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Elvehjem Museum of Art

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The Elvehjem Museum of Art *artscene*

University of
Wisconsin-Madison
Volume 6, Number 1

Renovations Stay on Schedule

In many ways 1989-90 is an extraordinary year for the Elvehjem. The gallery walls are bare: there are no special exhibitions, no Artwork of the Month. Our collections have been locked away in storage. Our educational programs for Dane County school children are not being conducted in the museum. Devoid of visitors and emptied of art, the museum appears quiet and subdued. Even Sunday Afternoon Live, the Elvehjem's popular concert series, has been moved to the Wisconsin Union Theater, from where it is still broadcast weekly on WHA Radio. However, the empty galleries and museum's low profile in the Madison media are deceptive: the Elvehjem is busier than ever. The building renovations announced last summer are progressing, while the museum staff is enthusiastically planning for the reopening and energetically developing new publications and educational projects which could not be attended to during a normal year of exhibitions and public programming.

The asbestos abatement process, which constitutes the first phase of the building renovation plan, began on October 2 with the construction of air-tight containment barriers around the work areas and special decontamination chambers for workers accessing those areas. Also, since a large portion of the work was to be carried out in the attic spaces above the galleries, an intricate network of scaffolding had to be erected in the galleries themselves to shore up the suspended ceilings. Once this preliminary work was completed, the actual removal of the asbestos was begun and work has progressed systematically from one section of the building to another. The



Scaffolds camouflage the museum.



Worker plans procedures to isolate the attic before asbestos-containing fireproof material can be removed.

asbestos-abatement phase of the renovation is very close to schedule and should be completed by mid-February 1990.

The second phase of the renovations, involving the repair of leaking skylights and modification of essential climate control systems, began in mid-December. Some overlapping between the two phases of the renovation project was possible once a significant portion of the building was cleared of asbestos and an alternative fire-proofing agent applied.

Less dramatic, though certainly more apparent, are the modifications being made in the galleries and offices. Removal of the carpeting from the walls of galleries II, V, and VII, and the fourth-floor balcony will give all the galleries a consistent appearance. A new reception area adjacent to the administration offices has been constructed, providing more immediate access

to information for the public as well as improved security for the print collection. Modification of the print room will further safeguard the collection through increased storage facilities, improved ventilation, and reduced window condensation.

Although causing discomfort for building occupants and disruption of the activities of the museum, the remodeling will undoubtedly provide a more stable environment for the collection, more efficient facilities for the staff, and a more enjoyable and effective museum for everyone.

The absence of on-site public programming and the presence of construction

signs and vehicles around the building have given many of our friends and supporters the impression that, except for the renovations, the Elvehjem is dormant. The reality, however, is quite the contrary; 1989-90 is an extraordinarily busy year for the museum staff. The year's special projects include three major publications, one of which will be a handsomely illustrated Handbook of the Collection; computerization of our collection management systems; inventory of the entire collection which has grown from 1,800 objects in 1970 to over 14,500 today; and planning for a completely new, more education-

oriented installation of the permanent collection when the museum reopens in the fall of 1990. To mark the reopening, we are searching for a major large-scale sculpture appropriate for the front of the Elvehjem on University Avenue.

In addition to collection management and publications, we are focusing on education programming. A pilot educational outreach program is currently being offered free of charge by Elvehjem docents which, if resources permit, may be continued in coming years. (So far, this year alone, 145 presentations have been requested by 40 schools and community organizations throughout Dane County.) New object labels, educational brochures, and hands-on demonstration materials are being designed and fabricated for the use of docents and teachers. One final educational project worthy of special mention calls for the production of an audio tape cassette guide. Cassette recorders, available at the information desk in Paige Court, will provide individual visitors with a basic introduction to the museum and guide them through the newly installed permanent collection.

While the museum's art collection is currently not accessible, the administrative changes being made while the galleries are closed and the programs being prepared will serve our public more efficiently and effectively in the future.

