

ONVIEW

SPRING 2011



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT'S FLEMING MUSEUM OF ART



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EXHIBITIONS/pages 4-7, 10-11

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VISITING/Back cover

COVER: John Steuart Curry (American 1897-1946), *The Flying Codonas*, 1932 (detail). Tempera and oil on composition board, 36" x 30". Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, Purchase 33.10

INSIDE: Georges Rouault (French 1871-1958), *Tristes Os*, 1934 (detail). Color etching and aquatint wove paper 12 1/4" x 7 7/8". SUAC 1975.22.08



This spring, the Fleming takes on a subject that has attracted artists throughout modernity: life and spectacle under the big top. The bohemian lives of the performers, the visual excitement in the ring, the risk of the high-wire, the beauty of the animals, are all celebrated in artists' responses to the circus, from French artist Georges Rouault to American painters such as George Bellows and Walt Kuhn, and contemporary artists Mary Ellen Mark, Lance Richbourg, and Sharon Bates. And that's just in our East Gallery! In the Wilbur Room you'll find prints of characters from *Commedia dell'Arte* – a precursor of the circus, along with early masks from Vermont's own beloved Bread & Puppet Theater, which draws on motifs from *Commedia* and from the circus.

Our spring programming line-up brings the spectacle alive, with *Circus Extravaganza*, *Commedia VT*, and Bread & Puppet founder Peter Schumann. To top it off, we present a martial arts demonstration in the Marble Court in connection with *Shadows of the Samurai*, a continuing exhibition in the Museum's Wolcott Gallery.

We are delighted to present video animations by artist Pippo Lionni in the Museum's New Media Niche -- a dedicated space for video and digital media in the Fleming's wireless coffee lounge. A related piece by the artist will be installed in the Genre section of the Fleming's *European and American Gallery*, offering a 21st-century perspective on daily life.

Just to make certain that the winter doldrums don't set in, we also invite you to join us for our three ongoing programs: The *Painted Word Poetry Series*, the *UVM Film Series*, and, our newest, *PechaKucha Night*, which you may have heard the buzz about. Read about them all here, pull on your boots, grab a friend, and come to the Fleming for a spectacular season of art and inspiration.




Janie Cohen, Director

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UNDER THE BIG TOP

The Fine Art of the Circus in America

EAST GALLERY / JANUARY 25 - MAY 22, 2011

The circus was recognized in late-19th-century Europe as a subject of avant-garde art, but in America, it was not until artist Robert Henri's appeal, in 1923, to paint contemporary life that artists began to search out and paint scenes of this popular entertainment. For artists, as well as for many individuals, the circus offered much more than an enjoyable leisure activity. It provided a spectacle of man's tragic failings, as seen in the foolish performances of the clowns; a vision of man's rich potential, symbolized by the daring and skill of the aerialists and acrobats; and it offered artists a lens through which to see themselves.

Like Georges Rouault, whose prints are exhibited in the adjacent gallery (**Georges Rouault: Cirque de L'Étoile Filante**), many American artists identified personally with circus performers, because they too lived by their skill and talent at the fringes of society. Through examples by artists ranging from early 20th-century American painters Walt Kuhn, George Bellows, George Luks, John Steuart Curry, and Reginald Marsh, to modern and contemporary artists including Mary Ellen Mark and Rhona Bitner, among others, *Under the Big Top* examines the iconography of circus imagery in American 20th and 21st -century art. It explores the artists' psychological connection to the various types of circus performers, tracing the origins of select characters to their original sources. As a special component of this exhibition, we will be featuring a large installation by contemporary artist, Sharon Bates, in the Marble Court.

This exhibition was organized by the Fleming Museum, with generous support from the Kalkin Family Exhibitions Endowment Fund and the Walter Cerf Exhibitions Fund.

