



MEMORIAL ART GALLERY RECEIVES MILLION-DOLLAR GIFT Gift from Long-Time Supporter Helen H. Berkeley Will Fund New Gallery of Ancient Art



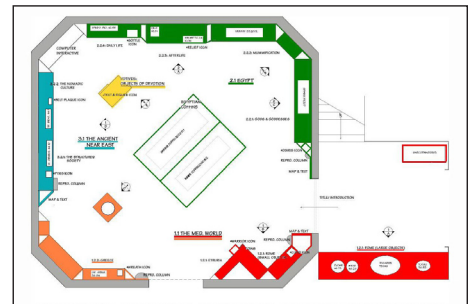
RICHARD P. WERSINGER

ROCHESTER, NY, September 22, 2008 — The Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester has received a \$1,000,000 gift from long-time friend and supporter Helen H. Berkeley.

The bulk of the gift, one of the largest in MAG history, will be used to renovate and reinstall the second-floor antiquities gallery. This gallery, which will be renamed the Helen H. Berkeley Gallery of Ancient Art, will showcase a rare pair of fourth-century Egyptian coffins currently on view on the first floor, as well as objects from Egypt, the eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East. The remainder of the gift will go to establish the Helen H. Berkeley Fund for Art Conservation.

“Helen’s magnificent and visionary gift honors the Gallery’s collection, mission and near 100-year legacy,” says director Grant Holcomb. “Her generosity and personal commitment underscore the community-based support that has made the Gallery one of the finest regional art museums in the country.” Adds Andrew Gallina, president of the Gallery’s Board of Managers, “We are pleased and fortunate to receive this level of support, which will help the Gallery to further its mission in our community.”

“The Berkeley gift puts into motion a project that has been in the planning process for a number of years: the reinstallation of the oldest objects in the Gallery’s collection in the most up-to-date museum environment,” says chief curator Marjorie B. Searl. “The opportunity to present these significant works of art within the context of new research and interpretation continues the Gallery’s mission of bringing the world within reach of our visitors—a group that includes the many students and teachers who make extensive use of this part of the collection.”



About the donor

Helen Berkeley served as president of the Gallery Council, an all-volunteer fund-raising organization, from 1990 to 1992. She has been a member of the Gallery for more than 30 years, most recently as a member of the Director’s Circle, and was a donor to “Let the Art Live On,” the MAG endowment campaign that concluded in 1997.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Berkeley was a sponsor of the major traveling exhibition *American Impressionism: Paintings from the Phillips Collection*.

She is a member of the Board of Directors at Graham Corporation, where her late husband, Frederick D. Berkeley III, served as CEO.

About the Memorial Art Gallery

The Memorial Art Gallery is considered one of the finest regional art museums in the country. Its permanent collection of 11,000 works spans 50 centuries of world art and includes important works by Monet, Cezanne,

Matisse, Homer and Cassatt. The Gallery was founded in 1913 by Emily Sibley Watson as a memorial to her son, architect James Averell. Given in trust to the University of Rochester, it is one of the few university-affiliated art museums in the country that also serves as a public art museum.

The Gallery is supported primarily by its members, the University of Rochester, and public funds from Monroe County and the New York State Council on the Arts.

To learn more visit mag.rochester.edu.

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