News from the Museum Shop

As the ambience of the galleries has evolved over the past few years, so too has the museum shop's. The diversity of the permanent collection is directly reflected in the shop's merchandise, which now includes over twenty custom-made products with more on the drawing board. In addition, the merchandise is now displayed in an historic context which enables one to travel the art world simply by scanning the shelves. A distinct world of art materializes at each turn: be it ancient or modern, oriental or western, impressionist or expressionist. To further enhance the concept behind the current displays within the confines of our present space, the shop will be closed briefly this spring for remodeling. We want to minimize the inconvenience to our loyal patrons, without whose support this would have been an especially trying year. As one art history professor suggested, the shop "has the best kind of art there is . . . the kind you can buy." We hope you agree.



Once the air tests clean, the workers can slice open the critical barrier which isolates the area where the asbestos is being removed.

The Elvehjem

Collection Safety During Renovation

The Elvehjem's renovation will ultimately provide a more secure environment for the museum's works of art, but the safety of the collection became a paramount task in preparation for renovation. Curators Carlton Overland and Drew Stevens, as well as preparator Dale Malner and a staff of student employees, created safe havens for the art during the construction.

The first task was to procure sufficient storage space, by rearranging the works already in storage and expanding into areas that normally were used for other museum and art history functions. Overland and Stevens mapped out the available storage space and the place each work of art would occupy once moved from the galleries into storage. This careful planning and arranging ensured safe and sufficient placement for the collection.

However, since the Elvehjem's heating and air conditioning would be off during construction, a major threat to the collection still remained: regulating the environment of the storage areas. Works of art respond to their environment in very physical ways; changes in humidity can make works swell and shrink, temperatures that are too high or too low can make them brittle. It was, therefore, imperative that the storage areas for the works have stable temperature and humidity. The university physical plant placed temporary air conditioning units, heaters, and humidifiers in all the storage areas to replace permanent units affected by construction. Each work of art was then carefully transported to its assigned temporary location to remain for the duration of the remodeling.



Special heating/cooling units were installed in painting storage.

This meticulous planning and preparation for the safety of the collection was well worth the effort. When half of the ventilation system was turned off for the month of October and the people working in the museum offices suffered through temperatures in the high 80s, the art in the storage areas was safe, with stable temperature and humidity.

The security of the collection, as well as the success of the renovation thus far,

is due both to Elvehjem staff and to the planning and facilitating units of university and state. Like the renovation itself, much of the planning takes place behind the scenes and is only apparent to the careful observer. But the care of the Elvehjem's art collection has been the prime concern of all involved. We at the Elvehjem would like to thank those who have helped us preserve these works in the interim while the museum becomes a safer haven for them.

Elvehjem Reviews Public Relations

The current construction period offers the Elvehjem a unique opportunity to review and assess its ability to reach its constituents. This involves both internal review, procedures for sharing information with museum members, students, the Madison community and the national arts community; and external examination, such as national trends in art, museum attendance and membership, as well as community perception of the Elvehjem itself.

In the past semester, in an attempt to understand better the museum's relationship with the public, two focus group meetings were held. The first meeting with museum members offered feedback from people aware of the Elvehjem and, in some cases, actively involved. The second group was a random sampling of students, and therefore dealt with persons who were not necessarily familiar with the museum. Dis-

cussions with these groups encompassed a variety of topics. The members commented on what compels them to come to the museum and with whom, on their feelings towards and interest in gallery openings, on how the Elvehjem enhances the cultural environment and civic pride. Members were most vocal about an issue which did not directly affect them: education and outreach. They wanted to know what the Elvehjem was doing to attract young people to the museum. "I can not imagine someone just stopping in unless they are arts-oriented. They need to learn when they are young," said one of the members. "Older people have already decided to make this a part of their lives." Members who agree with this sentiment will be pleased to hear about the success of the Elvehjem's outreach program.

Although attitudes and attendance vary

among students, they appear to believe that museums in general, and the Elvehjem in particular, are solely institutions of education rather than places to be enjoyed. Many students felt timid about taking part in activities at the Elvehjem. Often a lack of knowledge about the visual arts and a lack of familiarity with the museum environment make them uncomfortable. A phone survey of students is being conducted to provide a quantitative measure of student sentiment. With this information, the Elvehjem staff can find better means for informing and educating the student body about the museum.

