

Maitland Art Center

The Maitland Art Center opened to the public on January 1, 1938, one of only three galleries open to the public in Florida. Founder, André Smith (1880-1959) was born in Hong Kong. His father, a sea captain, was lost at sea when he was 10 years old. Smith attended private schools in Boston and New York City, and graduated from Cornell University with a degree in architecture. He received the 1904-06 Traveling Fellowship that he used for study in Europe. In 1915, he won a gold medal for his etchings at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco.

In the 1920's, he designed sets for the Parish Players in Stony Creek, Connecticut and wrote and illustrated *The Scenewright* that was for many years a textbook on stage design. In the early 1930's, he became a winter resident of Maitland. He designed sets for productions by Annie Russell, the New York actress who was Professor of Theatre Arts at Rollins College. The Annie Russell Theatre at Rollins was a gift of Mary Curtis Bok to Rollins in honor of her close friend.

André Smith had already added a gallery to his Maitland Studio when, in 1937, Mrs. Bok offered as a gift a "...laboratory' studio to be devoted to research in modern art." This was expanded to the Research Studio, a complex that housed studios and living quarters for artists and was used for five to seven months each winter. Among the artists who lived and worked here were Ralston Crawford, David Burliuk, Ernest Roth, Milton Avery, Arnold Blanch, Doris Lee, and Consuelo Kanaga.

The Research Studio along with its courtyards and gardens was designed and constructed by Andre Smith in stages or under his direct supervision. The stucco buildings are highly decorated with murals, bas reliefs, and cement carvings done in an Aztec/Maya motif. This ornamentation is an integral part of the buildings, making the compound itself a work of art, what one critic has called one of the "...most important examples of Fantastic architecture in America."

André Smith died in 1959. The Research Studio sat vacant until 1969 when the City of Maitland purchased it to be operated as a cultural center for the Central Florida community and held as a Public Trust. Early in 1982, it was recognized as a State of Florida Historic Site and in the fall of the same year, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Maitland Art Center offers changing exhibitions by local, regional, national and international artists. It also offers year-round classes and workshops for children and adults taught by professional artists. Lectures, demonstrations, gallery walks, art travel tours, and seminars are scheduled through out each year. The Center offers traveling exhibitions promoting the Center's collection as well as individual artists. It is a dynamic institution where art, artists, and the public interact.

Visit the Maitland Art Center at 231 W. Packwood Ave., Maitland 407-539-2181. www.maitlandartcenter.org

Art in the Chambers

This is a program of the Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs Office. The *From the Maitland Art Center Collection* exhibition begins the second year in an exhibition series that presents some of Central Florida's well-known collections as well as the work of nationally known artists who live or work in Orange County. The Public Art Review Committee makes exhibition selections through an annual review process. More information is available from the Arts & Cultural Affairs Office.

The Arts & Cultural Affairs Office was established by Chairman Richard T. Crotty and the Board of County Commissioners in 2001. The Office's mission is to elevate Central Florida's arts and culture to a status befitting a world-class community. The office works with the Arts & Cultural Affairs Advisory Council to fund arts projects in the community from a percentage of the Tourist Development Tax revenues. For more information check the web site, <http://www.ocfl.net/arts> or call Terry Olson at 407/836-5540 or email at Terry.Olson@ocfl.net.

Public Art Review Committee:

Judy Ann Alberston, Chair; Que Throm, Vice Chair; Ricardo Aguilar; Arthur Blumenthal; Carolyn Fennell; Susie Findell; Anne Grey; Robert Higgins; Michael Houston; Marena Grant Morrissy; John Warbington

Please be sure to see this exhibition as well:



From the Zora Neale Hurston National Museum of Fine Arts

January 20 – May 13, 2005

Featuring works by Leon L. Theodore (1928-1999) from the Collection of Beatrice Theodore. A staple in the Central Florida arts community for almost 40 years, Theodore served, among his many other capacities, as the curator of The Hurston from its inception in 1990 until his death. This body of work displays Theodore's signature style (mixing charcoal, linocuts, and photo transfers) and exemplifies his mastery of materials and two-dimensional design. With depictions of people, animals, leaves and other organic and natural processes, these works represent Theodore's love of life. They are captivating in their execution inviting viewers to join in his exuberant celebrations.



ORANGE
COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
FLORIDA

Arts &
Cultural
Affairs

ART IN THE CHAMBERS

Orange County Administration Center
201 S. Rosalind Avenue
Orlando

SELECTIONS FROM
THE MAITLAND ART CENTER
COLLECTION

SEPTEMBER 16, 2004 – JANUARY 14, 2005

Steve Vaughn American

Deepest Florida

Triptych, hand-painted photograph
Gift of the artist



Art and photography are a second career for one of Florida's most celebrated panoramic photographers. He graduated from the College of Journalism at the University of Florida and built a 25 year career at THE ORLANDO SENTINEL until 1992 when he began to pursue art and photography on a full-time basis.

