



For Immediate Release: January 28, 2005

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LSU Museum of Art Inaugural Exhibition Celebrates its Diverse Collection

Collecting Passions illuminates museum's rich history and the nature of collecting

BATON ROUGE, LA – *Collecting Passions: Highlights from the LSU Museum of Art Collection* opens March 5, 2005 to coincide with the grand opening of the museum's 15,000 square feet of stunning new gallery space in the Shaw Center for the Arts.

This exhibition allows area residents and visitors to view, for the first time, a collection that has remained, for the most part, a mystery to the general public and scholars due to a lack of exhibition space. With the LSU Museum of Art's move to the Shaw Center for the Arts, the collection can be shared with the Baton Rouge community made up of passionate collectors who helped create it through years of generous donations and gifts.

"We can't think of a better way to open the doors to our new space than to present the museum's collection through the eyes of the collectors who made it possible," LSU Museum of Art interim executive director Dr. Laura Lindsay stated.

What does it mean to collect? Why do we choose to collect the objects we do and what do these collections say about us? What role do private collections play in museums?

Collecting Passions examines these questions through an exhibition that includes works from the museum's 18th- and 19th-century American and European paintings, Louisiana fine art and decorative arts, including New Orleans silver, Newcomb pottery, Chinese jade and Inuit sculpture.

"Our inaugural exhibition provides visitors with an understanding of the museum's collection in terms of its variety and its strengths," notes LSU Museum of Art deputy director Dr. Donna McAlear. "It's a great way to familiarize audiences with how the collection will be used to serve the community for years to come."

The interactive exhibition includes an audience response room for visitors to share their comments about the collection and share information about what they collect and why. The room will also offer a list of items that local personalities and politicians, such as Governor Kathleen Blanco, Senator Mary Landrieu, Senator Cleo Fields, Senator Jay Dardenne, TV anchor Donna Brit, and former Mayor-President Bobby Simpson, collect and why they collect those items.

Installations for *Collecting Passions* provide viewers with an understanding of the origins of the museum's collection, as well as cultural influences on collection growth, the impact of the arts and crafts movement on collecting, and how collectors affect museums.

The LSU Museum of Art

The beautiful, expanded LSU Museum of Art opens March 5, 2005, in the Shaw Center for the Arts, featuring a fine and decorative arts collection in 15,000 square feet of gallery space. Started in 1959 by anonymous donor, the museum collection includes more than 3,500 objects with an impressive range, including 17th–20th c. paintings, Newcomb pottery, rare Chinese jade, pre-Civil War New Orleans silver, Inuit sculpture and an array of prints that represent artists and techniques from England, Japan, India and the US. The museum will offer visitors top-tier exhibitions.

Location, Hours & Admission

The LSU Museum of Art is located in the Shaw Center for the Arts at the corner of Convention Street and Lafayette Street in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. On Thursday, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Admission is free for LSU MOA members. Admission fees: \$8 adults; \$6 university students and seniors; \$4 children ages 5-17; children under 5 free.