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## Reba and Dave Williams' Collection of American Prints —Unrivaled in Scope— Is Acquired by National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC



Louis Lozowick, *New York*, 1925

lithograph

Gift of The Print Research Foundation

National Gallery of Art, Washington

Washington, DC—The National Gallery of Art has acquired the renowned collection of American prints belonging to Reba and Dave Williams and The Print Research Foundation in Stamford, Connecticut, which was established by the couple in 2003. With more than 5,200 works spanning a century from roughly 1875 to 1975 and

representing 2,070 artists, the collection is unrivaled in its scope and is among the largest and finest private collections of American prints in the world.

The acquisition includes a gift of some 5,000 works, as well as the research library and related assets of The Print Research Foundation. In an independent transaction, the National Gallery of Art purchased 250 works from the Williams' personal collection.

"This is a transformational acquisition," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "Reba and Dave Williams' collection has extraordinary quality and breadth and gives the National Gallery of Art an entirely new standing in the field of American prints."

The Williams' collection fills innumerable gaps in the National Gallery's holdings, including what is considered to be the only extant impression of Winslow Homer's *The Signal of Distress*, (1891); Childe Hassam's greatest print, *The Lion Gardiner House, Easthampton* (1920); important linocuts by Hale Woodruff; Paul Cadmus' inimitable *Shore Leave* (1935); Charles W. White's moving *We Have Been Believers* (1949); Charles Burchfield's haunting *Autumn Wind* (1952); Lee Krasner's dynamic abstract lithographs; and Jim Dine's outstanding *Five Paintbrushes* (1973). Of the 2,070 artists represented in the Williams' collection, more than three-quarters of them are new to the National Gallery's holdings.

Ranging from the etching revival to Pop art, the collection tells an all-encompassing story and includes major and minor figures alike. For every illustrious print by Thomas Moran, George Bellows, John Marin, and William H. Johnson, there are remarkable examples by George Henry Smillie, William Zorach, Jolán Gross Bettelheim, and Blanche Grambs.

With exceptional strength in the first six decades of the 20th century, the collection includes prints by Ashcan School artists John Sloan and Peggy Bacon; American modernists and precisionists Louis Lozowick, Charles Sheeler, Howard Cook, and Stuart Davis; American scene printmakers Martin Lewis, Armin Landeck, and Reginald Marsh; and regionalists Thomas Hart Benton, Grant Wood, John Steuart Curry, and Wanda Gág.

The collection is particularly strong in depression-era and Works Project Administration

(WPA) prints, surpassing all others in private hands. It additionally encompasses prints from the 1960s and 1970s, including such significant prints as Ed Ruscha's *Standard Station* (1966), Andy Warhol's pink *Marilyn* (1967), and Jasper Johns' screenprint *Target* (1974).

The Williamses also focused on American prints made before the 20th century, and the collection features some 200 works from the 19th century, including Thomas Moran's outstanding *Mountain of the Holy Cross* (1888), in addition to exquisite etchings by Mary Nimmo Moran, George Loring Brown, Henry Farrer, Fitz Henry Lane, and others.

### **Reba and Dave Williams**

Reba and Dave Williams started collecting prints by American artists in the mid-1970s. Reba Williams went on to study art history at Hunter College and The Graduate Center at the City University of New York (CUNY), from which she received her PhD in 1996. Her dissertation focused on the Weyhe Gallery and its role in American printmaking between the wars, 1919-1940. The Williamses have coauthored essays in exhibition publications, and Reba Williams has written extensively on a variety of scholarly topics, contributing regularly to the journal *Print Quarterly*.

### **The Print Research Foundation**

The Print Research Foundation was created by Reba and Dave Williams to provide research facilities for the study of prints made by American artists during the last 150 years. Since 1987, the Williamses have organized and circulated 18 separate exhibitions from their collection that have traveled to more than 100 venues in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, and Japan. The exhibitions include *American Screenprints*, *Graphic Excursions*, *Alone in a Crowd: Prints of the 1930s-40s by African-American Artists*, and *New York, New York: Prints of the City: 1880s-1990*. The Print Research Foundation has housed the print collection of Reba and Dave Williams, background files on more than 2,000 printmakers, and an extensive library.

### **Birth and Death Dates of Artists in Press Release**

Peggy Bacon (1895-1987)

George Bellows (1882-1925)  
Thomas Hart Benton (1889-1975)  
Jolán Gross Bettelheim (1900-1972)  
George Loring Brown (1814-1889)  
Charles Burchfield (1893-1967)  
Paul Cadmus (1904-1999)  
Howard Cook (1901-1980)  
John Steuart Curry (1897-1946)  
Stuart Davis (1892-1964)  
Jim Dine (born 1935)  
Henry Farrer (1843-1903)  
Wanda Gág (1893-1946)  
Blanche Grambs (born 1916)  
Childe Hassam (1859-1935)  
Winslow Homer (1836-1910)  
Jasper Johns (born 1930)  
William H. Johnson (1901-1970)  
Lee Krasner (1908-1984)  
Armin Landeck (1905-1984)  
Fitz Henry Lane (1804-1865)  
Martin Lewis (1881-1962)  
Louis Lozowick (1892-1973)  
John Marin (1870-1953)  
Reginald Marsh (1898-1954)  
Mary Nimmo Moran (1842-1899)  
Thomas Moran (1837-1926)  
Ed Ruscha (born 1937)  
Charles Sheeler (1883-1965)  
John Sloan (1871-1951)  
George Henry Smillie (1840-1921)  
Andy Warhol (1928-1987)  
Charles W. White (1918-1979)

Grant Wood (1892-1942)

Hale Woodruff (1900-1980)

William Zorach (1887-1966)

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## General Information

The National Gallery of Art and its Sculpture Garden are at all times free to the public. They are located on the National Mall between 3rd and 9th Streets along Constitution Avenue NW and are open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. With the exception of the atrium and library, the galleries in the East Building will be closing gradually beginning in July 2013 and will remain closed for approximately three years for Master Facilities Plan and renovations. For specific updates on gallery closings, visit [www.nga.gov/renovation](http://www.nga.gov/renovation) (<http://www.nga.gov/renovation>) .

For information call (202) 737-4215 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's website at [www.nga.gov](http://www.nga.gov). Follow the Gallery on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt](http://www.facebook.com/NationalGalleryofArt) and on Twitter at [twitter.com/ngadc](http://twitter.com/ngadc).

Visitors will be asked to present all carried items for inspection upon entering. Checkrooms are free of charge and located at each entrance. Luggage and other oversized bags must be presented at the 4th Street entrances to the East or West Building to permit x-ray screening and must be deposited in the checkrooms at those entrances. For the safety of visitors and the works of art, nothing may be carried into the Gallery on a visitor's back. Any bag or other items that cannot be carried reasonably and safely in some other manner must be left in the checkrooms. Items larger than 17 by 26 inches cannot be accepted by the Gallery or its checkrooms.

For additional press information please call or send inquiries to:

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