RIGHT: Paul Cadmus (American 1904-1999), *Gilding the Acrobats* (detail). Pen and ink drawing with white chalk on paper, (plate) 12" x 6." Bequest of Henry Schnakenberg 1971.2.69

RELATED PROGRAMS (See pages 12-13 for details)

Feb. 3/5:30pm	SPRING OPENING RECEPTION
Feb. 25/6:00pm	Special Program: <i>Jennifer Miller</i>
Mar. 2/12:15pm	Noontime Café: <i>Aimee Marcereau DeGalan</i>
Mar. 16/12:15pm	Noontime Café: <i>Sarah Carleton</i>
April. 20/10:00am	Kids Program: <i>Mask Making Workshop</i>
April. 23/X:00pm	CIRCUS EXTRAVAGANZA
April. 30/6:00pm	Commedia dell'Arte Performance



GEORGES ROUAULT *Cirque de L'Etoile Filante*

EAST GALLERY

JANUARY 25 - MAY 22, 2011

The world of the circus had always interested French artist Georges Rouault, with its contrast of superficial brightness and the infinite sadness of the clown's life. From 1926 to 1938, he and his Parisian print publisher and dealer, Ambroise Vollard, published Rouault's print portfolio, *Cirque de L'Étoile Filante*, (*Circus of the Shooting Star*) which is Rouault's attempt to strip away the "spangles" of the clown's costume and reveal the "reflection of paradise lost." Seventeen color etchings with aquatint introduce the portfolio, followed by a selection of wood engravings that illustrate the text, also written by Rouault.

Rouault identified with the figures in the circus, in particular, the clown, as he considered him a true symbol of man: a figure that must perform his role in life's circus, despite its vagaries. Rouault saw the clown as the incarnation of human suffering, but his physical attributes appealed to him as well: the multi-colored finery, grease-painted face, and acrobatic attitudes. Form, color, and harmony were, to Rouault, a trademark of the circus, and he strove to create a similar dynamism in his artwork. Although the theme of the circus has been represented in art since antiquity; it was not until the early-20th century in France that it acquired the human dimension reflected in Georges Rouault's work.

This exhibition of Rouault's prints has been organized by the Syracuse University Art Galleries Traveling Exhibition Program. It's presentation at the Fleming Museum is made possible with generous support from the Kalkin Family Exhibitions Endowment Fund.

Georges Rouault (French 1871-1958), *Pierrot*, 1935, 12 1/4" x 8 1/8"; *Le petit Nain*, 1934, 12" x 8 1/8"; *Tristes Os*, 1934, 12 1/4" x 7 7/8. Color etching and aquatint wove paper, SUAC 1975.22.14, 1975.22.04, 1975.22.08

