



# News Release

March 26, 2004

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## Kresge Art Museum Receives Grant from The Judith Rothschild Foundation

**E. LANSING, MICH.** --- Kresge Art Museum was awarded a \$10,000 grant from The Judith Rothschild Foundation in support of the acquisition of *Two Figures, Two Heads* (1998) by Louis Finkelstein. This is a key work in building the museum's Figurative Expressionism collection initiative.

"Expressionistic colorist Louis Finkelstein was marvelous at painting and talking about painting. He did them interchangeably and constantly," says Kingsley. "Figures occupied him early on, landscapes dominated the body of his lifework, and figures returned, embedded in landscape, toward the end. *Two Figures, Two Heads*, 1998, acquired with funding from the Judith Rothschild Foundation is one of the finest of these late works."

Kresge Art Museum has been collecting Figurative Expressionist paintings for several years and is developing impressive holdings by these artists who painted in an expressive mode like the Abstract Expressionists, but never lost sight of the figure. Curator April Kingsley received a Michigan State University research grant to locate additional artists and prepare a traveling exhibition of Figurative Expressionist works drawn from Kresge Art Museum's collection and a catalogue on the subject. An exhibition of the Figurative Expressionists will debut in the future at Kresge Art Museum and will then travel to additional institutions.

The only grant program of its kind, The Judith Rothschild Foundation was established by the will of the painter Judith Rothschild to stimulate interest in recently deceased American painters, sculptors and photographers whose work is of the highest quality but lacks wide recognition. Ms. Rothschild's goal for the Foundation was to increase the public understanding of such lesser known and insufficiently appreciated artists -- affording their work the opportunity for public viewing, institutional acquisition, and critical reassessment. The Foundation's grant program supports a wide range of activities, which will bring this important art to the attention of a broad public audience.

"Since its inception in 1995, The Judith Rothschild Foundation's grant program has contributed well over two and a quarter million dollars toward a wide range of projects directed to provide opportunities for significant re-evaluation of the work of more than 200 American artists," commented Elizabeth Slater, Vice President, Grant Program. "Through this juried process, we are committed to calling long-overdue attention to the vital, yet often little known contributions these artists have made to our culture."

Kresge Art Museum received one of twenty-one grants from The Judith Rothschild Foundation awarded in

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2004. Grant recipients this year come from across the country including California, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Texas, and Utah. This is the third grant Kresge Art Museum has received from the Foundation for acquisitions.

"Every year, the Grants Review Committee is faced with the challenge of selecting our award recipients from a large group of extremely worthy applicants, and this year was no exception. With the current awards, we were particularly pleased with the broad national scope of applications, allowing the Foundation to support the efforts of organizations across the United States," stated Wilder Green, Chairman, Grants Review Committee.

Kresge Art Museum provides education and aesthetic enjoyment for its diverse audiences. Through collections and exhibitions of art, it offers opportunities for interdisciplinary and cross-cultural interpretations of current and historical thought. By researching, presenting and preserving art from various times and cultures, the museum serves the Michigan State University community, general public of mid-Michigan and beyond. For additional information about Kresge Art Museum please visit [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu) or call 517/355-7631.

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