



**Selections from the Alice and Harris Weston Collection  
Sordoni Art Gallery, Wilkes University  
March 19-April 23, 1995**

Even the most casual visitor to the Alice and Harris Weston Collection of twentieth-century art will be struck by its variety, its quality and the scale of the individual works of art. Although the collection concentrates on Pop Art, Minimalism, Conceptual, Environmental and Post-Minimal art from the 1960s and 70s, the Westons have included earlier works such as Wassily Kandinsky's *Simple* (Cat. no. 18) or Francis Picabia's *Lampe Cristal* (Cat. no. 23). The small, intimate scale of the works reminds us that this is a personal collection to be lived with, enjoyed and learned from on a daily basis.

According to Alice Weston, an exhibition of paintings inspired them to begin collecting:

People often ask how we started collecting. One night in the late fifties we saw a group of ten huge Jackson Pollock paintings...Their heroic power moved me deeply, and I felt I was in a whole new world. All ten works were owned by one individual, Ben Heller. I realized then that I, too, could own good art. For me, it was already too late to buy much Abstract Expressionism. It had become too expensive. At that instant I programmed myself to be psychologically ready for the very next movement that might come along.

Pop Art, the next movement to come along, left Alice Weston unmoved. Nonetheless, sticking to her resolve, she purchased Claes Oldenburg's *Box of Shirts* (not in exhibition) when it was offered to her in the early 1960s. Subsequently, works by other Pop artists including Tom Wesselmann's *Great American Still Life #6* (Cat. no. 37), Robert Indiana's *Fork* (Cat. no. 15), and Jim Dine's *Shower #4* (Cat. no. 8) entered the collection. Andy Warhol is represented by *Soup Can* (Cat. no. 33), *Elizabeth Taylor* (Cat. no. 35), and *Flowers* (Cat. no. 34).

In the early 1970s, the Westons continued to collect new art that subsequently became mainstream. Their purchases of

Minimalist works including Carl Andre's 5, 7, *Thick Aluminum Prime Couple* (Cat. no. 3), Dorothea Rockburne's *Copal #6* (Cat. no. 25), were followed by Richard Tuttle's Post-Minimal *Cincinnati Pieces* (Cat. no. 32). The Westons also collected works by the color theorist Josef Albers, whose paintings anticipate the reductivist aesthetic of Minimalism. *Homage to the Square, From Inside* (Cat. no. 1) and *Study for Homage to the Square, Blue Spring* (Cat. no. 2) are representative of Albers' experiments utilizing color to create movement between figure and ground.