The Elvehjem Museum serves a wide and diverse public and strives to create a welcoming environment for all. If you have ideas or suggestions on how the museum can better serve you, please write to Karlene Beck, Elvehjem Museum of Art.

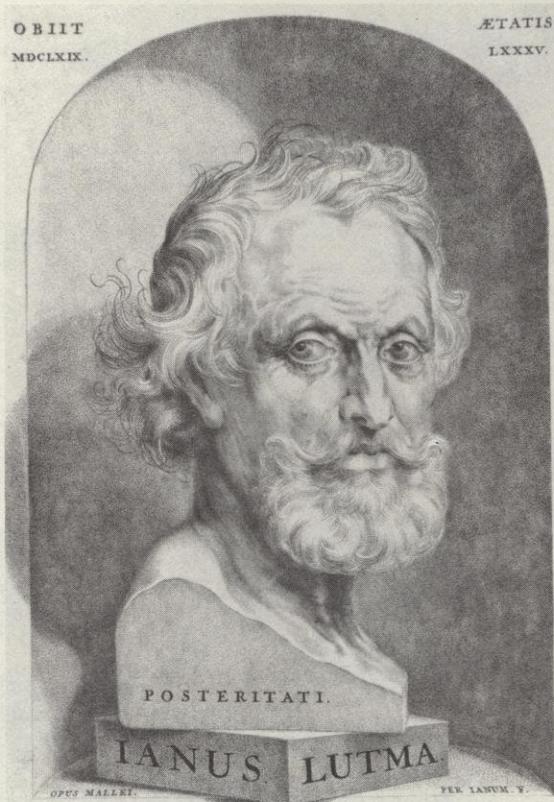
New Acquisitions

Although the galleries are closed, the Elvehjem, through purchases and generous donations, continues to bring new works of art into the collection.

In keeping with the Elvehjem's commitment to become a major resource for the study of prints, the majority of these new acquisitions have been prints. The museum has been donated two works by Richard Bosman: *Aground* was kindly donated by the Madison Print Club and *Whirlabout* by Tandem Press. The Elvehjem has recently purchased these contemporary prints: *Southwest Pinta* by Luis Jimenez, which derives inspiration from Hispano-American culture, and *Odessa* by Robert Cumming, which explores the nuances of image-as-icon. Both works were exhibited in *Contemporary Prints from the Permanent Collection*, held last summer. Also in this exhibition were several new acquisitions from faculty members, including *Son of Man* by Raymond Gloeckler, *Butterfly Girl* by Dean Meeker, and *By the Time His Boat Was Paid for the Water Was Gone* by William Weege.

Other recent print purchases include two seventeenth-century portraits. One is a meticulous woodcut by Christoffel van Sichem II entitled *Man in a Feathered Hat*, in exceptional condition. The other, *Portrait of the Artist's Father* by Jan Lutma II, is a striking example of a print in the dotted manner, in which the artist uses a hammer and awl to punch dots into the plate rather than engraving lines. In this accomplished work, the sense of a tangible personality conveyed by the subject's direct gaze is played against the classical convention of the portrait bust.

