

New Public Programs at Expanded Downtown Museum to Enrich Connections Between Art and Life

Programs begin with museum's May 5, 2007 opening

SEATTLE, April 26, 2007—As it opens its newly expanded downtown building, the Seattle Art Museum has created a host of diverse and lively public programs—some ongoing, others tied to the May 5, 2007 opening—which enrich connections between art and life for all ages and interests.

The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) expanded to accommodate its rapidly growing collections, exhibition programs and audiences, while enhancing downtown Seattle's cultural and economic vitality. The project entailed construction of a striking new 16-story building and a renovation of the existing museum. As the museum doubled its space for art and new ways of connecting visitors to the world of art, it designed new and innovative public programs to foster an engagement with art and culture for an ever growing public with a broad range of interests and needs.

Following is a summary of new public programs, both tied to the museum opening and ongoing:

PIVOTAL PERSPECTIVES: CONVERSATIONS ON ART + CULTURE

Pivotal Perspectives is a timely and innovative forum that addresses pressing issues in art and society. Bringing together some of the most compelling thinkers on a given cultural subject, *Pivotal Perspectives* is at once critical and engaging. Participants include artists and designers, critics, curators and scholars, among others.

Four Masterpieces of Japanese Painting: A Symposium

Sunday, May 20, 1–7 p.m.

Plestcheeff Auditorium, Seattle Art Museum Downtown

Discover the behind-the-scenes work that went into restoring four of SAM's Japanese masterpieces through the perspectives of conservators and art historians. The four conserved Japanese paintings will be on view at SAM downtown at the time of the opening of the new facility. Following the lecture at SAM downtown, the symposium will conclude with a special presentation and viewing at the Seattle Asian Art Museum in Volunteer Park. For more information, visit seattleartmuseum.org or RSVP to saam-rsvp@seattleartmuseum.org. This lecture is a part of the Blakemore Lecture Series on Asian Art.

Issues of Periodization and Categorization: A Symposium on Modern Chinese Paintings

Friday, June 1, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, June 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Seattle Asian Art Museum, Stimson Auditorium

Departing from traditional pursuits and ideals of the literati-artist, the Chinese “modern artist” was, in many cases, also a news illustrator, seal carver, woodcut artist, book designer and/or art teacher. This historical phenomenon has, in recent years, inspired many historians to study modern Chinese art and offer a different point of view from art historians. Featuring the perspectives of some of the most important scholars and artists working today, this major symposium on twentieth-century Chinese paintings will provide a platform for historians, art historians and artists to engage in a dialogue about this important topic. Free with museum admission. Please reply to saam-rsvp@seattleartmuseum.org.

A *Stüa* of SAM’s Own:

The Story of the Italian Room through a Conservator’s Eyes

Thursday, June 19, 6 – 7 p.m.

Plestcheeff Auditorium, SAM downtown

From dendrochronologists to Q-tips, this magnificent Renaissance room was no small feat to install! Join Jim Boorstein, Conservator, as he reveals the diverse processes involved in conserving and installing the sixteenth-century living room, or *stüa*, from Chiavenna, Italy. \$7 nonmembers, \$5 members. Free to members of the Decorative Arts and Paintings Council. Please call the SAM Box Office at 206.654.3121 to RSVP. Sponsored by the Decorative Arts and Paintings Council.

The Art of the Chinese Brush: Calligraphy and Painting with Mimi Gardner Gates

Thursday, June 21, 7:00 PM

Stimson Auditorium, Volunteer Park

Dr. Mimi Gardner Gates, SAM’s Illsley Ball Nordstrom Director, will discuss the artistic history, discipline and passion behind the brush within Chinese paintings. The mastery, composition and tradition of calligraphy and painting will be explored within several Chinese Masterpiece paintings. This lecture is free and open to the public.

An Evening of Fortunate Guests: Local Advisors Provide Insight into SAM’s African Art Galleries

Tuesday, July 12, 7 – 9 p.m.

Arnold Board Room, SAM downtown

SAM’s African art galleries showcase a wide range of African art – historic, contemporary, sacred, everyday, loud, quiet, demure, and difficult. Meet and tour the galleries with the local experts who helped make it happen, including Pam McClusky, SAM Curator, Art of Africa and Oceania; Saheed Adejumobi, Assistant Professor of History in the Global African Studies Department at Seattle University; Kakuta Hamisi, a Maasai Junior Elder from Kenya; Emmanuel Chiabi, Representative from the Kom Kingdom of Cameroon; Sam Irem, Coordinator of Masquerade Enactment from the Afikpo of Nigeria; Eze Anamelechi, Advisor to the Igbo Character Development from Nigeria; and Marita Dingus, Seattle-based Artist. This program is free, reservations are required. Please call the SAM Box Office at 206.654.3121 to RSVP. Sponsored by the African Art Council.

