

Experiencing Post-War U.S. History through Art curated by Niagara University History Department Faculty

February 3 - June 21, 2020



CASTELLANI
ART MUSEUM
OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

Introduction

This exhibition continues the tradition of faculty-curated exhibitions from the permanent collection of the Castellani Art Museum. Members of the Department of History have each chosen works that represent a variety of perspectives on the major social, political, and economic themes explored in the General Education course HIS 199: The United States in the Contemporary World. This class assesses the ways that post-World War II society has shaped our lives today. These works invite the viewer to consider local, regional, and national histories, as well as Americans' changing perceptions of their place in the world. Art helps us to see history beyond the grand narrative of politics, presidents, and war, shedding light on the lived experience of everyday people.

As you experience these works of art please consider the historical context in which they were created. The post-World War II era is marked by interacting themes such as industrialism and environmental decay, commercialism and identity, technology and utopianism, and immigration and intimidation, among many others. We realized that advanced weapons of war could not keep us safe in the conflicts of the Cold War and the War on Terror, challenging our assumptions of invincibility. Advances in science and technology transformed the way we view the world and our place in it, but at great human and environmental costs. We reacted to increasing suburbanization and commodification with existentialism. We witnessed a truly revolutionary civil rights movement that breathed new life into our Constitution and continues today. We encountered a crisis of confidence and faltered on the world stage in the 1970s, part of a global transformation with a deep local impact. Some of these pieces challenge or celebrate the popular stereotypes of the decades of the twentieth century, for example the images that come to mind when we think of the 1960s or the 1980s. Finally, through new media, we have accelerated our interpretive abilities in ways that continue to pit the individual against perceived controlling powers.

Many of these works compel us to confront our prejudices and assumptions about what it means to live in the United States today, and what the "American Dream" looks like. The history faculty invite the viewer to ponder the meanings behind these art pieces. How does art create new dimensions to the shape of our histories? What enslaves us and what frees us? What gives us dignity and what corrupts that dignity? How do we view the stuff of life: the land, the water, the organic? How have we defined love, sex, gender, equality, race, ethnicity, and opportunity? As you can see, the narratives of history provide structure to our understanding of how we got to where we are today, but there are often more questions than answers when it comes to who we are as a people. And perhaps that is the point. We are many and we are one.

Participating History Faculty

Dr. Stefanie Wichhart, Associate Professor of History, Chair

Dr. Michael Durfee, Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Mustafa Gokcek, Associate Professor of History

Dr. Robert Kane, Professor of History and Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Marissa C. Rhodes, Visiting Professor of History

Dr. Shannon M. Risk, Associate Professor of History

Dr. John Stranges, University Professor

Cover images: clockwise from top left (details): Milton Rogovin, *Three Generations*, 1967, black and white photograph; Andy Warhol, *Sitting Bull*, 1986, screenprint on Lenox museum board; Curtis Cravens, *Untitled*, n.d., photograph; Gretchen Bender, *Untitled* from *The Pleasure is Back* series, 1982, photo-serigraph on metal



Robert Simone, *Untitled*, 1980, silver print



Salvador Dalí, *Exploding Madonna*, 1977, lithograph



Nan Goldin, *Skinheads Fighting*, London, 1978, color photograph



Philip Burke, *Henry Kissinger*, c. 1987, oil on canvas



Robert Fichter, *Medical Analsis [sic]*, 1982, color photograph



Cindy Sherman, *Untitled (Doctor/Nurse)*, 1980/1992, gelatin silver prints

EXHIBITION CHECKLIST

All works are Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University Collection, unless otherwise noted.

