

a newsletter for the friends of



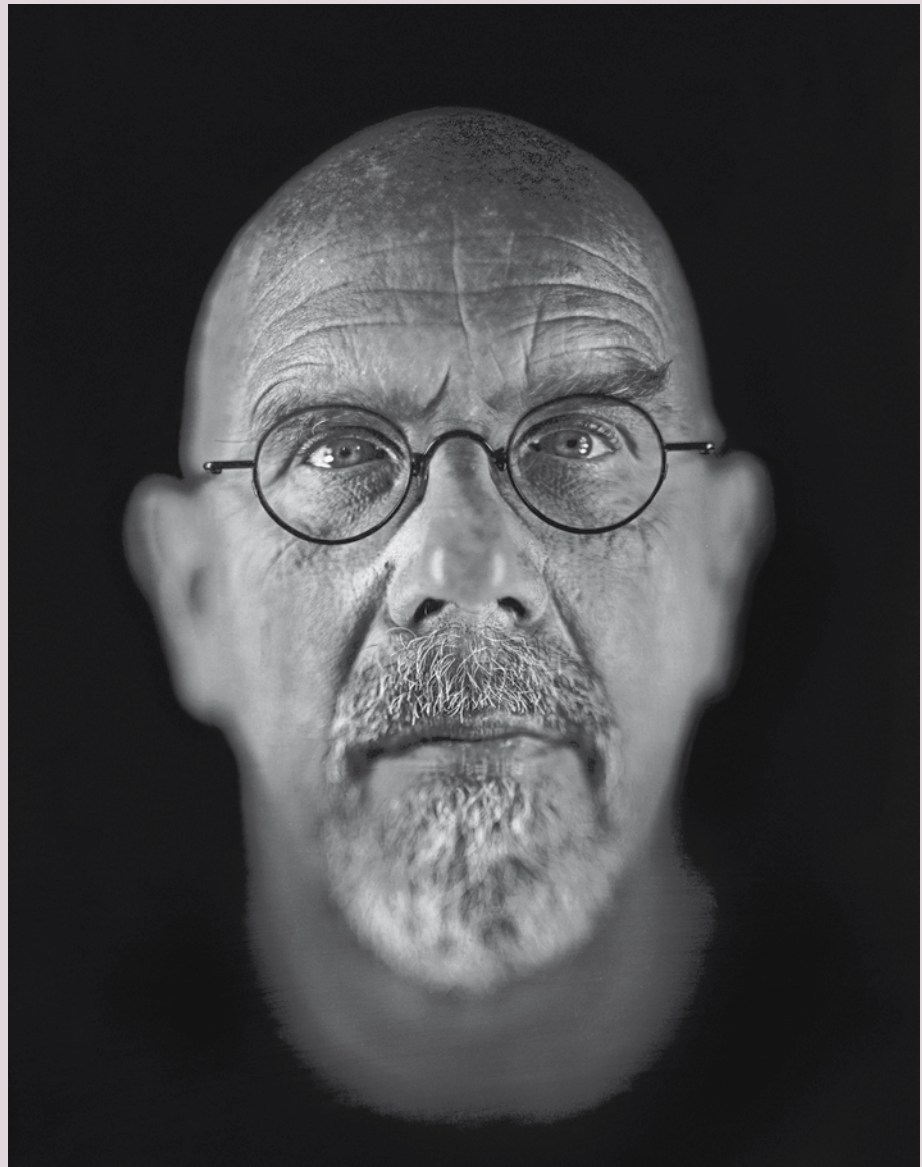
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM OF ART

On view January 15 through March 14, 2010

A COUPLE of WAYS of DOING SOMETHING

Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman

Article on page 3



*Self Portrait, Chuck Close, 2006,
courtesy Pace/MacGill, New York,
made in collaboration with
David Adamson Editions,
on view in A Couple of Ways of Doing Something.*

SPRING 2010
VOLUME 15 | NUMBER 2

ART *words*



FROM *the* DIRECTOR...



Chuck Close is among the most compelling image-makers of the last forty years, sustaining an inventive career full of surprises, all the while using the human face, his own and his friends', as his ostensible subject matter. In *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something: Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman* he explores several beautiful and archaic media for making art based on photographic images.

