



# News Release

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\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

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**EXHIBITION:** *Thirty Years of Friends of Kresge Art Museum Acquisitions*  
**DATES:** February 5 – March 31, 2005  
**LOCATION:** Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich.

## Friends of Kresge Art Museum Celebrate 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Gallery walks: 5:30 p.m. on February 24, 2005 and March 3, 2005.

In honor of the Friends of Kresge Art Museum's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the museum will present the exhibition, *Thirty Years of Friends of Kresge Art Museum Acquisitions*. The exhibition celebrates the invaluable contributions the Friends' group has made to the museum's collection since 1975. These include the newest acquisition, a 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch *Portrait of a Gentleman* by Jacob Van Loo, and other beloved works of art such as Rodin's *Figure Volante* sculpture and Harry Bertoia's *Sound Piece*. *Thirty Years* will be on view at Kresge Art Museum from February 5 through March 31, 2005. In addition to pieces on permanent view, this special exhibit will be on display in the Works on Paper Gallery.

In January, the Friends board voted to contribute towards the purchase of *Portrait of a Gentleman* by Dutch artist, Jacob Van Loo. Van Loo created the portrait during the height of his career in the 1660s. Well known for his history and genre scenes and portraiture, he was one of the foremost painters in Amsterdam during the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. Van Loo's paintings are included in public collections such as the Fran Hals Museum in Haarlem, the Louvre in Paris, and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. This portrait was purchased to honor the Friends' 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

"We are pleased to help expand the public legacy of the Kresge Art Museum. Our latest acquisition, the wonderful portrait by Van Loo, helps round out the Old Masters holdings and will be an instant and enduring attraction," said Vice-President of Friends of Kresge, Elinor Holbrook.

Since its establishment in 1975, the Friends of Kresge has funded art acquisitions, providing the only source of such support in the first decades of the museum's existence. This generosity has been crucial in developing the museum's well-rounded collection from the ancient to contemporary world. Many Friends' purchases have become the most well known in the museum's collection, such as the *Black-Figure Neck Amphora*, a Greek vase painted around 510 B.C., Paolo di Giovanni Fei's triptych, and two ancient Roman sculptures. The Friends have also expanded the museum's photography holdings with examples by Joel Meyerowitz, and the important *American Roads* portfolio. Michigan artists include Frederick Frieseke, Mathias Alten, and John Felsing.

In conjunction with the *Thirty Years of Friends Acquisitions* exhibition, the Docent Voices Project honors the museum's devoted docents and commemorates the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that program. Docents were invited to share their thoughts on their favorite Friends' acquisitions, which will be shared with visitors.

Admission is free to Kresge Art Museum. The museum is open Monday – Friday 10a.m. – 5p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon – 5 p.m. Kresge Art Museum is located on the campus of Michigan State University, in East Lansing. For information call 517/355-7631 or visit [www.artmuseum.msu.edu](http://www.artmuseum.msu.edu)

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