Richard Artschwager, *Untitled*, 1982, black chalk on paper, 25¼ x 19 in. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Armand J. Castellani, 1996

Brendan Bannon, *South Sudan Refugee Camp*, 2015, digital print, 11¼ x 18 in. Promised gift of Gerald C. Mead, Jr., Buffalo, NY

Jean-Michel Basquiat, *Jimmy Olsen*, 1981, crayon on paper, 23¾ x 29½ in. Gift of the Castellani Family, 1999 (on view in the Knox Gallery)

Patricia Layman Bazelon, *Precipitators*, 1995, color photograph, edition 1/5, 11 x 14 in. Castellani Art Museum purchase, 1988

Patricia Layman Bazelon, *Sintering Plant*, 1995, color photograph, edition 1/5, 14 x 11 in. Castellani Art Museum purchase, 1988

Gretchen Bender, *Untitled from The Pleasure is Back series*, 1982, photo-serigraph on metal, 19 x 21 in. Gift of Mrs. Eleanor Castellani, 2005 (on view in the Knox Gallery)

Richard Benson, *Untitled*, n.d., photograph, 7¼ x 9¼ in. Promised gift of Robert Freidus

Philip Burke, *Henry Kissinger*, c. 1987, oil on canvas, 23 x 21 in. Promised gift of Gerald C. Mead, Jr., Buffalo, NY

Christo (Vladimirov Javacheff), *Wrapped Painting*, 1969, serigraph, double-sided and die-cut, edition of 100, 23 x 31 in. Gift of Anne Incorvia and Family, 2011

Larry Clark, *Untitled from The Tulsa Portfolio*, 1980, gelatin silver prints, 14 x 11 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 2019

Larry Clark, *Untitled from The Tulsa Portfolio*, 1980, gelatin silver prints, 11 x 14 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 2019

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Pinchas Cohen Gan, *Correlated Color Constructions* (various panels), 1978, painted wood, 18 x 24 in. each. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1996

Curtis Cravens, *Untitled*, n.d., photograph, 47¼ x 47¼ in. Promised gift of Dennis Helliwell

Salvador Dali, *Exploding Madonna*, 1977, lithograph, edition 324/450, 37¼ x 27¼ in. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Paul Cutler, 1996

Robert E. Dorksens, *Dignity*, 1972, silver print, 10 x 14 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1996

Robert Fichter, *Medical Analsis* [sic], 1982, color photograph, edition 3/5, 45 x 39 in. Promised gift of Robert Freidus

Nan Goldin, *Skinheads Fighting*, London, 1978, color photograph, 10¼ x 13¼ in. Promised gift of Robert Freidus

Keith Haring, *Untitled*, 1981, Sumi ink on paper, 38 x 46 in. Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Armand J. Castellani, 1989 (on view in the Knox Gallery)

Biff Henrich, *Untitled*, 1984, Ektacolor print, 40 x 30 in. Castellani Art Museum purchase, 1989

Takaaki Iwabu, *Christmas Wish*, 1995, color photograph, 11 x 14 in. Gift of the Artist, 1998

Jed Jackson, *Courage Mon Ami le diable et mort (Courage my Friend the Devil and Death)*, 1987, oil on wood, 18 x 21 in. Gift of the Artist, 2009

Stevan Jennis, *Space Ship*, 1978, painted wood, 9 x 24 x 17 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1993 (on view in the Knox Gallery)

Mark Kostabi, *The Price of Resistance*, 2006-2017, oil on canvas, 51 x 36 in. Gift of the artist and Kostabi World, NYC, 2019 (on view in the Knox Gallery)

Les Levine, *Bloody Sunday*, 1978, photo-etching, edition A/P, 22¼ x 29¼ in. Gift of Marie and Thomas O'Donnell, 2011

Roy Lichtenstein, *As I Opened Fire*, 1966, set of three color offset-lithographs, edition of 3,000, 25 x 21 in. each. Gift of the Castellani Family, 2013 (on view in the Knox Gallery)

Robert Longo, *Larry from the Men in the Cities series*, 1983, lithograph with pencil, edition W/P, 73½ x 37¼ in. Gift of the Castellani Family, 2002

Danny Lyon, *Untitled from Conversations with the Dead*, 1970, silver print, 11 x 14 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 2001

George Mellor, *World Piece I*, 1973, bronze, 10 x 10 x 10 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1991

Roger Mertin, *Rochester, New York*, 1981, color photograph, 8 x 10 in. Promised gift of Robert Freidus

Michelangelo Pistoletto, *Untitled (The Noose)*, c. 1980, screen print in ochre and black on reflective Mylar foil, edition 78/130, 31¼ x 23 in. Gift of Mr. Louis F. Toninelli, 2014