Close is among a number of painters and several sculptors who, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, developed quite independently of one another a style that has variously been called Photorealism, Hyperrealism, and Super Realism. Following Pop Art's frank adoption of photo media in their appropriation of popular culture imagery, the Photorealists adopted the banal photographs of American consumer culture, which they then reproduced in large scale with astonishing virtuosity and in-your-face effrontery (pun intended).

The importance of this movement was recognized by my predecessor, William Story, who acquired a substantial collection of these works for Ball State University, more than 65 in fact, mostly prints, but also paintings, watercolors, and drawings. A small selection of these, including the Documenta Portfolio from the 1972 exhibition at Kassel, Germany, will be in the Brown Study Room during the Chuck Close exhibition as historical counterpoint to his further explorations in how to make a portrait.

The one artist crucial to understanding Photorealism not in the collection as of a month ago was Richard Estes. Thanks to our friend David T. Owsley and the Alconda-Owsley foundation, that lacunae has been corrected.

— Peter F. Blume



'68 Nova, Robert Bechtle, 1972, on view in the Brown Study Room.

Among those acquisitions was a Chuck Close mezzotint, *Keith*, made in 1972 and purchased in 1974.

"This is really the most astute, and economical, way to purchase contemporary art—while the ink is still wet. Not that you can't make mistakes, but Story really didn't," Blume said.

Photorealism emerged as an American art form in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Using cameras and photographs to gather information, the Photorealists translated those visual images onto canvas. Photorealist artists worked to emphasize the impact of photography on daily life and the perception of reality in modern American culture.

Eighteen works from the museum collection will be on display in the exhibition. Artists will include Richard Estes, Robert Bechtle, Don Eddy, and Tom Blackwell.

On view January 15 through March 14, 2010

PHOTOREALISM

Visitors to the Ball State University Museum of Art will benefit because a previous director paid great attention to what was happening in the world of contemporary art in the 1970s. Now an exhibition of those acquisitions, Photorealist works from the museum's collection, will be on view in the Brown Study Room.

"William Story made acquisitions at the moment when Photorealism was coming into its own," said Director Peter Blume.

Ball State University Museum of Art
Serving East Central Indiana since 1936

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On view January 15 through March 14, 2010

A COUPLE of WAYS of DOING SOMETHING

Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman

Pioneering American painter and photographer Chuck Close, who made his name in the 1970s as part of the Photorealist movement, is best known for his large scale depictions of the human face. What most people don't realize is that Close suffers from a neurological disorder known as prosopagnosia—essentially “face blindness”—that prevents him from recognizing anyone no matter how many times he has seen them. It makes sense then that Close's portraits are only of other artists, family, and friends—faces worth remembering.

By reducing faces to a two-dimensional space, Close finds himself able to commit them to memory. He has said that while he has no memory at all for people in real space, he finds that he has an almost, well, photographic memory of them once they are flattened out.

An exhibition of Close's work will be on display at the Ball State University Museum of Art when it presents *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something: Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman*. The exhibition features intimate daguerreotypes of leading contemporary artists and includes examples of Close's other works in a variety of media, including photogravures and large-scale Jacquard tapestries.

“It is slow work,” said Director Peter Blume of Close's chosen art form. “These works of art are very large, so he might only produce four a year. But the challenge of image-making is in the medium, many of which are now archaic.”



Bob, Chuck Close, 2000, courtesy Pace/MacGill, New York, made in collaboration with Jerry Spagnoli, on view in *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something*.



Lorna, Chuck Close, 2000, courtesy Pace/MacGill, New York, made in collaboration with Jerry Spagnoli, on view in *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something*.



CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

spring

JANUARY

13 WEDNESDAY • Noon

Alliance Luncheon & Program*

The Chemical Analysis of Paints from Male Saint

Undergraduate students who enrolled in Dr. Patricia Lang's Fall 2008 dream course "The Chemistry of Artists' Pigments" participated in a truly immersive learning experience, analyzing paints on a polychrome wooden sculpture, *Male Saint*, housed in the Ball State University Museum of Art. Dr. Lang, Professor of Chemistry, will talk about the course, the chemical techniques, and the molecular composition of the paints found on this German medieval sculpture.

