



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIA Reopening Showcases Collection, Expanded Spaces - And More to Come



Flint, MI – When the Flint Institute of Arts reopens to the public on Saturday, September 16, visitors will see a museum on the ascent, with expanded - and still expanding - spaces and several new works in its already vast collection. 2018 will bring the addition of a new Contemporary Craft Wing as well as a new Makerspace within the FIA's Art School, and those who venture to the museum this weekend can experience an expanded Palette Café and Museum Shop, along with the opening of the relocated Art School Gallery. New menu items, including made-to-order rice and quinoa bowls and personal pizzas, along with additional exterior seating are some of

the highlights of the enlarged café. The Museum Shop, one of Flint's most unique retail locations, will see new merchandise, including whimsical purses from accessory designer Kent Stetson, in addition to its established collection of gift items, such as books, artist supplies, and jewelry, a portion of which represents local and regional designers and makers. Rounding out the trifecta of recently redesigned spaces is the new Art School Gallery, which will sit between the Palette Café and the Museum Shop. Home to work by current FIA Art School students and faculty, the gallery represents the first time that work expressly made by instructors and pupils will be offered for sale on a daily basis. Proceeds from the sale of work found in the gallery will be split between the artists and the FIA, which will use the money to fund programming and exhibitions.

On the exhibition front, three new shows, all of which draw from the ever-growing FIA permanent collection, kick off the opening of a refreshed museum. *Size Matters: Big & Small Works from the FIA Collection* features objects from the late 18th through the 21st century, both gigantic and diminutive. From oversized paintings by Sophie Matisse and Ray Parker to small works by Sir Henry Raeburn and David Eichenberg, this exhibition considers the importance of size in the experience of art. Bill Stolpin, who passed away in August 2017, is honored in *The Eccentric Vision of William Stolpin*, a retrospective of his long and distinguished printmaking career. Stolpin, who lived and worked in Holly, MI, studied with internationally recognized printmakers and taught at the FIA Art School for over a decade. His work varied in technique as well as subject matter and *The Eccentric Vision of William Stolpin* presents the many passions of this prolific artist. Vessels of all shapes, colors, and sizes complete the trio of exhibitions opening on Saturday, September 16. *The Art of Containment: Vessels from the Sidney Swidler Collection* features 40+ ceramic pieces promised to the FIA by Bloomfield Hills resident Sidney Swidler, who began collecting in the early-to-mid 1980s. The show, housed in the Ann K. Walch-Chan Decorative Arts Gallery, illustrates the versatility of not only the vessel form, but the depth of Swidler's collection.

Working press are invited to explore the recently refurbished FIA and see the on-going expansion, both in the museum and in the Art School. Those interested in attending the Members Preview on Friday, September 15, which includes a lecture by Professor Michael Farrell, a peak at all three exhibitions, and an opening reception, should call FIA Communications and Marketing Coordinator Chene Koppitz at 810.237.7387 to be included on the press list.

ABOUT THE FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

The Flint Institute of Arts is Michigan's second largest art museum and one of the largest museum art schools in the nation. The FIA's mission is to advance the understanding and appreciation of art for all through collections, exhibitions, and educational programs. The FIA is located at 1120 East Kearsley Street in the Flint Cultural Center. The museum is open Mon–Fri 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sun 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Admission to the FIA is free to members and children under 12; Adults are \$7; Senior Citizens and Students with I.D. are \$5. Saturdays are free thanks to Huntington Bank. For more information, please call 810.234.1695 or visit www.flintarts.org.