Ad Reinhardt, *Untitled from Artists and Writers against the War in Vietnam portfolio*, 1967, screenprint with collage additions, edition 57/100, 25¼ x 21 in. On loan from the Castellani Family Collection

Susan Ressler, *Bank of America, Los Angeles from Business Interiors*, 1977, silver print, 14 x 11 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1996

Norman Rockwell, *America Marches Ahead*, 1975, offset lithograph, edition 118/200, 34 x 47¼ in. Gift of Savino Nanula, 1982

Donald Rodan, *Hymen from the Greek Myths series*, 1978, Polaroid copy print, 4¼ x 3½ in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1999

Donald Rodan, *Muse from the Greek Myths series*, 1978, Polaroid copy print, 4¼ x 3½ in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1999

Donald Rodan, *Mute from the Greek Myths series*, 1978, Polaroid copy print, 4¼ x 3½ in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1999

Donald Rodan, *Perseus and Medusa from the Greek Myths series*, 1978, Polaroid copy print, 4¼ x 3½ in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1999

Milton Rogovin, *Three Generations*, 1967, black and white photograph, 15¼ x 14¼ in. Gift of Savino Nanula, 1979

Musa Saraçoğlu, *Ebru with gel-git (come-and-go), battal (large ston-spread), çift (overmarbling), and dalgali (shifted) pattern*, mixed media, 18½ x 26¼ in. Gift of the artist, 2017 (on view in the Introduction to Folk Art Gallery)

Italo Scanga, *Untitled*, 1983, acrylic on wood, 128 x 59 x 31 in. Gift of Mrs. Eleanor Castellani, 2004 (on view in the DiMino Sculpture Court)

Italo Scanga, *Monte Cassino: The View*, 1983, oil on wood, 116 x 45 x 32 in. Gift of Mrs. Eleanor Castellani, 2004 (on view in the DiMino Sculpture Court)

Cindy Sherman, *Untitled (Doctor/Nurse)*, 1980/1992, gelatin silver print, edition of 125, 9½ x 7½ in. each. Museum purchase, 1994 (on view in the Knox Gallery)

Robert Simone, *Untitled*, 1980, silver print, 8 x 10 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1996

Unknown, *The Boss of the Road*, 1877, lithograph, 9¾ x 13¾ in.

Unknown, *Bound to Shine*, 1877, Lithograph, 11 x 14¾ in.

Unknown, *Untitled (Elect Democrats for President John F. Kennedy)*, 1960, commercial offset photo-lithograph, 21½ x 27¼ in. Gift of Dr. John B. Stranges, 2004

Andy Warhol, *Campbell's Tomato Soup*, 1968, acrylic silkscreened on painted paper, unknown edition, 15 x 10 in. Gift of the Castellani Family, 2000

Andy Warhol, *Jacqueline Kennedy III from 11 Pop Artists, Volume III portfolio*, 1965, silkscreen, 40¼ x 30¼ in. Gift of the Castellani Family, 2002

Andy Warhol, *Sitting Bull*, 1986, screenprint on Lenox museum board, 36 x 36 in. Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation, 2014

Andy Warhol, *St. Apollonia*, 1984, screenprint on Lenox museum board, unknown edition, 36 x 36 in. Gift of the Andy Warhol Foundation, 2014

Andy Warhol, *Untitled from the Flash—November 22, 1963 portfolio*, 1968, screenprint, edition 195/200, 21 x 21 in. Special Purchase in memory of Cheryl Borzillieri, with additional funds provided by Niagara University, 2004

Garry Winogrand, *Untitled #8 from the Women are Beautiful portfolio*, 1981, black and white photograph, 14 x 11 in. Gift of Robert Freidus, 1999



Council on the Arts



This exhibition is organized by Michael J. Beam, Curator of Exhibitions and Special Projects, in partnership with Niagara University Faculty members. *Experiencing Post-War U.S. History through Art* curated by Niagara University History Department Faculty is made possible, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

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www.castellaniartmuseum.org

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Tuesday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.

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of Niagara Falls Imagery**

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