



News Release

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February 26, 2004

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Docents at Kresge Art Museum, Teaching and Inspiring All Ages

E. LANSING, MICH. --- Numerous school children in Mid-Michigan have benefited from docent-led tours of Kresge Art Museum and now seniors have the opportunity to learn from these trained individuals as well. Docents are members of a specially trained team of volunteers who guide visitors through and explain Kresge Art Museum's collection and exhibitions. Starting in September 2004, KAM will offer a new training class for those who would like to become docents at the museum.

The docent program's goal is to provide visitors with exciting and engaging experiences that generate new insights and understanding of the arts. The main component of Kresge Art Museum's docent program is touring schoolchildren visiting the museum. Each year the docents tour over 5,000 K-12 students. In addition Kresge Art Museum's groundbreaking Senior Outreach Program provides docent visits to senior centers, service organizations, and retirement homes, consisting of slide presentations and discussions about art. While other museums are starting programs of this nature, Kresge Art Museum is at the forefront of developing outreach programs to seniors.

Docent Board President Susan Patterson finds that "being able to expand your outlook and stretch your imagination can be more fun than challenge. The chance for continued learning in the arts and the association with fellow docents who enjoy sharing that knowledge with the community makes the Kresge docent program appealing to people from many educational and professional backgrounds."

Every two years Kresge Art Museum trains a new class of docents. The next class starts in 2004. Docents participate in an intensive nine-month training course featuring art history and tour techniques, with a special focus on the museum's collection.

For additional information and an application form for the Kresge Art Museum Docent Training Program, please contact call Carol Fisher, Education Coordinator, at 517/353-9834 or fisherc@msu.edu.

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