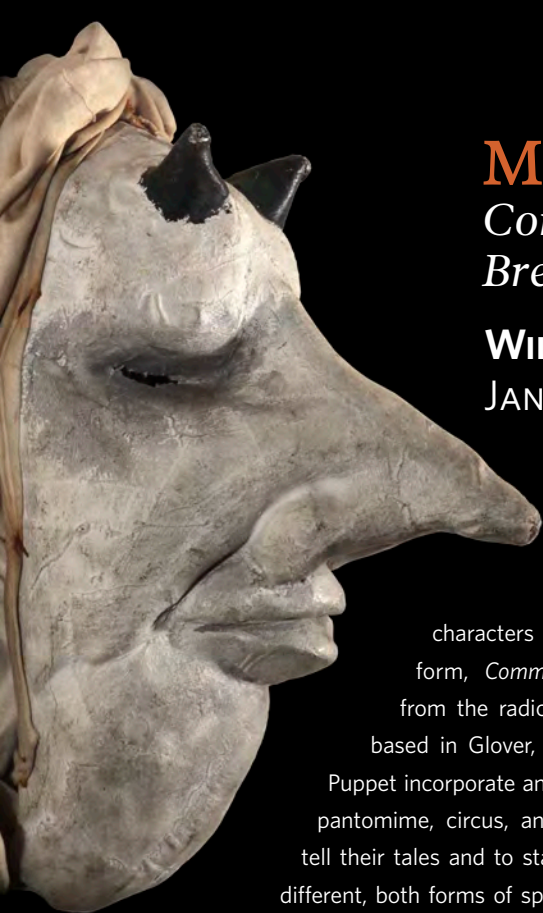


MASKED SPECTACLE

Commedia dell'Arte and Bread & Puppet Theater

WILBUR ROOM

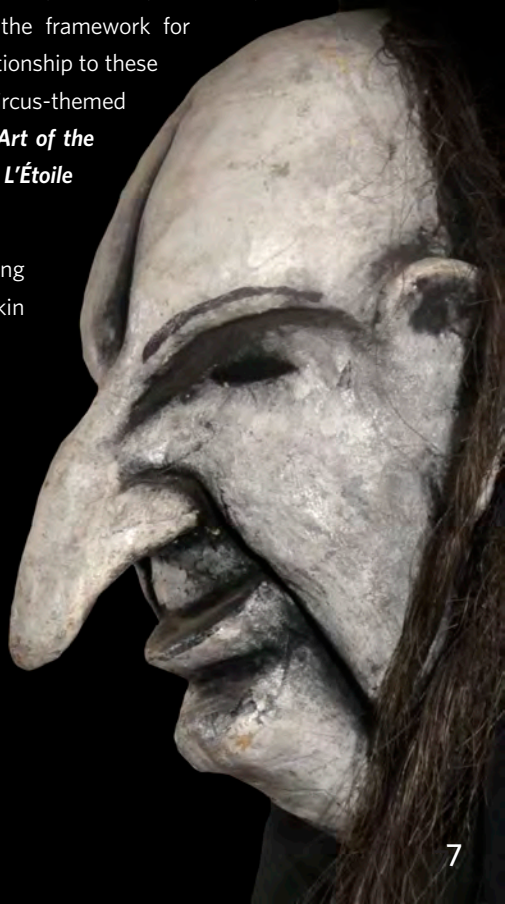
JANUARY 18 - MAY 8, 2011



This exhibition combines prints by American/Hungarian artist Giuseppe Pecszenke (1942-1989) featuring characters and scenes from the independent theatre form, *Commedia dell'Arte*, with masks and puppets from the radical puppet theater group, Bread & Puppet, based in Glover, Vermont. *Commedia dell'Arte* and Bread & Puppet incorporate and combine various aspects of mime, dance, pantomime, circus, and masks, often using stock characters to tell their tales and to stage their spectacle. Although visually quite different, both forms of spectacle stress human themes: love, money, sex, greed, hunger, war, fear and death. Moreover, they both incorporate the use of masks, to call attention to issues of identity.

Throughout the modern era, artists had identified with these themes and found meaning in the characters of the *Commedia dell'Arte*, relating these stock figures to the many roles of the artist himself: critic, dissenter, outcast, wanderer, enchanter, acrobat, and clown. *Masked Spectacle* provides the framework for these reference points and informs the artist's relationship to these character types as represented in the two other circus-themed exhibitions on view, ***Under the Big Top: The Fine Art of the Circus in America***, and ***Georges Rouault: Cirque de L'Étoile Filante***.

This exhibition was organized by the Fleming Museum, with generous support from the Kalkin Family Exhibitions Endowment Fund.



Bread & Puppet (Glover, Vermont)
White Clown masks, c. 1980s
 Paper mâché, paint, twine
 Courtesy of Bread & Puppet

