2004

Kress Gallery

MEDIA CONTACT.

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PROMOTIONAL IMAGES ATTACHED (caption info at end of release)

Lawrence, KS—One hundred fifty years ago, members of the New England Emigrant Aid Company traveled from Massachusetts to territorial Kansas, where they founded the city of Lawrence. Besides hoping to profit from the lucrative business of land speculation, the company wanted to create “a city on a hill” that would be a beacon for religious freedom and educational excellence in the fledgling territory.

In conjunction with the Lawrence Sesquicentennial Celebration, the Spencer celebrates the artistic freedom and excellence of Lawrence in *Windmills to Workshops: Lawrence and the Visual Arts*, on view in the Kress Gallery and South Balcony Gallery from July 17 through Sept. 26. The exhibition, composed solely from the Spencer’s permanent collection, highlights works of art documenting sites, individuals, and events related to this city. Featured artists include Albert Bloch, Roger Shimomura, Earl Iversen, Cynthia Schira, Larry Schwarm, Ward Lockwood, Keith Jacobshagen, William S. Burroughs and Virginia Randles.

Windmills to Workshops: Lawrence and the Visual Arts is divided into four thematic sections:

- Art that documents the city and citizens of Lawrence
- Work by faculty associated with the KU Departments of Fine Art and Design
- Work by artists who have attended the University
- Work by artists and workshops operating in this city

Kate Meyer, curatorial assistant in the department of prints and drawings, organized the exhibition, assisted by curatorial interns Tera Lee Hedrick, Sean Barker, Emily Stamey, and Michelle Moseley Christian, and student assistants Jennifer Green and Sara Williamson.

As part of the exhibition's emphasis on local workshops, the work of Orval Hixon's Main Street Studio, a portrait photography studio that operated in Lawrence for over 40 years, will be on view in the South Balcony Gallery. Selections of the museum's archive of prints from Mike Sims' Lawrence Lithography Workshop, incidentally celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, are exhibited in the final room of the Kress Gallery.

"While working with the Spencer Museum of Art's capable team of curatorial interns and student assistants to select and research the strongest examples of work by eligible artists for this exhibition, I could not help but wonder if any common vision of a spirit of Lawrence would be visible," Meyer says. "Such a common bond seemed unlikely as the art in this exhibition varies in style, medium, and content. Yet, I think that in these works a keen interest and fascination with line and a strong appreciation of space—either in its sparseness or vastness—emerges.

"It is reasonable to suggest that both the state's subtle but distinctive geography and Lawrence's often-turbulent social history have influenced many artists. It is my hope that this exhibition will reflect the rich community and artistic legacy of Lawrence. The Spencer Museum of Art's collection of work by artists affiliated with this city is something to be celebrated, both on this important anniversary, and always."

Public programs for *Windmills to Workshops: Lawrence and the Visual Arts*

- Family Day and Public Opening: July 18, 1-3 p.m. Enjoy free food and beverages, bluegrass music and hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Funding provided by the Lawrence Sesquicentennial Commission and Advocacy Research Institute, Inc. 1:15 p.m. Traditional Native Blessing by Tom Spottedhorse. 1:30 p.m. gallery talk by guest curator Joni Murphy on *Vanished Voices*. 2 p.m. gallery talk by Mike Sims on Lawrence Lithography Workshop.
- Children's Art Appreciation Class: "Happy 150th Birthday Lawrence," July 17, 10-30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$. Pre-registration required. Contact Karen Gerety at 864-0137 or kcgerety@ku.edu
- Gallery Talk: Intern Sean Barker on "Orval Hixon's Main Street Studio photographs." July 22, 7 p.m. SMA Kress Gallery.
- Children's Art Appreciation Class: "Happy 150th Birthday Lawrence," July 24, 10-30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. \$. Pre-registration required. Contact Karen Gerety at 864-0137 or kcgerety@ku.edu

- Gallery Talk: "Conversations in Art" by SMA Docent Alice Ann Johnston on ***Windmills to Workshops: Lawrence and the Visual Arts***. July 29, 7 p.m., Kress Gallery.
- Gallery Talk: "Conversations in Art" by SMA Docent Martha Rose on ***Windmills to Workshops: Lawrence and the Visual Arts***. Aug. 5, 7 p.m., Kress Gallery.
- Gallery Talk: "Conversations in Art" by SMA Docent Betsy Weaver on ***Windmills to Workshops: Lawrence and the Visual Arts***. Aug. 12, 7 p.m., Kress Gallery.
- Film: "Waiting for Guffman," Aug. 19, 7 p.m., SMA Auditorium.
A small Midwest town is planning a nice little celebration of their sesquicentennial when Corky St. Clair blows into town. This off-off-off-off (off-off) Broadway director wants to present a flamboyant, musical version of the play that costs far more than the city is willing to pay. An eclectic group of townspeople, including a local dentist, a couple of travel agents, a Dairy Queen waitress, and a car repairman, star in this grand production. Putting more pressure than necessary, Corky takes it upon himself to invite a Broadway theater critic named Mr. Guffman to see the opening night of the show. This satirical "mockumentary" is directed by "This Is Spinal Tap" co-mastermind Christopher Guest. Rated R; 84 minutes; 1996.
- Annual KU Student Party: Sept. 9, 6-9 p.m.
- Annual KU Open House: Sept. 11, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

IMAGE INFORMATION

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Margaret Evelyn Whittemore

American, 1897-1983

Lawrence, Windmill

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Spencer Museum of Art, The University of Kansas: 0000.0528

1998.0052.jpg

Larry W. Schwarm

American, born 1944

Earth, Fire, and Water, Z-Bar Ranch, Chase County, Kansas-1994, 1994

Kodacolor print

Spencer Museum of Art, The University of Kansas, museum purchase: Terry and Sam Evans Fund, 1998.0052

1971.0238.jpg

Orval Hixon

American, 1884-1982

Portrait of G. Theda Bara, 1921

Silver print

Spencer Museum of Art, The University of Kansas: Gift of Orval Hixon, 1971.0238

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Also find the Spencer...

- On the Web: www.spencerart.ku.edu
- E-mail: 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).