***Preaching Buddha*: A Symposium on SAM’s Korean Masterpiece**

Saturday, July 14, 1-5 pm

Seattle Art Museum Downtown, Plestcheeff Auditorium

For many years, a magnificent and important Korean Buddhist painting, *Preaching Buddha*, remained in SAM storage, as its condition did not allow it to be exhibited. Now, after being traditionally mounted in Korea, it is on view for the first time in the exhibition, *Five Masterpieces of Asian Art: The Story of their Conservation*. Please join us for an afternoon symposium with art historian Chung Woo-thak, Professor of Dongguk University who specializes in Korean art, and conservator Park Chi-sun, who worked directly on this masterpiece.

CREATIVELY SPEAKING SERIES:

The *Creatively Speaking* series provides a forum for artists to explain the philosophies underlying their work and for audiences to ask the questions they never have the opportunity to ask. The Seattle Art Museum aims to be unique among cultural institutions by integrating artists into the fabric of the institution.

Contemporary Traditions: The Work of Sonny Assu

Saturday, June 9, 6:00 PM

Vancouver B.C. based artist Sonny Assu, a Laich-kwil-tach native, co-opts pop culture references in an effort to explore the use of race and ethnicity within commodity culture.

TAKING THE PULSE: PERFORMANCE AT SAM

A new performance-based program at SAM, *Taking the Pulse* features a wide range of styles, genres and disciplines. This program reflects the museum's commitment to exploring new trends in music, dance, opera, literary and theatrical performance. Performances are presented at all three SAM venues and are accompanied by discussions among artistic collaborators.

Art of the Drum: Exploring Sound, Design and History of Drumming Cultures

Join us for an informational workshop and drumming performance every fourth Saturday this summer where we'll explore African, Asian, and Native drumming traditions.

June 23 – 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Asian Drumming, Seattle Asian Art Museum

July 28 – 2:00 – 4:00 PM, African Drumming, SAM Downtown

August 25 – 2:00 – 4:00 PM, Native American Drumming, Olympic Sculpture Park

FIRST FRIDAY LECTURES

A special opportunity to learn about works on view in SAM's special exhibitions and collections firsthand from SAM curators and local scholars and historians. Free to seniors 62 and over.

African Art Highlights

SAM Downtown, Plestcheeff Auditorium

Friday, June 1, 10:30 a.m.

SAM Curator Pam McClusky will share the highlights of the new African Art galleries with special attention to recent acquisitions and new exhibitions.

FILMS at SAM Downtown

For years, the Seattle Art Museum has been the site for some of the nation's most innovative film programming. The opening film series for SAM downtown features the timeless Audrey Hepburn. Thursdays, July 5-August 9, 7:30 p.m., SAM Downtown, Plestcheeff Auditorium

Series Tickets: MOHAI and Seattle International Film Festival members \$35, nonmembers \$39, SAM members \$35. Call the Box Office for tickets at (206) 654.3121

July 5: *Funny Face* (Stanley Donen, 1957)

Kay Thompson, Michel Auclair, Suzy Parker. Music by George and Ira Gershwin. In 35mm, Technicolor, 103 min.

July 12: *Love in the Afternoon* (Billy Wilder, 1957)

Van Doude, John McGiver, Lisa Bourdin, Audrey (Mrs. Billy) Wilder. In 35mm, 125 min.

July 26: *My Fair Lady* (George Cukor, 1964)

Stanley Holloway, Wilfrid Hyde-White, Gladys Cooper. From George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, music by Lerner and Loewe. In 35mm Panavision, Technicolor, 170 min.

August 2: *Wait Until Dark* (Terence Young, 1967)

Efrem Zimbalist Jr., Richard Crenna, Jack Weston. Music by Henry Mancini. In 35mm, Technicolor, 107 min.

August 9: *Robin and Marian* (Richard Lester, 1976)

Richard Harris, Nicol Williamson, Denholm Elliott, Ian Holm. In 35mm, Technicolor, 112 min.

SAM AFTER HOURS

SAM celebrates the return of an expanded After Hours program with the reopening of SAM downtown. Featuring live performers and public programs from 5 to 9 p.m. on select Thursday and Friday nights, the museum is the place to be.

First Thursday –Art for All

June 7 – SAM Downtown

July 5 – SAM Downtown

August 2 – SAM Downtown

Explore art with the entire family on first Thursdays at SAM. Don't miss this opportunity to experience other parts of the world through the Art for All program, as SAM comes alive with music and activities tied to our diverse collections.

Second Thursday –Art of Jazz

June 14 - SAM Downtown

July 12 – SAM Downtown

August 9 – SAM Downtown

The ever-popular Art of Jazz Series, presented in collaboration with Earshot Jazz, continues the second Thursday of each month. Featuring magnificent jazz from local and national artists.