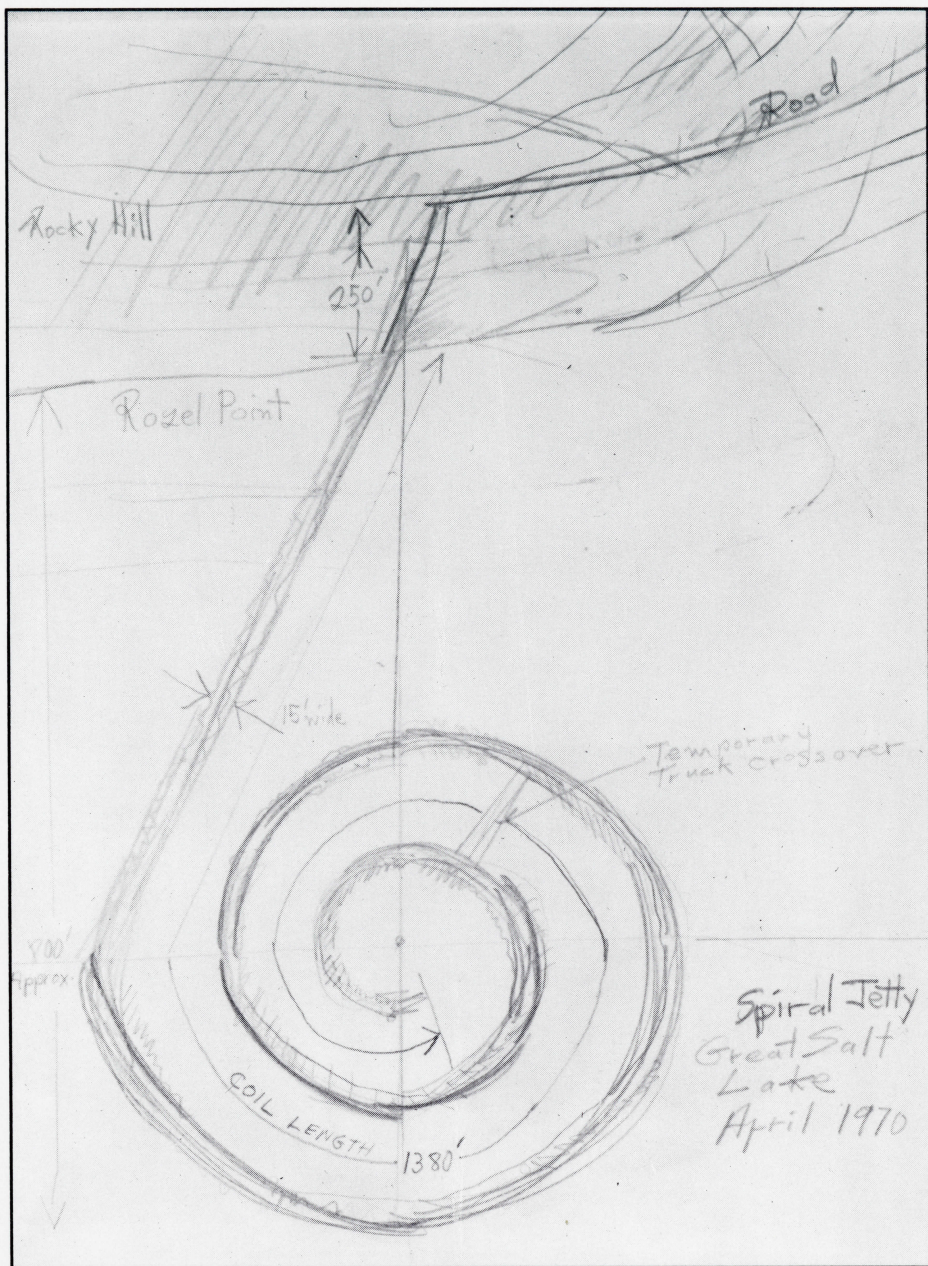
As the collection evolved, other precursors were added to provide an historical grounding. Like Albers, Hans Hofmann, who is represented in the collection by *Untitled* (Cat. no. 14), was an influential teacher to generations of American artists. Key New York School artists including Wilkes-Barre native Franz Kline, *Untitled* (Cat. no. 19) and Willem de Kooning *Rome Series* (Cat. no. 6) and *Torso* (Cat. no. 7) are also found in the Weston Collection.

The Weston's interest in Environmental Art [Robert Smithson's *Spiral Jetty, Great Salt Lake* (Cat. no. 29)] and in primitivism [Rafael Ferrer's *Face* (Cat. no. 12)] should be seen as part of a larger focus on art dealing with nature, ritual and magic. For over twenty years, Alice Weston, in works such as *Winter Solstice* (Cat. no. 38), has photographed earthworks created by Native Americans. Other works that should be viewed in this broader context are Christo's *Wrapped Documents* (Cat. no. 5) and Jean Dubuffet's *Exodus* (Cat. no. 10).

While not intended as an encyclopedic collection of post-war or twentieth-century art, the Weston collection has a certain comprehensiveness. It ranges from gestural Abstract Expressionist paintings to delicate Minimalist works to ironic Pop statements to the Surrealism of Man Ray and the primitivism of Dubuffet's *art brut*. The unifying factor in the collection is a love of the art of our time.

