Introducing Free Membership ULRICH+YOU

With you, we are transforming and sustaining the Ulrich Museum of Art. Join us in pride, community, and discovery by becoming a stakeholder in the Museum’s future. As a member, you receive invitations to exhibitions, programs, and special events. You have a free subscription to the biannual Ulrich Update and receive our bi-monthly e-newsletter. To join the Ulrich Free Membership program, please visit our Home page at ulrich.wichita.edu and fill out the web form. All member benefits will be distributed through e-mail. If you prefer to receive print materials in the mail, please include your address on the form.

US Ulrich Sponsorships

In addition, we are offering a broad range of sponsorship opportunities that we hope will align with your interests and passions. Please consider supporting the Ulrich through this much anticipated and exciting menu of options. Rather than paying membership dues, we ask that you consider giving money through US Ulrich Sponsorships to support select exhibitions and related programs in the coming year.
Dear Friend of the Ulrich,

As Wichita State University’s art museum, the Ulrich strives to embody the vital importance of the arts to education, scholarship, public life, and our community’s shared understanding of what it means to be human. Over the course of 2018-2019, with the arrival of a new director and a new curator at the museum, we have been working hard to envision how the Ulrich might best fulfill this mission. On behalf of the whole Ulrich team, I write to you today with great excitement to share information about the museum’s upcoming exhibitions and programs and about ways that you can help us to make these events possible.

With the museum’s 50th anniversary approaching in 2024 and the years-long collection digitization project nearly completed, we are placing the Ulrich collection at the center of what the museum offers its audiences. The collection’s past, present, and future will be explored through several upcoming collection-based exhibitions, including Lee Adler: A Mad Man Amid the Machines and On Vacation! To further shed light on the collection’s treasures, we are introducing a new lecture series titled Voices from the Vault. As with other initiatives, we are setting the bar high — our first speaker will be Catherine Morris, Senior Curator at the Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum, who will come to campus in November 2019.

Even as we give more visibility to the collection, we also plan to continue bringing exciting new ideas and art to the Ulrich from near and far. Exhibitions in the Solving for X series inaugurated in 2018 will continue to offer public access to important research happening on the WSU campus. Exhibition projects like Clay Currents: The Wichita National Ceramics Invitational and Zoe Beloff: Emotions Go to Work, which will have its American debut here at the Ulrich, will bring vibrant artistic voices to the university and the Wichita community.

As we embrace innovative programming, we are exploring innovative fundraising, as well. In the attached brochure, you will find information on upcoming Ulrich events that need sponsorships. We invite you to look at them closely and consider which ones matter the most to you. With the new US (Ulrich Sponsorships) menu model, those are the programs that you can support financially at the level that feels right to you.

We very much look forward to hearing back from you and seeing you at the many great events we are planning for the 2019-2020 academic year. Thank you for your continued support of the Ulrich.

Sincerely,

Leslie A Brothers, Director
Teachable Moments: The XXII Faculty Biennial
September 12 - December 8, 2019

A tradition in its forty-forth year on the WSU campus, the Faculty Biennial represents the breadth of creative work and research being undertaken by the faculty of the School of Art, Design and Creative Industries. This year’s biennial will showcase the faculty’s work in art history and education, ceramics, drawing, graphic design, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, and new media. The biennial’s theme, “teachable moments,” seeks to prompt reflections and start conversations about the role of both formal education and informal learning in creative work and the relationships between the faculty’s art-making and research and the time spent mentoring WSU students in the classroom and beyond.

The exhibition will be accompanied by short, informal lunch-hour talks to be given by each participating artist and one-hour research presentations by faculty who do not have work on view in the gallery. Talks will take place on Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 p.m. between September 17th and November 26th, with two talks happening each Tuesday.

Below: works by faculty members Jennifer Ray, Marco Hernandez, and Ted Adler
“There’s many a slip ‘twixt the cup and the lip,” the saying goes. Things can go wrong until the very last minute even when you think that success is assured. Ceramicists – artists who work with clay (also called “slip” when used in liquid form) – know this all too well. Perhaps more than any other, their protean medium has to be wrangled into the artist’s desired form every step of the way. Yet the rewards are great – clay possesses a truly remarkable versatility that the Wichita National Ceramics Invitational will highlight. Bringing together nearly thirty artists from around the United States, this exhibition will showcase the range of possibilities that contemporary ceramicists are exploring. With two earlier editions having taken place at the Reuben Saunders Gallery, the exhibition, now in its third year, will continue to introduce the Wichita community to some of the most exciting work being done in clay today.

Programs in conjunction with the exhibition will include workshops and talks by two ceramics artists, John Neely and Pattie Chalmers, as well as a public talk by the prominent ceramics collector Louise Rosenfield and a panel discussion with artists Pattie Chalmers, Trisha Coates, and WSU’s Ted Adler.

