

## TEMPORARY ART EXHIBITIONS

*Jerry N. Uelsmann — Photographs — Retrospective*, April 5 - May 2. Ringling Museum members' preview and reception, April 4, at 8 p.m. in the new wing galleries.

A major exhibition, assembled by the Alfred Steiglitz Center of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, of approximately 200 photographs by the brilliant young artist. In the 100-page catalogue accompanying the exhibition, Peter C. Bunnell states: "we know even now that contemporary photography is not the same as it would have been without him."

Mr. Uelsmann has been on the faculty of the Department of Art, University of Florida, since 1960, where he is now Professor of Art. He has had many one-man exhibitions, including one in 1967 at the Museum of Modern Art, and has participated in countless group shows over the past ten years. Among many honors conferred on him is a recent citation by the American Society of Magazine Photographers for "his outstanding contribution to photography."

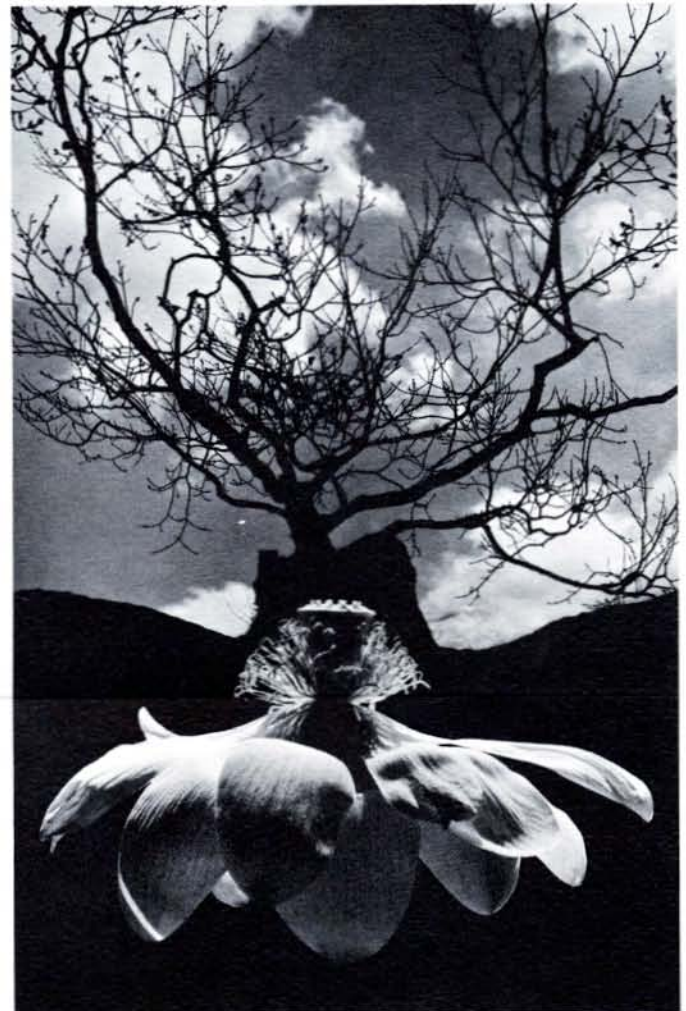
Under the sponsorship of the Ringling Museum Members Council, Mr. Uelsmann will present a lecture about this retrospective of his work in the Asolo Theater on Sunday evening, April 18, at 8 o'clock. The lecture will be open to the public as well as Museum members and their guests.

*Young People's Art Exhibition*, May 15 - May 31. Students' reception, May 15, at 2 p.m. in the new wing galleries.

This annual exhibition will present the work of young people from the age of six to eighteen who have participated in the Saturday art classes conducted by the Education Department. Students taught by Martha Hyams, Ralph Hyams, Christopher Moe, Roberta Balk and Rick Lyles will show paintings, drawings, sculpture, prints and ceramics. Students, parents and teachers will attend the opening reception for which the Members Council will provide refreshments.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

An oil painting entitled *Landscape* by Charles Daubigny, 1873, has been given to the Museum by Milton Rindler. Through the Offin Foundation, the Museum has acquired *Choachi*, an acrylic on canvas, by Omar Rayo. The painting was in the recent exhibition, *Twelve Artists from Latin America*, organized by Mrs. Leslie Ahlander, Director of Education. A native of Colombia, Rayo now works in New York. His works are owned by the Museum of Modern Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum, the Philadelphia Museum, the Baltimore Museum and the Smithsonian Institution, among others.



Photograph by Jerry N. Uelsmann.



*Choachi*, 1970, by Omar Rayo.



The veteran bareback rider, 76 year-old George Hanneford, Sr., was fourth in the series of Sarasota Circus Celebrities to be honored by the Ringling Museum of the Circus. Shown at the reception attended by members of the Showfolks of Sarasota on January 31 in the Ringling Residence are (L to R) Mrs. Hanneford, Hanneford, famed equestrian star May Wirth, and John Hurdle, Curator of the Ringling Museum of the Circus.

#### GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

The following gifts have been received by the museum: *Sketches of Calvary* by Michel Duplessis, pencil drawing, from Mrs. Paul Carmichael.

*Baywind* by Syd Solomon, lithograph, gift of the artist.

*Zig-Field* by Paul Reed, serigraph, gift of the artist. Six silk screen posters from the Washington Workshop, from Lou Stovall.

*Eric von Schmidt: Mr. Chris and the Instant Animals*, illustrations and overlays for a children's book, gift of the artist.

Twenty-six silk screen prints by Josef Albers, from Mrs. Robert Feitz.

Twenty-two miscellaneous drawings and prints, from Miss Bertha Wiles.

A hand carved, illuminated display case, from Mrs. Joel Harrell.