Stanley I Grand  
Director  
Sordoni Art Gallery

Cover: Andy Warhol, *Soup Can*, 1962



29. Robert Smithson, *Spiral Jetty*, Great Salt Lake, 1970

## Checklist of the Exhibition

Dimensions are given in inches, height x width x depth

1. Josef Albers (1888-1976)  
*Homage to the Square, From Inside*, 1959  
oil on masonite  
18 x 18
2. Josef Albers (1888-1976)  
*Study for Homage to the Square, Blue Spring*, 1959  
oil on masonite  
18 x 18
3. Carl Andre (b. 1935)  
*5, 7, Thick Aluminum Prime Couple*, 1976  
aluminum  
84 x 36 x 1
4. John Cage (1912-1992)  
*Not Wanting to Say Anything About Marcel ...*, 1969  
lithograph B  
27 1/2 x 40
5. Christo (b. 1935)  
*Wrapped Documents*, 1983  
mixed media  
14 x 8 1/2 x 1
6. Willem de Kooning (b. 1904)  
*Rome Series*, 1959  
oil on paper  
27 1/2 x 39
7. Willem de Kooning (b. 1904)  
*Torso or Crossed-Legged Woman*, 1965  
oil on paper  
28 1/2 x 22
8. Jim Dine (b. 1935)  
*Shower # 4*, 1962  
collage  
37 x 22 1/2
9. Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985)  
*Paysage Exuberant*, 1954  
assemblage  
19 x 23
10. Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985)  
*Exodus*, 1961  
ink and wash  
10 x 13
11. Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985)  
*Personage XIX*, 1964  
felt pen and paper  
10 1/2 x 8
12. Rafael Ferrer (b. 1933)  
*Face*, 1973  
crayon on paper  
12 x 9 1/2
13. Richard Hamilton (b. 1922)  
*Five Tyres Remoulded*, 1972  
relief in white synthetic rubber  
screen prints on mylar  
24 x 33 1/2
14. Hans Hofmann (1880-1966)  
Untitled, 1942  
oil on board  
24 x 30
15. Robert Indiana (b. 1928)  
*Fork*, 1962  
oil on canvas  
12 x 12
16. Jasper Johns (b. 1930)  
*Numbers*, 1967-69  
etching  
26 x 19 1/2
17. Jasper Johns (b. 1930)  
*#1*, 1968  
lithograph  
37 x 30
18. Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944)  
*Simple*, 1916  
watercolor  
4 1/2 x 6

19. Franz Kline (1910-1962)  
Untitled, 1957-58  
oil & ink on cardboard  
9 1/2 x 13 1/2
20. Sol LeWitt (b. 1928)  
*Atlantic City Piece*, 1971  
ink on paper  
5 x 5
21. Man Ray (1890-1976)  
*N for Nothing*, 1958  
metal on board  
13 x 8 1/2
22. Man Ray (1890-1976)  
Untitled, 1958  
oil on board  
9 1/2 x 7 1/2
23. Francis Picabia (1879-1953)  
*Lampe Cristal*, 1922  
ink and watercolor  
24 x 29
24. Robert Rauschenberg (b. 1925)  
*Cunningham Relief*, 1974  
Merce Cunningham Portfolio  
embossing on paper  
30 x 22 1/2
25. Dorothea Rockburne  
*Copal #6*, 1976  
pencil on paper  
30 1/4 x 40 1/4
26. Betye Saar (b. 1926)  
*Mano Azul*, 1989  
mixed media  
18 x 12 x 2
27. Kurt Schwitters (1887-1948)  
*Red Names*, n.d.  
collage  
8 x 6
28. George Segal (b. 1924)  
Untitled, 1965  
pastel on paper  
18 x 12
29. Robert Smithson (1938-1973)  
*Spiral Jetty, Great Salt Lake*, 1970  
pencil on paper  
12 x 9
30. Saul Steinberg (b. 1914)  
*Riverhead Stipulation*, 1966  
ink on paper  
24 x 30
31. Frank Stella (b. 1936)  
*Furg*, 1975  
Merce Cunningham Portfolio  
serigraph  
17 x 22
32. Richard Tuttle (b. 1941)  
*Cincinnati Pieces*, 1975  
10 painted wood pieces  
14 1/2-24 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/2 each
33. Andy Warhol (1928-1987)  
*Soup Can*, 1962  
oil on canvas  
20 x 16
34. Andy Warhol (1928-1987)  
*Flowers*, 1964  
serigraph  
24 x 24 1/2
35. Andy Warhol (1928-1987)  
*Elizabeth Taylor*, 1965  
serigraph  
24 x 24
36. Andy Warhol (1928-1987)  
*Merce*, 1974  
Merce Cunningham Portfolio  
serigraph  
30 x 20
37. Tom Wesselmann (b. 1931)  
*Great American Still Life #6*, 1962  
collage  
24 x 31
38. Alice Weston (b. 1926)  
*Winter Solstice*, 1985  
photograph  
30 x 40

**Sordoni Art Gallery  
Wilkes University  
150 South River Street  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766**

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**You are invited to meet Alice and Harris Weston at a Reception on March 19, from 2-4 p.m.  
Alice Weston will give a guided tour of the exhibition at 2:30 p.m.**