

NORTH CAROLINA

Museum of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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North Carolina Museum of Art to Receive Major Private Collection

Gift of mid- to late-twentieth century art has been promised

RALEIGH, N.C. – An exceptional private collection featuring masters of mid- to late-twentieth century art has been promised to the North Carolina Museum of Art by Jim and Mary Patton. Amassed over a lifetime, the Pattons' collection of well over one hundred works includes significant pieces by luminaries in the field of modern and contemporary art – Milton Avery, Richard Diebenkorn, Jackie Ferrara, Helen Frankenthaler, Adolph Gottlieb, Hans Hofmann, Ellsworth Kelly, Robert Motherwell, Sean Scully, Frank Stella, Donald Sultan, plus many others. The collection consists of painting, sculpture, prints, drawings, and photographs.

True to the Pattons' lifelong commitment to art education, works of art given to the NCMA will also be available to the Ackland Art Museum at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as part of a rotating long-term loan program that will make the works available to the University audience for the Museum's teaching collection. As part of this important gift, several additional works will be given to the Ackland to complement the works in their permanent collection.

"We are elated about the gift from these generous and astute collectors. The Pattons' collection fits and complements our permanent collection beautifully and will allow us to present a more comprehensive picture of the significant trends and movements in modern and contemporary art," said Lawrence J. Wheeler, Director. "And the partnership with the Ackland further enhances the importance of this major gift by extending a vital relationship with the university community."

Emily Kass, Director of the Ackland Art Museum, echoed the sentiments, "The Pattons' generosity will make their collection accessible to the people of North Carolina; we are pleased to have the opportunity to collaborate on such an outstanding collection."

The Pattons have long-standing ties to North Carolina. Jim Patton was born and raised in Durham and graduated with honors from UNC-Chapel Hill; Mary Patton grew up in Durham and attended the Women's College (now UNC-Greensboro). Their enthusiasm for collecting is founded in a genuine partnership, a great passion for working with artists, and a deep commitment to stewardship.

Jim Patton remarked, "We are thankful for being able to collect this art and . . . give it back to the world. I like the idea that these works that we have enjoyed over the years will give pleasure to other people."

The Museum's expansion will allow a significant portion of the Patton collection to be on view in the new modern and contemporary galleries. This addition to the permanent collection includes seminal works of abstract expressionist art and color field painting from the mid- to late-twentieth century. The works of art will go on view with the opening of the new building, scheduled for April 2010.

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About the Pattons

The Pattons' passion for art starts with Mary Patton's life-long interest in painting as an accomplished artist in her own right, and extends to their many friendships with the artists whose works are in the collection. They have been long-time supporters of Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Aspen, Colorado, and served on the boards or advisory committees of the Ackland Art Museum, the Aspen Art Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the National Gallery of Art, and the Smithsonian Institution. Mary Patton was also instrumental in starting the docent program at the Hirshhorn Museum of Art.

About the North Carolina Museum of Art

The North Carolina Museum of Art's permanent collection spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present, making it one of the premier visual arts museums in the Southeast. The Museum uses its collection to provide educational, aesthetic, intellectual and cultural experiences for the citizens of North Carolina and beyond. The Museum campus includes a 164-acre Museum Park and 2,700 seat outdoor amphitheater. Offerings include a series of national special exhibitions, adult classes, public lectures, family workshops, as well as films and concerts.

About the Ackland Art Museum

The Ackland Art Museum is located on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The Ackland is a significant academic and cultural resource for the University and all the people of North Carolina. Among the Museum's most significant collections are European and American paintings, prints and drawings, photography, Modern and Contemporary art, and a distinguished collection of Asian Art. With more than 15,000 works in the Ackland's permanent collection, the Museum serves the University and surrounding communities with exhibitions, programs, and publications.

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The North Carolina Museum of Art, Lawrence J. Wheeler, director, is located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road in Raleigh. It is the Art Museum of the State of North Carolina, Michael F. Easley, governor, and an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, Lisbeth C. Evans, secretary. Museum hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, the Museum is open until 9 p.m. every Friday. Closed Monday. Admission is free.

Visit the NCMA's Web site at www.ncartmuseum.org.