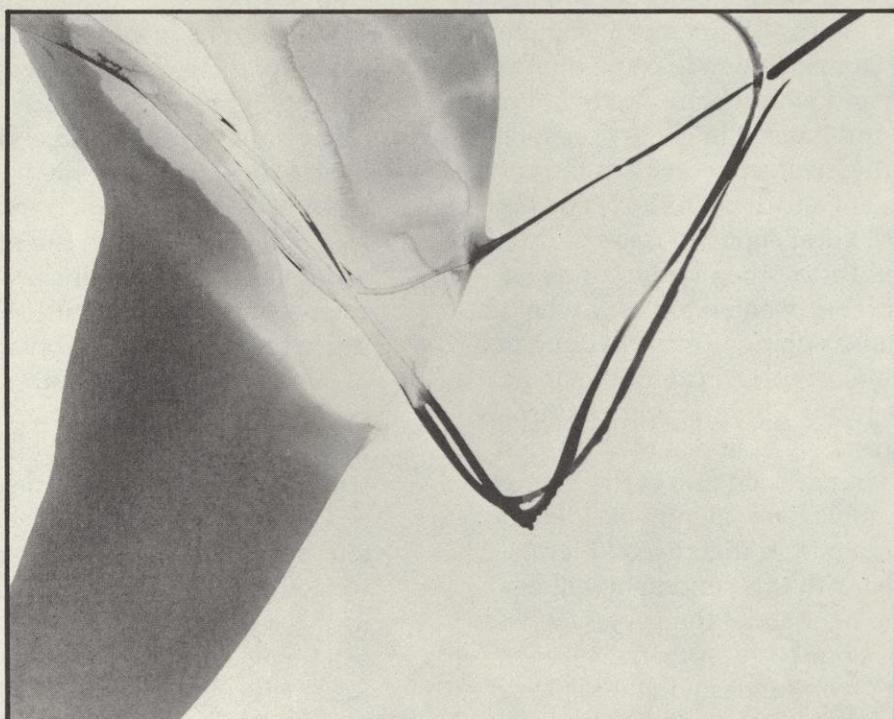
The Elvehjem has also been given several fine paintings by private collectors. From the collection of Stuart Applebaum



Jan Lutma II, *Portrait of Jan Lutma I*, ca. 1669, intaglio, acc. no. 1989.48, Farbor and Elvehjem Museum of Art Endowment purchase.

the Elvehjem has received a delightful summer scene done in watercolor by American artist Mahonri Young. Joe Garton has donated an abstract acrylic work by Paul Jenkins. Mrs. Julia Bogholt and Mrs. Anne Bogholt Clinard have contributed an untitled pastoral watercolor by John Steuart Curry.

Like the rest of the collection, however, these works are in storage. The curators and staff at the Elvehjem look forward to our fall reopening when we will provide our patrons access to the increasing variety of the museum's holdings.



Paul Jenkins, *Phenomena Trial Run Grey*, 1967, acrylic, acc. no. 1989.42, gift of Deidre and Joseph Garton.

New Publications for 1990

As the empty galleries echo with the sound of hammers and heavy equipment, the publications office proceeds undaunted in preparing several outstanding works for the new year.

The Bulletin/Annual Report for 1987-1988, which will be available in February, demonstrates the Elvehjem's dedication in presenting an increasing variety of in-depth scholarly articles. This report will feature an essay on the innovative woodcuts of Alfred Sessler by Emeritus Professor James Watrous; a discussion on the ancient figure vases in the Elvehjem collection by William Biers, professor of art history at the University of Missouri-Columbia, currently teaching at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece; a compelling first-hand report on the restoration of the sixteenth-century panel painting *Madonna and Child Enthroned with Saints and Angels* as experienced by Barry Bauman, owner and director of the Chicago Conservation Center; and a masterful account of Frank Lloyd Wright's involvement in the home-improvement industry of the 1950s, written and researched by Virginia Terry Boyd, professor of family resources.

Available in early spring, the catalogue Frank Lloyd Wright and Madison will set a new precedent in breadth and scope for Elvehjem publications. This hard-bound book will feature twenty-five essays by five authors tracing Wright's involvement in the Madison community: from his childhood, when he and his family resided in and around the downtown Madison area, to the controversial Monona Terrace project that he promoted and perfected through his final days. These comprehensive articles will be illustrated with nearly four hundred photographs, sketches, and drawings, many not previously published. The completion of this book will mark the beginning of a new era in the Elvehjem's literary endeavors.

This fall, concurrent with the reopening of the Elvehjem and the celebration of its twentieth anniversary, an often-requested publication will become available—A Handbook of the Collection. Director Russell Panczenko will provide the introduction, which includes the museum's history, its present objectives, and future goals. There will be 154 full-page photographs, both color and black and white, illustrating the finest works in the permanent collection. The handbook will enhance an appreciation of the Elvehjem Museum of Art's permanent collection.

As this newsletter goes to press, the publications office and Curator of Prints Drew Stevens are diligently compiling a catalogue of the Van Vleck collection of Japanese prints.