Below: works by Sunkoo Yuh and Pattie Chalmers
Zoe Beloff: Emotions Go to Work
January 23 - March 29, 2020

Zoe Beloff’s interactive multi-media installation *Emotions Go to Work* investigates how technology is used to turn our feelings into valuable assets. One might call it the transformation of emotion into capital. The project, accompanied by a limited edition book, is an exploration of the “dream life of technology” and of our imaginative and imagined relationships with machines — how we create them in our image, shape them to serve our desires, and how they, in turn, reshape us.

Zoe Beloff is an artist and filmmaker who lives and works in New York City. Her projects often involve a range of media including films, drawings, and archival documents organized around a theme. Over the course of a thirty-year career, her interests have included psychoanalysis, mediums, and mental health institutions; new forms of community; anti-fascist art and activism; and, recently, the history of relationships between labor, technology, and our emotional lives. In all she does, her work attests to a belief that critique and protest should be vibrant, humorous, and colorful — a carnival of resistance to light the way in dark times.

*Emotions Go to Work* will be accompanied by a film series co-curated by the artist and Rebecca Cleman of Electronic Arts Intermix, New York.

Exhibitions

Lee Adler: A Mad Man Amid the Machines
January 23 - March 29, 2020

Based largely on the Ulrich’s uniquely rich holdings of works by Lee Adler (1926-2003), this exhibition will reassess the legacy of a forgotten artist and show how the imagery he created in the 1960s and 1970s foreshadowed urgent present-day concerns about the way human lives have become intertwined with the technology that surrounds them.

A native of Brooklyn in its industrial heyday, Lee Adler came to art-making in his forties, having already established a successful career in marketing – he worked for a time at one of the advertising firms featured on the TV show Mad Men. He threw himself head first into his new pursuit throughout the late 1960s and 1970s, producing over seventy editions of prints and numerous paintings. The question of art’s relationship to technologies of all kinds profoundly impacted image-making in the 1960s and 1970s. Adler contributed as his answer a visual vocabulary that was inspired by gears, cogs, engines, and processors and yet remained remarkably tied to the forms of living things. At once whimsical and unnerving, Adler’s compositions evoke processes of ingestion, digestion, and expulsion of matter as it moves through both living and mechanical systems. In Adler’s work, the machines are humanized while human figures become machines, and his forms continue to capture something essential today about our reality as hapless cyborgs confused about where “nature” ends and technological culture begins.

Lee Adler, Reclining Figure II, not dated, screen print on paper, 24 x 18 1/16 in., Gift of Mr. Bernard Mitchell Alter, Esq., 1982.30.8

Lee Adler, Modern Composition No. 1, 1972, mixed media on canvas, 50 x 50 in., Gift of the McBride Jewelry Company, 1975.45.1
Exhibitions

On Vacation!
April 16 - July 12, 2020

We all need to get away sometimes – to take a vacation from the ordinary. And what can transport our imaginations better than art?! It helps our thoughts wander, encourages reflection on life’s journeys, and takes us places where we may not be able to go by any other means. In the summer of 2020, during the season of vacations when many of us will be looking for a change of scenery and a change of pace, the Ulrich will present On Vacation! to celebrate the fun and excitement of visiting an art museum.

Drawn entirely from the Ulrich permanent collection, the shows will feature approximately ten series of prints that capture images of places and events that present an enticing array of possible vacation spots — from Big Cities (Berlin and New York) to small-town diners, from the beach to a bullfight and the circus.

Accompanied by a series of programs that will engage visitors with both the art and with related experiences found right here in Wichita, this exhibition will be the perfect way to get away from it all while still getting to sleep in the comfort of your own bed.

George Grosz, The Voice of the City, c. 1935, color lithograph, 16 1/8 x 11 1/8 in., Gift of Dr. Frederick Ziman, 1973.36.11

Voices from the Vault
November 2019 - June, 2020

What stories can be found amid the nearly 7,000 works of art that live in storage at the Ulrich? Voices from the Vault is a new series of programs designed to help answer this question in the run-up to the 50th anniversary of the museum’s opening in December of 2024. Taking place over the course of the next five years, the talks will focus on the art made in the five decades of the Ulrich’s existence and will shed light on the way the art of our time can illuminate the key events and phenomena of our shared recent history. Assembled from the 1970s on, the Ulrich collection has its deepest holdings in American art from the last five decades, with works from acknowledged masters, as well as pieces by numerous less known artists. Voices from the Vault will focus on inviting living artists to discuss their work while also bringing in presentations by art historians, curators, and scholars from other disciplines who can help us uncover the Ulrich’s riches. In our first year, we plan to invite Catherine Morris, Senior Curator at the Sackler Center for Feminist Art at the Brooklyn Museum as well as artists John Baeder and Vitaly Komar.
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- event page in the update

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2019/2020

Multiple year sponsorships are available