JANUARY

18 EXHIBITION OPENS
Masked Spectacle: Commedia dell'Arte and Bread & Puppet Theater

25 EXHIBITIONS OPEN
Under the Big Top: The Fine Art of the Circus in America
Georges Rouault: Cirque de L'Étoile Filante

26 POETRY SERIES
 David Huddle and Meg Kearney, 6:00-7:00 PM

XX EXHIBITS OPEN
Facts of Life and Urbanopolis
 by Pippo Lionni

FEBRUARY

2 NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAM
Reactions, Rebounds, and Reanimations. Pippo Lionni, 12:15 PM

3 OPENING RECEPTION
Spring Exhibitions, 5:30-7:30 PM
 Cash Bar and Hors d'Oeuvres

10 SPECIAL PROGRAM
PechaKucha Night, Vol. 2
 6:00 PM
 (See page 13 for details)

16 WEDNESDAY: OPEN LATE 'TIL 8
The Way of the Peaceful Warrior. Benjamin Pincus Sensei, 6:00 PM

19-21 MUSEUM CLOSED
 Presidents' Day Weekend

17 UVM FILM SERIES
The Big Clock, 7:45 PM
 (See page 13 for details)

23 POETRY SERIES
 April Ossman and Patricia Spears Jones, 6:00-7:00 PM

25 SPECIAL PROGRAM
How to Wear a Beard: Politics, Art, Sideshows, Circuses, and Life in General. Jennifer Miller, 6:00 PM



Aikido of Champlain Valley will present *The Way of the Peaceful Warrior*, a martial art demonstration, on February 16 at 6:00 PM.

MARCH

**2 NOONTIME CAFÉ
AND PROGRAM**
*Title TK. Aimee Marcerereau
DeGalan, 12:15 PM*

7-14 MUSEUM CLOSED
University of Vermont
Spring Recess

**16 NOONTIME CAFÉ
AND PROGRAM**
*Commedia in Performance:
The Transformational Power
of the Mask. Sarah Carleton,
12:15 PM*

24 UVM FILM SERIES
Le Doulos, 7:45 PM
(See page 13 for details)

30 POETRY SERIES
Todd Hearon and Maggie
Dietz, 6:00-7:00 PM

APRIL

**6 WEDNESDAY:
OPEN LATE 'TIL 8**
*The Evolution of Bread
and Puppet Theater. Peter
Schumann, 6:00 PM*

20 KIDS' PROGRAM
Hiding in Plain Sight.
Maskmaking Workshop,
10:00 AM - 12 Noon

23 CIRCUS EXTRAVAGANZA
Ira Allen Chapel, 2:00 PM
(See page 14 for details)

**27 WEDNESDAY:
OPEN LATE 'TIL 8**
Commedia VT Performance
6:00 PM

29-I OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND
Friday, April 29 through
Sunday, May 1. *Free Admission*




Giuseppe Pecsénke (Hungarian/American 1942-1989), *Commedia dell'Arte XI11-A (The Procession)*. Etching/black ink, (plate) 26" x 20." Gift of Dr. H. Jarecki, via Janos Aranyi 1984.23.13

SHADOWS OF THE SAMURAI:

Japanese Warrior Traditions

WOLCOTT GALLERY

THROUGH MAY 11, 2011



Samurai culture and the code of conduct known as *bushido*, have exerted a powerful hold on the imaginations of people in the East and the West. The samurai were the military elite of Japanese society from the eighth century through the 1860s. The clever design and exquisite craftsmanship of their helmets and armor were inspired by a love of nature, and were eagerly collected by Westerners for display in private homes and museums. More than professional warriors, the samurai cultivated a variety of aesthetic pursuits, ranging from theater and art to poetry and the tea ceremony. Ceremonial armor, swords, and other weapons — all part of the Fleming Museum collections — are shown along with theater masks, woodblock prints, and other objects reflecting samurai traditions.

Curated by Margaret Tamulonis, Manager of Collections and Exhibitions with Erik Esselstram, Associate Professor of History, UVM.