Sunday Afternoon Live: The Elvehjem Concert Series

Concerts will be held at the Wisconsin Union Theater and will begin at 12:30 p.m. All performances are free and open to the public.

January

21

Richard Fletcher, clarinet; Paul Kosower, cello; and Penelope Cecchini, piano, Eau Claire

28

Russell Brazzel, guitar, Milwaukee

February

4

Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra
Horn Quartet, Whitewater

11

Lawrence University Faculty,
Appleton

18

Pro Arte Quartet, Madison

25

Present Music—Directed by Kevin Stalheim, Milwaukee (Will be held at Philo Buck Studio, 7th floor of Vilas Hall)

March

4

Whitewater Brass Quintet

11

Les Favorites, Eau Claire

18

Wisconsin Arts Quintet, Stevens Point

25

Musical Offering, Milwaukee

April

1

Javier Calderon, guitar, Madison

8

Wausau Conservatory of Music
Piano Faculty

15

Easter (No concert)

22

Appleton Saxophone Quartet

29

Wingra Woodwind Quintet,
Madison (Will be held at Philo Buck
Studio, 7th floor of Vilas Hall)

May

6

Pro Arte Quartet, Madison

13

Lydia Seifter, piano, Madison



Christoffel van Sichem II, *Man in a Feathered Hat*, 1607, woodcut, acc. no. 1989.49, Farber and Elvehjem Museum of Art Endowment purchase.



The Wisconsin Arts Quintet of Stevens Point (l-r: Paul Doebler, flute; David Beadle, bassoon; Andrea Slittberger-Rosen, clarinet; Daniel Stewart, oboe) will perform at the Wisconsin Union Theater on March 18 at 12:30 p.m. Photo by Doug Moore.

The Elvehjem

Elvehjem Initiates Outreach Program

What do Stoughton Middle School eighth-graders, the Fitchburg Kiwanis Club, and Arbor View Health Care Center have in common? Each will participate in the Elvehjem's new outreach program this fall. Focusing on aspects of and objects in the museum's collections, this program was developed as a means of sharing the Elvehjem's resources during this year of closure.

Though we were eager to initiate an outreach program and our docents had agreed with characteristic enthusiasm to the endeavor, we were unsure what the community needed or would be interested in. To determine this, we asked 500 educators and community group leaders if they would like slide lectures brought to their schools or community groups, and if so, which topics, based on our collections, would serve them best.

Enthusiastic responses revealed particular interest in four topics: "How to Look at a Painting," "American Indian Baskets," "Portraits," and "Daily Life in Ancient Times." Concurrent with our survey, we applied for a grant from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission to support the proposed outreach program. The application was approved, giving us generous support from Dane County with additional funds supplied by the Evjue Foundation, Inc./The Capital Times. With committed volunteers, a receptive audience, and financial support, we began to craft the program over the summer.

The basic program format and guidelines for the four topics were written by Melanie Herzog, an art history graduate student, and Katharine Goray Moore, an art teacher at Madison's Lincoln Elementary school. Docents and outreach docents from the Elvehjem League participated in ten training sessions, researching their topics and preparing presentations for this new venture. Randall Hopkins, a Madison art teacher at Shorewood Elementary, advised on curriculum and appropriate classroom procedures. Suggestions for hands-on activities were incorporated into the training.

A Program

Docents presented their first program at the Stoughton Middle School in mid-October, "Daily Life in Ancient Times." Teacher Karen Sack coordinated the presentation with the eighth grade class's study of ancient Greece. Docents Cathie Burgess, Barbara Klokner, Helene Metzenberg, and Marian Thompson, working in pairs, gave presentations to four classes. They began by showing students a scale



Docents Sara Fellman and Beverly Calhoun load materials for outreach programs.

model of an ancient Greek villa of 436 B.C., built especially for the outreach program by Bruce Severson. After discussing the activities in and artifacts from each room of the house, the docents then showed slides of related objects from the Elvehjem's collection of ancient art.