Prospective Alliance members free;

*Alliance members \$10 plus \$5 for lunch. **

14 THURSDAY • 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Exhibition Preview: A Couple of Ways of Doing Something: Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman

24 SUNDAY • 2:00 pm

Reel Time: Chuck Close, An Astounding Portrait

Filmmaker Marjorie Cajori tells the story of the superstar artist who paints portraits larger than life.

The genius of this film is not only that it allows the artist to illuminate his methodology (he is wonderfully articulate), but also that it features friends and colleagues (Brice Marden, Philip Glass, Kiki Smith, Elizabeth Murray, Alex Katz, Kirk Varnedoe, among others) who make important contributions to appreciating Close's gifts. In association with the current exhibition *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something: Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman*. (2007, 117 minutes)



ABOVE: *Cindy*, Chuck Close, 2000, courtesy Pace/MacGill, New York, made in collaboration with Jerry Spagnoli, on view in *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something*.

FEBRUARY

2 TUESDAY • Noon

Art at High Noon: Seasonal Interpretations

View François Boucher's *Autumn* (1736/40) alongside *An Allegorical Group of Autumn* by Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse (1868) with a museum docent.

10 WEDNESDAY • Noon

Alliance Luncheon & Program*

Illustrated Philosophy

Ball State University Professor and Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies Chairperson Dr. Juli Eflin uses works of art from the Ball State University Museum of Art to explore the history and branches of philosophy.

Prospective Alliance members free;

*Alliance members \$10 plus \$5 for lunch. **

13 SATURDAY • 2:30 pm

Tour Time: Introducing the Ball State University Museum of Art

Drop in to tour the museum and learn about the collection and the history of its development. Docents will also feature 3-4 works of art for discussion.

Groups of 5 or more, please call 765.285.3372.

14 SUNDAY • 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Family Day: Portraits and Poetry for You and Yours

In association with *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something: Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman*, the Ball State University Museum of Art hosts a family day for children of all ages with hands-on art activities, kid-friendly tours, and much, much more!

In collaboration with the Ball State University Art Education Club.

16 TUESDAY • Noon

Art at High Noon: Seasonal Interpretations

View John Ottis Adams' *The Bank (The Ebb of Day)* (1904) and Ralph Albert Blakelock's *The Golden Glow* (1880/1900) with a museum docent.

20 SATURDAY • 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Teacher Training: Picturing America

If you are an educator, come learn how to use the National Endowment for the Humanities resource "Picturing America," with links to the collection of the Ball State University Museum of Art and important museums nationwide.

In collaboration with the Indiana Humanities Council.

All programs are free unless otherwise noted.

** The cost to join the Ball State University Museum of Art Alliance is \$15 for Friends members, \$40 for non-members.*

CALENDAR *of* EVENTS

spring



MARCH

2 TUESDAY • Noon

Art at High Noon: Saints

View Maarten de Vos' *Saint John the Baptist* and *Saint Lawrence* with *Saint John the Evangelist* and *Saint Catherine* (1586) with a museum docent.

10 WEDNESDAY • Noon

Alliance Luncheon & Program*

The Creation & Nurture of Studio Potters in and sometimes of Indiana

Presented by Museum Director Peter Blume featuring work by the Overbeck sisters and more.

*Prospective Alliance members free; Alliance members \$10 plus \$5 for lunch.**

13 SATURDAY • 2:30 pm

Tour Time: Introducing the Ball State University Museum of Art

Drop in to tour the museum and learn about the collection and the history of its development. Docents will also feature 3-4 works of art for discussion.

Groups of 5 or more, please call 765.285.3372.

16 TUESDAY • Noon

Art at High Noon: Chuck Close

View the exhibition *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something: Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman* with a museum docent.

21 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm

Performing Art: Indiana Arts Commission winners

The two area Indiana Art Commission awardees, writer Elizabeth M. Dalton and musician Keith Kothman, present selected works. Dalton will read from her collection "Burying Molly," works of creative nonfiction on sisterhood past, present, and future. Kothman will present "The Coast of Nowhere" as a live digital audio performance based on field recordings and spoken text, depicting the writing of author Michael Delp and the environment around Green Lake in Interlochen, Michigan.