#### WILLIAM W. JOHNSTON APPOINTED TO BOARD

William W. Johnston has been named to the Board of Trustees of the Ringling Museum, replacing Carl D. Brorein, Jr., whose term expired. Mr. Johnston resigned as president of the Members Council to accept the appointment.

#### LECTURES BY JOHN HURDLE

The sixth and last in the programmed Morning Lecture Series will be devoted to *The Circus from Rome to Ringling*. The lectures will be presented by John Hurdle, Curator of the Ringling Museum of the Circus, in the Asolo Theater at 10 a.m. on April 6, 13 and 20. They will trace the history of the circus from its earliest beginnings in Europe to the time of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's *Greatest Show on Earth*.

#### LOANS FROM THE RINGLING COLLECTION

Two paintings of *The Vision of St. John the Evangelist* by Alonso Cano and *St. Joseph Supporting the Standing Infant Christ* by Bartolome Esteban Murillo have been lent to the South Florida Museum, Bradenton, from March 17 through March 27 for the DeSoto celebration.

*Portrait of Mariana of Austria* by Juan Carreno de Miranda has been borrowed by the Birmingham Museum of Art for an exhibition of Spanish Art, March 19 through April 4.

*The Sirens* by Edward Burne-Jones has been lent to the Lakeview Center for the Arts and Sciences, Peoria, Illinois, for the exhibition, *The Victorian Rebellion*, September 13 through October 29.

#### GALLERIES REHUNG

Galleries 11 and 12 have been rehung under the supervision of Curator Peter A. Tomory to better enhance the visual qualities of the works. Walls in Gallery 11 were repainted to a darker shade, some paintings were removed and others added. Tomory also rearranged Galleries 14 through 16, regrouping the paintings and period furniture, and introducing the English silver for the first time into Gallery 16.

#### TAPED TOUR IN RESIDENCE

Manuscript for a tape-recorded tour of the Ringling Residence has been written by Mrs. Jean Houtchens and narrated by John Hurdle. A number of small tape players, each with its own earphone, will be offered to visitors at the "Ca d'Zan" for a nominal fee. Pertinent information about each room has been combined with historical data and personal notes about John and Mable Ringling. Instructions have been provided for moving the visitor from room to room through the first two floors and the game room.

#### NEW IN THE GIFT SHOPS

A new line of handsome art books for children by Doubleday is now available in the Museum of Art gift shop. There are also many beautiful jewelry pieces in hand-wrought sterling silver and enamel on copper, signed, in shades for summer as well as reproductions of antique jewelry with a look of authenticity. For family fun, there is the "While Away Game" which includes four prints of the Museum suitable for framing plus eight entertaining games.

At the Circus Museum gift shop, you will find a new key chain or money clip in red and gold with the *Lion and Gladiator* bandwagon, inscribed "Ringling Museums, Sarasota, Florida."

The Residence shop is featuring a large selection of Italian pieces including Venetian glass vases, bowls, blown figures and ash trays, inlaid musical tables and hand-tooled leather liquor bottles.

#### ART FILMS IN THE ASOLO THEATER

From now through June 28, films will be shown on Mondays only at 2:30, 7 and 9 p.m. A complete listing is carried on the back page of this newsletter. Please note there will be a showing on Monday, May 31, of *Poppy*, starring W. C. Fields, although there will be no public notice because of distributor's regulations.

George Romney, 1734-1802

*Portrait of Mrs. Oliver and Her Child.* 1787 S.N. 391 (Pl.1)

Oil on canvas, 36 x 28 inches

Acquired by John Ringling, 1927. (American Art Association Sale, April 7. (67))

This painting was catalogued by William Suida in 1949 as "Studio of George Romney." (391). Now that it has been cleaned, there can be no doubt that it is an autograph work by Romney. Not only is the handling fresh and assured, but there are pentimenti at the top of the veil, along the exposed arm and at the back of the right hand. Corroboration is provided by the lists of Romney's son (see entry: Ward and Roberts *Romney*, London 1904. Vol. 2. p. 114) which record two half-lengths for 1787. Half-length in this case referring to the canvas size, 50 x 40 inches, (approximately). The other painting is in the Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight, England (canvas, 49½ x 39½ inches). (Pl.2). The Ringling portrait has been cut down on both sides and along the top, but not at the bottom, which probably indicates that Romney initially decided on a half-length figure composition, then, taking another canvas, enlarged it to a full-length.



Mrs. Oliver sat seven times in 1787, four times in 1788 and once again in 1791. For some reason, the full-length was not delivered and paid for until 1799. From these sittings, it may be surmised that our painting belongs to the first two or three in 1787. There is no trace of the Ringling version until 1897 when it can be identified as "Lady Seated under a Tree, and Child," (Christie's, July 10 (22) bt. Tooth) which Ward and Roberts say was the property of 'a gentleman in Cheshire.' The same portrait now called "Mrs. Oliver" appeared again in 1906 (E. M. Denning, Christie's, March 31 (51) bt. Gooden). It may have been then, or later, that it passed to an owner in the United States. An interesting point supported by prices paid and the comment in *The Connoisseur* (XV. 1906.May,p.54) . . . a more highly finished ver-

sion of the same subject . . . now belongs to Mr. W. H. Lever (pl.2), shows, at that time, there was no doubt about the Ringling version being by Romney himself. Since 1949 the painting has never been exhibited.

The spontaneous brilliance of Romney's style is shown particularly well in this version and in the Rev. Romney's *Memoirs*. (1830) p.165, he records that the child was painted in half an hour . . . with such truth of nature as to impress the spectator with an idea of hearing it respire.

Peter A. Tomory, Curator  
Ringling Museum of Art

Ringling Museums Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 3, 1971  
P. O. Box 1838, Sarasota, Florida 33578, U. S. A.