They discussed domestic life in antiquity using illustrations from ancient vases. Students were encouraged to examine reproductions of ancient coins and to compare these and other ancient objects and activities with those of today, drawing parallels between the past and present. Docents pointed out that the Elvehjem's Mycenean drinking cup of 1200 B.C. has the same shape as a contemporary tea cup. Classical design in the interior of a Greek vase of 540 B.C. reveals radial symmetry similar to the interior of the dome in the state capitol. Docents shared stories of Greek gods, goddesses, and heroes, and after recounting Herakles' labors, they noted his similarities with the modern super-hero Batman. When students learned Nike's attributes, they understood the origin for the brand name of a favorite athletic shoe!

The first program was a great success, and the docents have approached all the outreach program topics with the same thoughtfulness and zeal. In letters to their docents Stoughton students showed their appreciation: "We were studying Greece in

history, and this helped me relate to what we were learning," wrote Nick Prueher. "My favorite part was the house. When I first saw it, I thought it was a model of a modern house. It looked exactly like some of the houses they build today," noted Matt Stuart. And Deirdre Delaney remarked that "It's neat to be able to tell how people acted, dressed, and ate from looking at the vases and pots. The Greeks are very interesting themselves, and you made learning about them interesting. Thank you for your time and effort."

We now have over 145 programs scheduled. Consequently, even when the galleries of the Elvehjem are closed, the resources and richness of the collection will reach nearly 4,000 people in the greater Madison community. Because this is a new program requiring special training, travel, transportation of educational materials, and close cooperation with partners, teachers, and educators, the Elvehjem gratefully acknowledges our docents' additional commitment and dedication.

Outreach programs are available by appointment, on a first-come-first-serve basis, for schools and groups in a twenty-mile radius of Madison. An informational brochure describing the topics may be requested from the museum education office. Please call 608-263-2246 to arrange a tour or request the brochure.

STAFF NOTES

The Elvehjem welcomes several new people to the staff.

Lori DeMeuse, the Elvehjem's new accounts specialist, is responsible for record keeping, payroll, staff benefits, purchasing, disbursements, receipts, and financial reporting for the museum. A former program assistant for the Psychiatric Research Institute at the UW, Lori received her A.A.S. in business mid-management from MATC.

Kathy McKeegan, a former LTE for the Elvehjem, is now a member of the permanent staff. As the museum's word processor and receptionist, Kathy is responsible for correspondence, scheduling, and word processing for the ten permanent staff members and two interns. She also greets all visitors and business associates who enter the staff office area. Kathy, originally from Baraboo, graduated from Madison Memorial High School. Before coming to the Elvehjem, she worked as a nanny in Connecticut and in data entry at Wisconsin Cheeseman.

The Elvehjem has also added two LTE's to its staff.

As the new staff photographer, Sally Behr has been busy photo-documenting the reconstruction and keeping track of museum activities while the Elvehjem is closed. Her ongoing responsibilities include the photographing of the collection for museum publications and curatorial



Lori DeMeuse



Kathy McKeegan

files. Sally received her B.S. in art and her M.F.A. in photography and graphics from the UW-Madison in 1978 and 1982. Sally has been a lecturer for the UW Department of Art and an assistant professor of art at Vincennes University in Indiana.

Anne Kowalski, a native of Greendale, Wisconsin, has been employed as secretary to the director of the Elvehjem. In addition to her varied responsibilities in this role, Anne also assists the curator of education with tour and outreach arrangements. From 1986-1989, while a student at the UW, Anne worked as an office assistant at the McBurney Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities. She received her B.S. degree in secondary education, with specializations in English, theatre, and acting, from UW-Madison last May. She is active in theatre, appearing most recently in the CTM productions *Beauty and the Beast* and *A Christmas Carol*.

This year the Elvehjem is quite pleased to have the assistance of two new interns from the UW Center for Arts Administration program.

Karlene Beck, the Elvehjem's new public relations intern, will be reviewing the museum's procedures for information sharing and promotion. She has held several sessions with focus groups and is conducting phone surveys with museum members, students, and the general community to evaluate the Elvehjem's success in reaching its constituents. A native of Iowa, Karlene received her B.A. in communication studies from the University of Iowa and is working towards her M.A. in business through the Center for Arts Administration. Before coming to the Elvehjem, Karlene worked as the general manager for the UW-Opera and served on the marketing committee for the Center for Art Administration's 1989 symposium.

