



News Release

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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 *Double Image* by Nicholas Marsicano. This is a key work in building the museum's Figurative Expressionism collection initiative.

By extending 1950s Action Painting to the human form, Figurative Expressionists created a viable painting mode that has outlasted Pop, Minimal, and Op Art, remaining important to the present day. Kresge Art Museum has been collecting in this area to establish a center for the study of Figurative Expressionism at the museum.

Curator April Kingsley recently 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 2005 at Kresge Art Museum and will then travel to additional institutions.

"The grant from The Judith Rothschild Foundation will allow the museum to acquire this work by Marsicano, a New York painter who used the freewheeling Abstract Expressionist way of handling paint in the service of the figure his whole life," says Kingsley.

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."

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Kresge Art Museum received one of twenty-two grants from The Judith Rothschild Foundation awarded in 2003. Grant recipients this year come from across the country including Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Washington, D.C. Entering the program's ninth year, these grants will contribute funding for: museum and gallery exhibitions; publications; the acquisition of works of art for public collections; the conservation, organization, and documentation of artists' work as well as the preservation of artists' papers. This is the second grant Kresge Art Museum has received from the Foundation for acquisitions.

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.msu.edu/unit/kamuseum or call 517/355-7631.

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