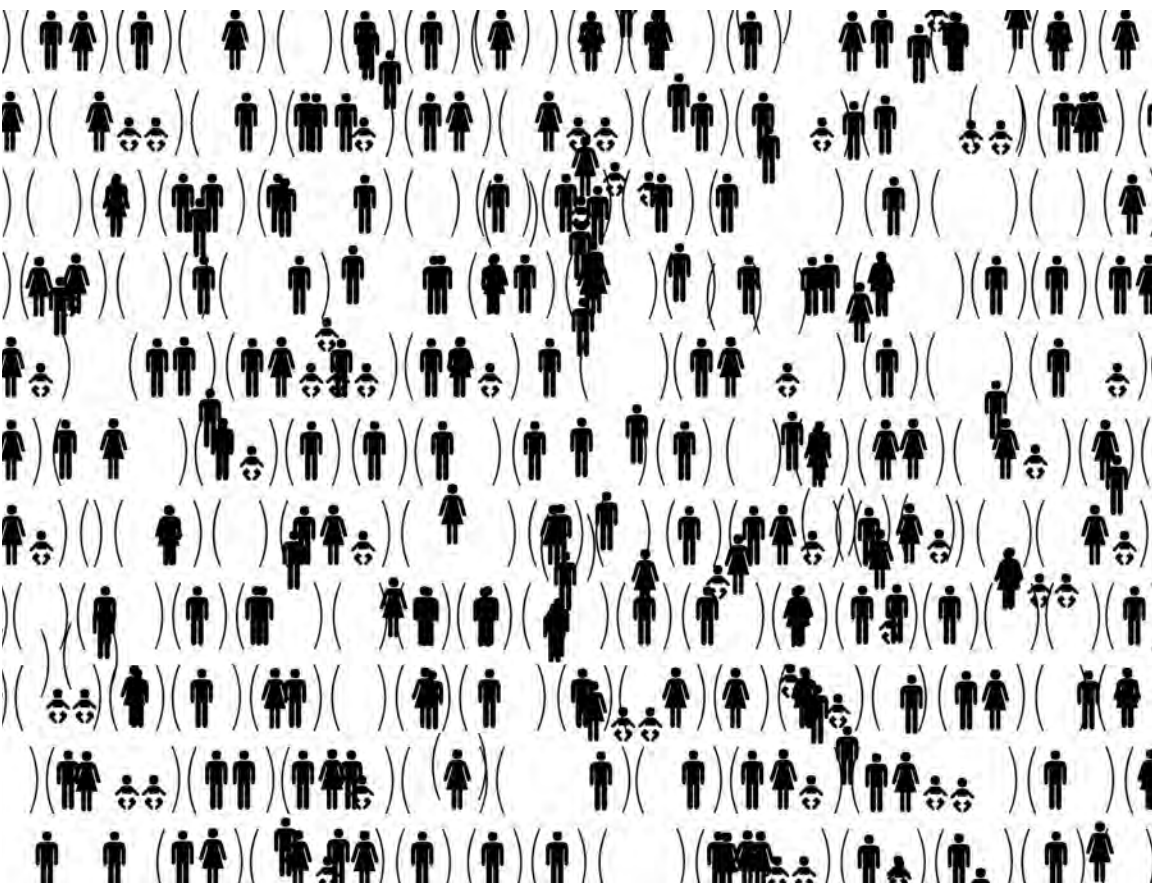
RELATED PROGRAMS

(See pages 12-13 for details)

Feb. 16/6:00pm

Demonstration of Japanese Martial Arts:
The Way of the Peaceful Warrior

Armor and Helmet, possibly 17th-century Japan.
Steel, silk.
Gift of Henry LeGrand Cannon
1898.1.102, 103, 104



Pippo Lionni (American, b. 1954), *URBANOPOLIS*, 2007, animation film still

PIPPO LIONNI

NEW MEDIA NICHE, FLEMING LOBBY EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN GALLERY

JANUARY XX - MAY XX, 2011

The Fleming Museum is delighted to present work this spring by Paris-based artist Pippo Lionni. In the Museum's *New Media Niche*, located in the lobby, in a series of animations by the artist from his ongoing body of work, *Facts of Life*, Lionni combines common signs, symbols, and icons into a visual lexicon that conveys the complexities of human relations, with subtlety and humor. Running continuously will be 7 short video works, including *Freneticology*, *Linerunner*, and *Lovespace*, in which the artist utilizes the figural symbols for man and woman that identify restrooms and other public amenities throughout the world.

On view in the Fleming's *European and American Gallery*, on the second floor, is a related large-scale print by Lionni entitled *Urbanopolis*. In it, Lionni presents an expansive human landscape constructed of globally recognized pictograms. It hangs in the Genre section of the gallery, introducing a 21st-century take on the historical category of genre: scenes of everyday life. Together the two installations, video and print, transform a trove of universal visual symbols into vibrant and compelling scenarios.

