

SDMA Welcomes New Additions to the Collection

Throughout 2006, the San Diego Museum of Art has celebrated its 80th Anniversary by highlighting the important contributions of many key donors to the collection. Special wall labels in our galleries have described how indebted the Museum's current holdings are to a number of generous individuals. We are happy to report that the Museum's collections in all areas have continued to grow thanks to many recent gifts from both longtime and relatively new donors. The following donations represent the diversity of objects that are currently entering the Museum's collection.

The first, a group of eleven works by Harry Sternberg (1904–2001), greatly enhances the Museum's holdings of this important artist who spent the last part of his life living in Escondido. Donated by John and Dorothy Metcalfe, the group comprises drawings, paintings, and prints, including an early example of the screen printing technique, which Sternberg experimented with during the 1940s.

Another artist with San Diego connections represented among recent gifts is Charles Arthur Fries (1854–1940). A painting by him depicting *A Game of Croquet* (1936) taking place in Balboa Park was donated by SDMA trustee, Kevin Kinsella, and his wife, Tamara. In this work, Fries applied an experimental late style that is more patterned and decorative than his conventional plein-air impressionism.

Among a number of recent donations of Latin American art is a Surrealist drawing by Mexican artist Gunther Gerzso (1915–2000). The untitled work, a gift of Pierrette Van Cleve and the Art Cellar Exchange, demonstrates the strong influence of European modernist styles during the 1930s on Gerzso, who has born in Mexico to German immigrants.

Taking cues from dominant trends in 20th-century European art are three large-scale bronzes by British sculptor Lynn Chadwick titled *The Three Watchers*, donated by SDMA trustee, Jacqueline Littlefield. From a series of works created between 1959 and 1962, the



Charles Arthur Fries, *A Game of Croquet*, oil on canvas, 1936. Gift of Kevin and Tamara Kinsella, 2005:138.

figures' quasi-human form have a cubistic machine-like appearance and feature bodies of angular bulk and box-like heads that recall the ubiquitous shape of television sets.

Finally, a late 2nd-century C.E. stele representing *Shakyamuni and Nanda Welcomed by King Bimbisara to Rajagriha* further augments SDMA's growing collection of South Asian sculpture. Given to the Museum by Indian art scholar Catherine Glynn Benkaim, the grey schist sculpture is an early depiction of Buddha from the Roman-influenced region of Gandhara, now located within the current borders of Pakistan. The Asian collection was the largest single area of growth at SDMA during the 2006 fiscal year, receiving 158 out of a total of 364 new works coming into the Museum. We thank all our donors for their support and generosity.

Chris Zook
Interim Director of Communications



Lynn Chadwick, *The Three Watchers*, bronze, 1960. Gift of Mrs. Jacquelyn Littlefield, 2002:235.1-3.