Juliet Gunkel, intern for the Sunday Afternoon Live—The Elvehjem Concert Series, schedules and plans concerts, issues press releases, and arranges the intermission series interviews. Originally from Waukesha, Wisconsin, Juliet received her B.A. in art history from the UW-Madison last May. As an undergraduate, she worked in the Elvehjem's membership office. She is pursuing her Masters in arts administration.

JOIN THE ELVEHJEM

Membership enables you to become an integral and essential part of the Elvehjem.

Annual Benefits include:

- Invitations to openings, receptions and special events
- A subscription to *Artscene* for advance notice of exhibitions, education and membership programs, and special events
- 15% discount on Museum Shop purchases
- Discounts on trips to major exhibitions at nearby museum and galleries
- The Bulletin/Annual Report
- Discounts on art periodical subscriptions
- Reduced admission to Evening Concerts and other programs

Members in categories above Family receive additional benefits such as complimentary Museum publications.

Special Memberships include full-time students, senior citizens and non-residents.

As a Member you support:

- Acquisitions
- Exhibitions
- Publications
- Educational Programs
- Special Events and Programs

Yes, I want to become a Member of the Elvehjem Museum of Art.

(If you are already a Member, please pass this form on to someone you know who would like to join the Elvehjem.)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone/Business Phone _____

Please find my check enclosed for \$ _____

Charge my: Visa MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Please contact me about becoming an Elvehjem volunteer.

Please return this form with your check payable to the:

Elvehjem Museum of Art

Membership Office

800 University Avenue

Madison, WI 53706

Thank You for Your Support!

Membership Categories

- Fellow \$1,000
- Partner \$500
- Associate \$250
- Founder \$100
- Dual/Household \$45
- Individual \$30
- Special Household \$40
- Special \$20

Check Special Category:

- Non-resident (Living beyond 75-mile radius of Madison)
- Senior citizen (age 62 and over)
- Full-time student

My additional gift for programming is \$ _____

The Elvehjem

Sunday Afternoon Live Concerts Continue

Sunday Afternoon Live: The Elvehjem Concert Series, now in its tenth season, continues to offer exciting performances featuring some of Wisconsin's most prominent musicians and finest chamber ensembles. For the duration of the museum's renovation these concerts will be held at the Wisconsin Union Theater, located at 800 Langdon St., Madison. The performances will begin at 12:30 p.m. and, as always, they are open to the public, wheelchair accessible, and free of charge.

This season's schedule of thirty-two concerts includes performances by familiar and favorite artists such as the Pro Art Quartet and the Wisconsin Brass Quintet and will also feature series debuts by pianist Nicholas Underhill and the Fischer Duo.

Those who are unable to attend the concerts can hear them live throughout the state on Wisconsin Public Radio stations WERN/88.7 FM Madison, WHRM/90.9 FM Wausau, WPNE/89.3 FM Green Bay, and WUEC/ 89.7 FM Eau Claire. During the concert intermissions, these broadcasts will feature Elvehjem Director Russell Panczenko in interviews with local, national, and international artists, administrators, and professionals in the visual arts community. Recent interviews have included a conversation with Muriel McCarthy, librarian at an eighteenth-century library in Dublin, Ireland; a discussion with Hugh

Southern, chairman of the National Endowment of the Arts; and a talk with Andrew Weiner, owner of the Spaightwood Gallery in Madison.

In keeping with the nine previous seasons of Sunday Afternoon Live: The Elvehjem Concerts Series, the present sea-

son promises to be a rewarding musical experience. This series is made possible in part by grants from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission, the Evjue Foundation Inc./The Capital Times, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Consortium for the Arts.



A shrouded and empty museum is a contradiction in terms.

Elvehjem Museum of Art
800 University Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53706



Museum Shop Hours:
Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Kohler Art Library Hours:
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

For library hours during UW-Madison holiday periods call (608) 263-2258

Information: (608) 263-2246

Admission is free



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Madison, WI.
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Important Dated Information!