26 FRIDAY • 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Exhibition Preview: 75th Annual Student Art Show

30 TUESDAY • Noon

Art at High Noon: Surrealism

View Boris Margo's *Untitled* (Surrealist Landscape), from about 1945, and Stella Snead's *Tornado* (1946) with a museum docent.

APRIL

10 SATURDAY • 2:30 pm

Tour Time: Introducing the Ball State University Museum of Art

Drop in to tour the museum and learn about the collection and the history of its development. Docents will also feature 3-4 works of art for discussion. *Groups of 5 or more, please call 765.285.3372.*

13 TUESDAY • Noon

Art at High Noon: Furniture Design

View and compare selected examples of chairs from the collection with a museum docent.

14 WEDNESDAY • Noon

Alliance Luncheon & Program*

A Confluence of Objects, Meaning, and Memory

Dr. Elee Wood, Assistant Professor of Museum Studies and Teacher Education at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, explores the meaning of objects in museums and in our everyday lives in an interactive talk. Whether they stimulate memory or learning (or both), these objects provide us with opportunities to share life experiences and give new insight into the meaning that museum objects can have for visitors.

*Prospective Alliance members free; Alliance members \$10 plus \$5 for lunch.**

25 SUNDAY • 2:30 pm

First person: Student Art Show Winners

Winners from the 75th Annual Ball State University Student Art Show will discuss their work, inspiration, art student experiences, and future plans.

27 TUESDAY • Noon

Art at High Noon: Abstract Sculpture

View Theodore Roszak's *Kopernicus* (1959) and Masayuki Nagare's *Windwoven* with a museum docent.



LEFT: *Untitled* (Bendels Window, second version), Thomas Leo Blackwell, 1979, gift of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters, Hassam and Speicher Purchase Fund, on view in the Brown Study Room.



FINE ARTS *for the* HEALTH of IT



Martyrdom of St. Lawrence
Massimo Stanzione
Italian, 1628/1632
lent by David T. Owsley.

In my thirtieth year of teaching at Ball State University I was finally able to teach my dream course, “Fine Arts for the Health of It.” A longtime teacher in the core curriculum, I decided to limit this course to ten students who were not fine arts majors or minors. The purpose of the course was to have students integrate two seemingly disparate disciplines: fine arts and health science. Throughout the course, museum, theatre, dance, and music faculty provided a variety of hands-on, deconstructive experiences that enabled students to embrace the impact that fine arts has on one’s health.

A collection of readings and required attendance at performances and shows complemented the course activities. At periodic intervals, students reflected, through writings and discussions, on the impact these fine arts exposures had on their health.

The students spent three weeks of classes with the staff at the Ball State University Museum of Art. While most of these students had simply walked through the museum before, they became immersed in the museum during this course. Guided by Director Peter Blume, Associate Director Carl Schafer, and Curator of Education Tania Said, the students’ first task was to determine the message of the museum. This experience set the groundwork for later sessions on talking about art, the reflective process, the theme of family in selected works of art, art criticism, and creative writing in the museum.

As the experiences in the museum progressed, the students seemed to gain confidence in their ability to talk and write about art. At every turn, I asked the students to focus on how art might be related to some dimension of their health. Interestingly, they frequently focused on emotional and social dimensions. Common reactions were: “The Museum of Art was a peaceful, calming place to be...The best part of my day” and “I found I enjoyed the museum experiences much more when I was with someone or in a small group.”

One final event made the museum experience literally come alive to students, as they became performing actors through the encouragement of Mr. George Buss, Director of Education at Muncie’s Minnetrista. A growing trend is to use museums not just as places to look at art, but also for music, dance, and storytelling performances. Mr. Buss came to the Ball State University Museum of Art and selected a large, seventeenth century painting of a torture scene and the students “played the parts” of the eight persons pictured in the painting.