Curated by Janie Cohen, Director.

All events are free with Museum admission unless otherwise noted.

NOONTIME CAFÉ AND PROGRAMS

Programs begin at 12:15 PM on the Wednesdays listed below. Lunch is available for purchase in the Museum's lobby from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Reactions, Rebounds, and Reanimations

FEBRUARY 2

Pippo Lionni, Artist

Title TK Title TK Title TK Title TK Title TK Title TK

MARCH 2

Aimee Marcereau DeGalan,
Curator of Collections and Exhibitions,
Fleming Museum

Commedia in Performance: The Transformational Power of the Mask

MARCH 16

Sarah Carleton, Associate Professor, UVM
Department of Theater

POETRY SERIES

The Fleming Museum presents a poetry series organized by Major Jackson, Professor, UVM Dept. of English. *The Painted Word* poetry series highlights established and emerging New England poets.

The Painted Word

WEDNESDAYS: 6:00 - 7:00 PM

JANUARY 26

David Huddle and Meg Kearney

FEBRUARY 23

April Ossman and Patricia Spears Jones

MARCH 30

Todd Hearon and Maggie Dietz

WEDNESDAY OPEN LATE 'TIL 8

Programs begin at 6:00 PM on the Wednesdays listed below. The Museum is open late every Wednesday until 8:00 PM.

The Way of the Peaceful Warrior: A Demonstration of Japanese Martial Arts

FEBRUARY 16, 6:00 PM

Benjamin Pincus Sensei, Chief Instructor, Aikido
of Champlain Valley

The stability of Edo-Period Japan gave samurai the time and space to attain great fighting prowess through intensive training. The relative peace also allowed the martial arts to become methods for aesthetic and spiritual development. This demonstration of aikido and iaido will include weapons techniques and defense with traditional weapons of the Japanese warrior.

The Evolution of Bread and Puppet Theater

APRIL 6, 6:00 PM

Peter Schumann, Founder and Director of Bread
and Puppet Theater

Commedia dell'Arte Performance

APRIL 27, 6:00 PM



Commedia dell'Arte is a unique form of theater that flourished in 16th- and 17th-century Italy, featuring masked character types, physical comedy, and occasionally bawdy language and scenarios. *Commedia VT*, Vermont's own *Commedia dell'Arte* troupe, will perform a short original piece in this humorous theatrical tradition.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

PechaKucha Night, Vol. 2

FEBRUARY 10, 6:00 PM

PechaKucha Night (PKN) is a worldwide phenomenon that began in 2003 in Tokyo. It offers the opportunity for a broad range of

participants to present their projects, ideas, thoughts and designs at a fun, informal, and fast-paced gathering. Drawing its name from the Japanese word for the sound of “chit chat,” PKN uses a quick and concise 20 x 20 presentation format that allows you to show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. You describe your project as the images forward automatically. The Fleming is delighted to welcome this exciting new event to Burlington. Drinks and snacks will be on hand. Learn more about PechaKucha at www.pecha-kucha.org.

How to Wear a Beard: Politics, Art, Sideshows, Circuses, and Life in General

FEBRUARY 25, 6:00 PM

Jennifer Miller, Circus Artist, Founder and Artistic Director of Circus Amok

Co-sponsored by UVM's LGBTQA Center



and Free to Be GLBTA, with support from the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

Circus Extravaganza

APRIL 23, 2:00 PM

See page 14 for complete details.

KIDS AND FAMILIES

Maskmaking Workshop: Hiding in Plain Sight

APRIL 20, 10:00 AM - 12 NOON

Camouflage provides animals with a natural mask that allows them to blend into the environment and to surprise other animals. Drawing inspiration from circus and native Vermont animals, participants will explore the elements of animal disguise by making a plaster cast of their hand, and transforming it into a mask where the hand

becomes hidden in a camouflage design. This workshop is taught by environmental educator Kurt Valenta. Ages 9 and up.