Third Thursday –Poetry Night

June 21 - SAM Downtown

July 19 – SAM Downtown

August 16 – SAM Downtown

From spoken-word poets to literary figures, these evenings of “words as art” are at once intimate and engaging.

Third Friday – DJ Night

June 15 – SAM Downtown

July 20 – Olympic Sculpture Park

August 17 – SAM Downtown

End your week with a wide variety of music as some of Seattle’s most celebrated DJs transform SAM into a cultural remix that will have visitors flowing throughout the galleries!

TOURS

Designed to help visitors make the most of their experience, these tours are at once insightful and critical.

Site-Seeing at SAM

Tuesday–Sunday, 1 p.m.

(Tours will not be held on June 17)

So . . . what’s new? Let a museum guide lead you through SAM’s new galleries!

Learn how the north building, designed by Allied Works Architecture, integrates with the Robert Venturi–designed south building to create dynamic and flexible spaces for art and education. Discover how the collections have been expanded and transformed.

Highlights from the Collection

Tuesday–Sunday, 2 p.m.

(Tours will not be held on June 17)

View and discuss outstanding artworks from SAM’s global collections, including new purchases and promised gifts. From a spirited masquerade to a seventeenth-century Italian Room, discover what makes SAM’s collections unique.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

ARTattack: Teen Night Out!

Friday, May 11, 5–9 p.m.

Seattle Art Museum Downtown

There’s a party at SAM, and this time it’s for you! The museum throws open its doors to all teenagers for a night of art, dancing and music with a live DJ. And best of all, it’s free! While you’re here, join Seattle-based artist Laura Wright to explore the role that tools play in building pop culture, and get inside the mind of an artist by visiting SAM’s galleries.

FREE PUBLIC SPACES

Art Ladder

A new, lively space for kids of all ages! The entire family will find something to enjoy along SAM’s grand staircase. Play, create, explore, deepen your museum experience and examine the changing roles artists play in shaping museums. Look for the ACE Project, the WaMu Open Studio, Food for Thought and the Think Tank as you investigate what’s new along the

Art Ladder.

WaMu Open Studio: An amazing destination for hands-on art making, demonstrations, workshops and much more, this art studio offers new opportunities to engage visitors in a wide variety of programming with access to SAM's free space.

ACE Project: Inspiring a sense of discovery and play, the Artist Created Experiences (ACE) Project is an exciting destination for kids of all ages. Fostering intellectual and physical play for varied audiences, the ACE Project redefines the roles artists can play in shaping museums. In its inaugural installation, SAM has commissioned three works by Seattle-based artist Jason Puccinelli. This installation has created a level of continuity throughout the Art Ladder that challenges visual perception and engages the viewer in a game of looking. Explore this fascinating project on your next visit, and see if you can find all three installations.

Made possible by a gift from The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

Think Tank: Located at the top of the public corridor just inside the Second Avenue entrance, this space inspires a sense of ownership with people from all walks of life through artist residencies with a community focus. In its inaugural installation project, the *Think Tank* will feature Portland-based artist Marie Watt's *Custodian* (2007), which focuses on wool fabric and the fiber of memory. The public donates woolen blankets with printed tags telling the story of their significance. A book kept in the *Think Tank* will allow audiences to share their personalized understandings of the word 'custodian.' Watt will also collaborate with the public to alter blankets so that old objects gather new meanings in Sewing Circles at SAM and around Seattle.

The Dorothy Stimson Bullitt Library

Open Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

A noncirculating research library located on the Fifth Floor of the South Building. The library is free and open to the public, and can be accessed via the elevators on the Second Avenue level, adjacent to the Think Tank.

PROGRAMS FOR KIDS + FAMILIES

Family Fun! at SAM downtown

Create works of art, check out galleries and take home some SAM goodies! The fun begins the second Saturday of every month in the WaMu Open Studio on the mezzanine from 9:30-11:30a.m. Visit SAM's calendar online at www.seattleartmuseum.org to find out how to register families for this event. The program is designed for children ages 5-11 and their parents/guardians.

Building Blocks!

Saturday, July 14th, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Hot Tones + Cool Colors!

Saturday, August 11th, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

A Family Affair!

This quarterly family fest will not be missed! Join SAM for a day of fun guaranteed to have the kids making and moving!

The Grand Tour!

Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

It's a party! Celebrate the opening of the new downtown Seattle Art Museum as we launch the the Family Affair series with a big bash. Dance in the Brotman Forum, doodle in the WaMu Open Studio, and check out the ACE Project with artist Jason Pucinelli. You and your family can see puppet shows, listen to stories and create your own masterpiece to take home! You can look forward to these quarterly family fests at all three SAM sites.

Stay Tuned!

SAM's Web site will be updated routinely with information about new and exciting programs, including SAM Salons, Director's Dialogue, Kid Flicks, summer camp, tours for tots and more! www.seattleartmuseum.org