



***Friends & Neighbors* exhibition features community curators**

July 1-August 16, 2009

North Balcony

July 1-August 2, 2009

South Balcony

MEDIA CONTACT

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LAWRENCE—Sometimes it takes a village to raise an exhibition. At least, that's the premise of a new installation at the Spencer Museum of Art featuring the selections of four Lawrence community members, each paired with a Spencer curator to create a show that offers fresh perspectives about how the Museum's collection can be interpreted and presented.

To initiate [*Friends & Neighbors: Community Curators' Choices*](#), the Spencer's four curators each invited a Lawrence community member to select an object for display from the Museum's collection. The conversations that took place within the pairings of community and Museum curators identified issues and objects that had meaning for each guest curator. The goal was for each collaborating pair to focus on just one or two works. The neighborhood curator took the lead and set the tone for object selection. In response to this, each Museum curator chose an object that connected in some way to the work of art and theme suggested by the community curator.

The topics that emerged from these dialogues are listed below, along with the names of the guest and staff curators. One of the many interesting results of these exchanges is that the themes that developed are surprisingly interrelated, even though none of the community curators consulted with each other directly.

Here are the themes identified by the collaborating pairs of neighborhood and Museum curators:

Satire & Survival

Joni Murphy, Professor of English, Haskell Indian Nations University

Nancy Mahaney, Curator of the Arts & Cultures of Africa, Native America, & Oceania

Political Activism & Racial Discrimination

Lynne Green, Executive Director, Van Go Mobile Arts, Inc.

Susan Earle, Curator of European & American Art

Isolation & Connectedness

Molly Murphy, Lawrence Artist & Freelance Curator

Kris Imants Ercums, Curator of Asian Art

Repetition & Pattern

Reid Harrison, Artist / Lawrence High School Class of 2010

Stephen Goddard, Senior Curator and Curator of Prints & Drawings

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**Spencer Museum of Art
The University of Kansas
1301 Mississippi Street
Lawrence 66045-7500
785.864.4710**

Also find the Spencer...

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



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