Wolf Kahn (b. 1927),

German

Blue Hill On The Connecticut River, 1991

Monotype

Purchased from Marianne Friedland Gallery



Renowned colorist and landscape painter, Kahn works express the dynamic interplay of sky and land, of water and trees. His are interpretive works of the Connecticut River Valley and his Vermont hillside farm. He manipulates complex textures and layers of color while retaining a sense of spontaneity and immediacy.

Jeanne Schubert (b.1932), American

Voices of the River #3, 1995

Acrylic on paper

Gift of the artist



Florida artist Jeanne Schubert has had a long and distinguished career in Central Florida. Her work here captures the languid surfaces of Florida's rivers, slowed by broad expanses of grass and reeds. This series has a more northern feel, with a

modulated blue and gray palette, yet they avoid the wistful sentimentality that Florida's landscapes often inspire.

Woody Walters (b. 1959), American

Lightning Storm, 24/100, 1991

Black & white photograph

Gift of the artist

Sarasota native Woody Walters makes the most of an unusual and beautiful natural phenomenon as he freezes a bolt of lightning. He is successful in capturing nature's serendipity in the flash of the bolt among the low, dark clouds in the inky sky.



Donne Bitner American

Blue Mystery, 2001

Acrylic & oil chalk on paper

Purchased from the artist



Bitner graduated Penn State University with a degree in Art and has been a full-time studio artist since 1989. Her subject matter will vary as she layers and strips away to find the hidden texture and meaning of a piece. It is truly painting by discovery.

Jules André Smith (1880-1959), American

Citrus Pickers, c. 1930's

Oil on masonite

Greenberg Purchase



Jules André Smith was born in Hong Kong of American parents, graduated from Cornell University with a Masters in Architecture. He was the first of eight artists chosen by the War Department during WWI to go to France with the American Expeditionary Forces, and was commissioned to design the Distinguished Service Cross. He founded the Research Studio (now the Maitland Art Center) in 1938 as an

artist's colony for promising artists. He continued to work until his death in Maitland in 1959.

Victor Bokas (b. 1957), American

Biff's Florida Dream House

Oil on paper

Purchased from the artist



Native Floridian Victor Bokas and Biff work hard to raise the art conscience of the Central Florida community. They strive to capture the absurdity and fun of images that surround us in our everyday lives. This is often expressed in the "Biff Series" for Biff is Bokas's protector and alter ego. Biff travels the world doing the things the artist wants to do but can't always do.

William Dunlap American

Flat Out—Spring Storm

Hand colored lithograph

Purchased from the artist

Mississippi artist Dunlap calls his works "...remembered trips...moving through at about 70 or 80 mph; just periphery." He looks at landscapes as though through a wide-angle lens, one that's



wide enough to capture past and present, childhood images and memories, grown-up views and feelings, yet they have the capacity to focus it all with amazing precision.

Tanja Softic

(born in Bosnia-Herzegovina)

Sheltering, 1996

Acrylic, charcoal & pigment on

hand made Korean paper

Purchased from the artist



Tanja Softic (pronounced sof-tich) studied at the University of Sarajevo, and received her MFA from Old Dominion University in Virginia. A brilliant draftsman, painter and printmaker, she draws from a rich diversity of subject matter from her background, which includes imagery related to conflict, ethnicity, and feminism. She currently teaches at the University of Richmond.



Josette Urso (b. 1957),

American

Fiona 2

Serigraph on paper

Andre's Art Angel Purchase

Florida artist Josette Urso now makes her home in New York. An accomplished artist, her work is well known and collected throughout Florida. Whimsical at times, this graphic was a much desired work chosen by the Acquisition Committee to be added to the Center's permanent collection.



Dale Kennington (b. 1935),

American

Ready For The Dinner Crowd,

1994

Oil on canvas

Purchased from the artist

Alabama artist Dale Kennington's paintings offer satisfaction on more than one level. Beyond the superficial experience of passive observation, they allow a full range of involvement: aesthetic judgment, emotional response, critical analysis and personal associations. Her observations are of people, particularly caught up in their own private thoughts and quietly moving through everyday life.

Dorothy Gillespie (b. 1920), American

Shaman IV, 1992

Enamel on aluminum

Purchased from the artist

Virginia born artist/sculptor Dorothy Gillespie creates art everyday. Once her family was grown and following the death of her husband, Ms. Gillespie began to make use of her art education, and it has been non-stop ever since. She is a Distinguished Professor of Art at Radford University, was a founder of the Women's Caucus for Art, and is the first artist chosen for a one-person show at Rockefeller Center in NYC in 2002.

