



FLINT INSTITUTE OF ARTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Size Matters!

FIA'S Exhibition Re-opens Museum in Ways Big and Small



Ray Parker, American, 1922 – 1990. *Untitled*, 1980. Oil on canvas, 90 x 218 inches. Museum purchase with funds donated by Mr. William S. White 2013.16

Flint, MI – A provocative title celebrates the collection-centric, large-scale exhibition re-opening the Flint Institute of Arts on Saturday, September 16. *Size Matters: Big & Small Works from the FIA Collection* features objects both gigantic and diminutive, dating from the 1700s to the present day. Throughout history, artists have utilized the element of size (or scale) when determining the context of their work. In our daily lives, we often consider the size of an object relative to our own bodies; objects that are much larger than we are have a different impact on us than those that are tiny. While a large work may envelop our field of vision, a small work may require us to look more closely. Scale affects the approach of making art: a large painting requires ample studio space, whereas a small painting may be portable. Scale can also reflect the varying purposes in which works of art were meant to serve. A large artwork may make a bold statement, while its smaller counterpart may present a subtler message. In his Members Preview lecture, Professor Michael Farrell will ask FIA members to contemplate how the size of a painting affects their experience - Is a big painting overwhelming or immersive? If a small work of art pulls you in, does that make you feel bigger than life or slightly uncomfortable? Farrell will discuss the issue of scale and how artists utilize largeness or smallness in their work. From oversized paintings by Sophie Matisse and Ray Parker to small works by Sir Henry Raeburn and David Eichenberg, the artwork in *Size Matters* considers the importance of size in the experience of art.

***Size Matters: Big & Small Works from the FIA Collection* begins in the Hodge Gallery of the Flint Institute of Arts on Saturday, September 16. The large-scale exhibition is one of three shows slated for the museum's public re-opening after a 45-day closure, which began on July 31. Current FIA members, along with interested media, are invited to the Members Preview lecture and opening reception on Friday, September 15, beginning at 6 p.m. *Size Matters* runs from Saturday, September 16, 2017 through December 30, 2017.**

ABOUT MICHAEL FARRELL

Professor Michael Farrell believes that there is a profound difference between looking and seeing. Since 1968, he has been a professor of art history and the founder of the Honors Art History Program at the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. He has taught at Central Michigan University and the College for Creative Studies, and served as an adjunct education curator at the Detroit Institute of Art and the Detroit Historical Museum. He has lectured in Canada and across the United States, including the Chatham Cultural Center in Chatham, Ontario and the Philbrook Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Farrell has toured both Europe and the United States since the early 1970s, even serving as a lecturer for the Radisson Diamond University of the Sea, educating cruise ship passengers about art and art history.

FIA Curator Tracee Glab and guest lecturer Michael Farrell are available for interviews prior to the exhibition opening and the Members Preview lecture. All interested press, please call Chene Koppitz at 810.237.7387.

ABOUT THE HODGE GALLERY

This gallery, designated for temporary exhibitions, is named in honor of Dr. Stuart Hodge, who served as the FIA's director for 21 years and acquired many of the museum's most impressive works of arts.

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.