

Cool Off with Some of the Giants of 20th Century Art only at the Tucson Museum of Art

Tucson, AZ – This summer take a stroll among works from some of the biggest names in contemporary art in the air-conditioned galleries at the Tucson Museum of Art. Two major exhibitions encompass a veritable who's who in modern and contemporary art and open to the public July 17.

Thanks for Being With Us: Contemporary Art from the Douglas Nielsen Collection, on view through October 10, is an impressive private collection amassed over forty years by UA dance professor Douglas Nielsen. "Dance escapes the eye the second you look at it, but art on the wall promises to be there when you look back" says Nielsen, who considers art essential to his life and enjoys sharing his treasures as much as he enjoys the process of collecting them. The exhibition's title, *Thanks for Being With Us*, is taken from the title of a work on paper by noted California artist, Ed Ruscha. Ruscha has long been known for his use of vernacular language paired with images of Los Angeles to comment on the urban experience. However, to Nielsen, the selection of the title is a welcoming greeting and is a show of appreciation for those who value art or are curious enough to become exposed to new ideas.

In addition to Ruscha's works, artists in the exhibition include nationally prominent photographers Annie Liebovitz, Herb Ritts, Cindy Sherman, Elliott Erwitt, Diane Arbus, Danny Lyon, and Nan Goldin. Other artists represented are Bruce Nauman, Richard Serra, Edward Burtynsky, Claes Oldenberg, and Kiki Smith. This exhibition is a rare opportunity to see a large body of works by internationally renowned artists brought together as a result of the personal vision of one who has made it his life's pursuit to enhance his life with beauty and creative expression.

Into the Void: Abstract Art, 1944 – 2008, on view July 17 – September 26, is a celebration of the diversity of non-objective artistic expression from the perspectives of Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism, geometric abstraction, lyrical abstraction, and Minimalism. This exhibition from the permanent collection includes works on paper by Bauhaus members Herbert Bayer and Josef Albers; Surrealist artists Alexander Calder and Max Ernst; American Abstract Artists founding member Balcomb Greene; Abstract Expressionist Esteban Vicente; Spanish Art Informel artist Antoni Tàpies; and Art Brut artist Jean Dubuffet. Paintings in this collection include Abstract Expressionists William Baziotes and Paul Jenkins, and Washington Color School painters Ralph Humphrey and Paul Reed.

Images for both exhibitions are available upon request.

ABOUT THE TUCSON MUSEUM OF ART

Embracing the traditional with the inventive, the Tucson Museum of Art presents exhibitions with a focus on Art of the American West, Asian Art, Latin American Art, and Modern and Contemporary Art, and boasts a permanent collection of more than 8,000 works. The Historic Block features five distinctive houses built between c.1850 and 1907 that provide a unique look into Tucson's past. The Museum is open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm. The first Sunday of each month is free. It is located at 140 North Main Avenue in historic downtown Tucson.

Media Contact:

Meredith Hayes



TUCSON MUSEUM of ART
AND HISTORIC BLOCK

Media@TucsonMuseumofArt.org

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