Fee: Museum Members \$15
General \$20

REGISTER IN ADVANCE

UVM FILM SERIES

The UVM Film Series is a new membership-based program developed as a partnership among UVM's Department of Film and Television Studies, the Lane Series, and the Fleming Museum. The four films, two each semester, will be preceded by a lecture introducing the film with UVM faculty member Hilary Neroni, followed by a Q & A for the audience. To join, please go to the Lane Series website at: www.uvm.edu/laneseries.

Individual tickets to films are available at the door for \$9.00, however, they do not include the pre-screening lectures/discussions and special events.

The Big Clock

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 7:45 PM

Crime magazine editor Richard Stroud is framed for murder when the owner of his magazine's syndicate kills his mistress in this classic "New York Noir" suspense film by director John Farrow.

Le Doulos

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 7:45 PM

Confusion and wrong assumptions are the cause of tragedy in this stylish gangster noir by director Jean-Pierre Melville. Maurice and Silien are friends going way back, and both have had a shady past. Silien wants to leave his illegal activities behind him -- but is he actually in league with the police as an informer?

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY
APRIL 29, 30 AND MAY 1

Regular hours, free admission.

CIRCUS EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

X:00 PM

at Ira Allen Chapel

Admission:

\$8 Adults; \$7 Kids

\$20 Family

Don't miss *Circus Extravaganza*, an hour-long show featuring dazzling aerial acts, adagio acrobatics, juggling and ladder balancing, unicycle antics, and more! Performers include

Troy Wunderle, artistic director of Circus Smirkus, director of clowning for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus, and founder of Wunderle's Big Top Adventures; and Serenity Smith-Forchion and Bill Forchion, formerly with Ringling Brothers Circus and Cirque Du Soleil. This circus adventure with audience participation is sure to entertain and delight people of all ages!



COMING
SPRING
2011



Jay Hall Connaway (American, 1893–1970), *Pawlet, Vermont in Winter*, c. 1947, Oil on artist's board. From the collection of Mrs. Marjorie B. Osborne (Mrs. Gordon Osborne)

A selection of Vermont landscape paintings by Jay Hall Connaway (1893–1970) from the Marjorie B. Osborne collection will be featured in the Fleming's *New England Painting Gallery* on the Marble Court balcony. Born in Indiana, Connaway studied in New York under William Merritt Chase and in Paris at the Académie Julian and returned to New England where he divided his time between Maine and Vermont. A student of nature, Connaway belonged to a generation of artists who presented the landscape as peaceful and timeless in the face of modernity, ensuring that the image of New England maintained a prominent role in the American imagination.

Marjorie Osborne, now 100 years old, studied with Connaway in Vermont in the late 1940s. She became a close family friend and loyal patron.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10 AT 6:00 PM

See page 13 for details



MUSEUM HOURS

The Museum is closed Mondays, major holiday weekends, and during UVM's spring and winter recess. Please check our website for up-to-date hours.

MAY 1 – LABOR DAY

Tues. – Fri., Noon – 4:00pm; Sat. and Sun., 1:00 – 5:00pm

LABOR DAY – APRIL 30

Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 9:00am – 4:00pm;

Wed., 9:00am–8:00pm; Sat. and Sun., 1:00 – 5:00pm

ADMISSION

Free to Museum members; faculty, staff, and students of UVM, Burlington College, Champlain College, Community College of Vermont, and St. Michael's College; and children 6 and under.

\$ 5.....Adults

\$ 10.....Family

\$ 3.....Students and Seniors

GROUP TOURS

Available during regular Museum hours. Reservations required.

THE MUSEUM SHOP AND COFFEE LOUNGE

Offering coffee, refreshments, and a selection of books, cards, and gifts.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Fleming Museum is wheelchair-accessible and will provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities. Please contact us in advance to arrange accommodations.



PARKING

Parking is available in the Visitor Lot located between the Museum and Fletcher Allen Health Care. Free weekend-only parking is available in the University's Votey Lot to the west of the Museum. Free weekday evening and weekend parking is available behind the offices at 46-48, 50-52 and 66 Colchester Avenue, across the street from the Museum.

