
Vision, Mission, and Acquisitions Statements

Art Collection and
Galleries 2010

Sweet Briar College

Vision Statement

The regular study of original works of visual art is an invaluable component of a liberal arts education. The Sweet Briar College Art Collection and Galleries enrich the curriculum by providing an on-going opportunity for students and professors to examine and research significant paintings, prints, drawings, photographs, sculptures, and other works of fine art.

Mission Statement

The Sweet Briar College Art Collection and Galleries support the academic curriculum and the cultural life of the College by providing, for teaching and study purposes, a permanent collection of original works of art and by the presentation of exhibitions drawn from the permanent collection or loaned works. Primarily serving Sweet Briar students and professors, the permanent collection, associated exhibitions, and related programs also support the College's outreach to alumnae, prospective students, peer institutions, and the general public, and provide service to the broader regional and educational community. They maintain as their core purposes 1) the support of classroom and experiential learning and the stimulation and advancement of research in a variety of humanities disciplines; 2) the inspiration of creative work across all the arts; and 3) the cultivation of an appreciation for and understanding of the visual arts within the scope of a liberal arts education.

Acquisitions Statement

The Sweet Briar College Art Collection and Galleries maintain a permanent collection of original works of art as well as artifacts and some archival documents. These include paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, artist-made books, manuscripts and incunabula, sculpture, archaeological material, and architectural drawings, models, and plans. The collection's focus has historically been works that support the art history and studio art curricula. In recent years an active collecting focus has been modern and contemporary female artists.

The strength and usefulness of the permanent collection will reside in the scope and quality of the objects acquired. The Art Gallery director and her/his advisors will seek for the collection original objects of exemplary artistic significance that 1) support the mission of the Art Gallery and the College; 2) illuminate the history of the visual arts as well as notable modern and contemporary trends; and 3) address the complexity of human creativity in a variety of visual media. Active areas of collecting include painting, graphic arts (prints and drawings), and photography. Both historic objects and the work of living artists fall within the collection's scope. While sculpture, ceramics, and new technological media are not excluded from active collecting efforts, limitations of storage and display space, long-term care issues, and staff and faculty expertise must be factored into all acquisition decisions. The extant collection's boundaries also encompass Native American and Pre Columbian Latin American artifacts and some Classical Greek and Roman material. The Art Gallery staff also cares for plans, drawings, and models associated with the College's historic campus, paintings inherited from the school's founder, and the work of students and alumnae accumulated primarily as campus decoration. However, while the Art Gallery staff cares for this archaeological, archival, and decorative material, these are not active areas of collecting.

Process

Drafted November 5, 2009 by Karol A. Lawson, Director, Art Collection and Galleries

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