Because they were exposed to these various experiences, I believe the students who enrolled in “Fine Arts for the Health of It” will better understand the link between their health and their exposure to the fine arts. The Museum of Art was a wonderful place for students to start making these meaningful connections.

— Dale Hahn



Dale Hahn, PhD,
is Professor Emeritus
of Health in the
Department of Physiology
and Health Science at
Ball State University.

Coach trip May 1 - 2, 2010

VISIT ART CHICAGO/ MATISSE EXHIBITION *with the* MUSEUM



The Ball State University Museum of Art and the Indiana Women of Achievement Awards Committee invite you for a trip to *Art Chicago* and the Art Institute of Chicago's Matisse exhibition. This overnight trip leaves by motor coach on the morning of Saturday, May 1, with breakfast served en route, and returns the next day.

Trip participants will visit Chicago's Merchandise Mart for *Art Chicago*, the annual international fair of contemporary and modern art, which brings together the world's foremost emerging and established galleries. As the city's longest-running contemporary art exposition, *Art Chicago* offers guests a comprehensive look at current and historic work, from cutting-edge to modern masters, in a wide variety of media including painting, photography, drawing, print, sculpture, video, and special installations.

Guests will also enjoy *Matisse: Radical Invention, 1913-1917*, at the Art Institute of Chicago on May 2. The exhibition promises to move beyond the surface of Matisse's paintings from this period to examine their physical production and the context of the artist's studio practice. In shifting focus, the exhibition will reveal deep connections between works and demonstrate the artist's critical development at this time.

The cost for museum members is \$389/individual or \$600/couple.

The cost for nonmembers is \$414/individual or \$650/couple.

Price includes overnight accommodations at the Marriot Renaissance Hotel, admission to both events, roundtrip motor coach transportation, and breakfast on the way. Deadline to register is April 1.

For more information or to register, visit www.bsu.edu/artmuseum/bustours or call the museum at 765.285.5091.



February 14, 2010 • Family Day: Portraits and Poetry for You and Yours

HANDS-ON FUN *for* ALL AGES

The Ball State University Museum of Art invites guests to enjoy a day of hands-on art activities, kid-friendly tours, and much more when it hosts *Family Day: Portraits and Poetry for You and Yours* from 2 to 4:30 pm on Valentine's Day. The event is free and open to the public.

Family Day is held in collaboration with the Ball State University Art Education Club. The club's co-president, Johanna Perez, said the group is excited to be working with the museum on this event.

"It's always important to be involved with the community and we love helping build artistic expression among young people," Perez said. "We hope to see people of all ages at Family Day, where we're sure to have some fun projects and a great experience for everyone who walks through the doors."

February's Family Day is held in conjunction with the museum's current exhibition, *A Couple of Ways of Doing Something: Photographs by Chuck Close, Poems by Bob Holman*.





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MUSEUM HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
1:30 PM - 4:30 PM

765.285.5242

FREE ADMISSION

www.bsu.edu/artmuseum

Parking in the
McKinley Ave. garage
between Riverside Ave.
& University Ave.

a newsletter for the friends of



BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

MUNCIE, IN 47306

in this ISSUE

In this issue we get in your face with *A Couple Ways of Doing Something: Photographs by Chuck Close*, *Poems by Bob Holman*; Professor Emeritus of Health Dale Hahn encourages you to seek out art for the health of it; and the Indiana Women of Achievement ask you to join them on a trip to *Art Chicago*. PLUS... Notes from the Director, our Calendar of Events, and much more.



Autumn

François Boucher, French, 1736/1740

Lent by David T. Owsley



NEW IN THE GALLERIES... FRANÇOIS BOUCHER'S AUTUMN

There's a story behind this recent acquisition. David T. Owsley was intimately familiar with François Boucher's *Autumn* before he purchased it in the summer of 2009. The eighteenth century oil was in the home in which he lived with his parents in Copenhagen, where his father served as Plenipotentiary with the Department of State. When the painting became available last summer, Owsley took advantage of the situation, buying it at auction.

"*Autumn* adds to a really splendid group of eighteenth century paintings we have here in the museum collection," said Director Peter Blume.

It is believed *Autumn* was once part of a series of all four seasons, but the only other known surviving companion is *Spring*.