

Treasures from the Telfair

Exhibit to feature prints by Chagall, Dali and Lichtenstein

A fascinating and diverse collection of prints created by some of the 20th century's most notable artists will be on display April 3-26 in the Walter Greer Gallery. *Treasures from the Telfair* will feature lithographs, etchings and silkscreens by Chagall, Dali and Miró among many others.

On loan from Savannah's Telfair Museum of Art, the 60-plus prints represent a wide range of art movements including the Ashcan School, Cubism, Regionalism, Surrealism, Pop Art and Minimalism.

"We've chosen more traditional work as well as abstract pieces for the exhibit," said Telfair Assistant Curator Courtney McGowan. "Renowned Southern printmakers are also well represented."

Among the best known is Elizabeth O'Neill Verner, widely recognized as the matriarch of the Charleston Renaissance. In recognition of her indelible contributions to South Carolina's art legacy, the state named its highest honor in the arts after Verner. The Arts Center was the recipient of the prestigious award in 2006.

Treasures from the Telfair will feature four Verner etchings of Savannah from the 1920s, along with woodblock prints by another well-known Charleston artist, Ana Heyward Taylor.

Part of the Telfair Museum of Art's permanent collection, the rarely viewed prints were first presented to the public two years ago as part of the museum's *Beyond Whistler* exhibit. The Arts Center show marks the

first time the artwork has been displayed outside the Telfair's own galleries.

"It's an extraordinary opportunity for Lowcountry residents and visitors to see modern and contemporary prints by significant artists of the last century," said Arts Center Gallery Designer Martha Ahrens.

One of the highlights of the show is Roy Lichtenstein's 1973 screen print titled "Still Life with Picasso." The collection also includes two 1968 lithographs by Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali and three large color lithographs

created by Chagall, a pioneer of modernism and one of the greatest figurative artists of the 20th century.

There are also cubist compositions by Jacques Villon and abstract images by Spanish surrealist Joan Miró. Several of the featured works by Käthe Kollwitz and Rockwell Kent convey weighty political messages while those by Peggy Bacon, Isabel Bishop and Reginald Marsh capture ordinary moments from everyday life.

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ROY LICHTENSTEIN (American, 1923-1997)
Still Life with Picasso, 1973
Screenprint on Arches 88 paper. Telfair Museum of Art, Gift of Dorothy Lichtenstein, 2006.17.1

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Other artists represented in the exhibit include Thomas Hart Benton, Alex Katz, Ellsworth Kelly, Chuck Close and Philip Pearlstein.

These American and European printmakers utilized etching, lithography, silkscreen and other print media in ways their 19th century predecessors could never have envisioned.

“Seeing all these works together allows you to appreciate the subtle differences between print techniques,” McGowan said. “With artists like Chagall and Miró, their print work also reveals characteristics of their paintings.”



JOAN MIRÓ (Spanish, 1893-1983)
La Melodie Acide VIII, 1980
Lithograph on paper. Telfair Museum of Art,
Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Dwight H. Emanuelson, 2003.9.2

“A passion for the arts doesn’t stop at the Tallmadge Bridge. We’re fortunate to have two regional organizations in Savannah and Hilton Head Island that represent the very best in the arts,” said Arts Center President and CEO Kathi Bateson. “We’re honored to present this prestigious collection of artwork as we launch this new reciprocal partnership with the Telfair.”