

An Abundant Legacy: Celebrating the UAMA Collections

Celebrating a half-century of change and growth at the University of Arizona Museum of Art, **An Abundant Legacy** highlights the instrumental vision of our directors and the generosity of our patrons who have together made the holdings so extraordinary. The exhibition surveys the story of the collections — one of collaboration and shared vision, private passions and public commitment, gifts of extraordinary largesse in perpetuity, and single irreplaceable gems.

Organized chronologically by directorship, the exhibition highlights major gifts and acquisitions to reveal the myriad relationships — local, national and international; individual; and institutional — that are instrumental in sustaining, enriching, and promoting the Museum as a resource for Tucson's communities and the world at large.



William E. Steadman, Jr

In the Gallagher Gallery

Presented here is a selection of significant gifts and acquisitions entered into the UAMA collections under the directorship of William E. Steadman, Jr., from 1961 to 1977. Mr. Steadman's tenure as director/curator encompassed a period of considerable institutional transformation: on his arrival in 1961, the UA received legal title to the Samuel H. Kress Foundation gift, and in 1968, the name change from UA Art Gallery to UA Museum of Art went into effect.

Mr. Steadman guided the donation of many important works into the UAMA collections. Recognized for his curatorial and design ambitions, he presented a diverse selection of traveling exhibitions, and organized an array of "master" retrospectives for artists including Winslow Homer, Edward Hopper, Thomas Hart Benton,

John Marin, Andrew Wyeth, Kees van Dongen, Walt Kuhn, Childe Hassam, Isabel Bishop and Reginald Marsh, among others. Notably, Mr. Steadman was also responsible for the Museum's first acquisition by purchase, in 1967, of William Robinson Leigh's *Water Pockets* (1939), on view here.

Mr. Steadman received degrees in Fine Arts from Michigan State University and from Yale University. Before coming to the UA, he served as registrar of the Avery Brundage Collection of Oriental Art (now the Asian Art Museum) in San Francisco and as director of the Museum of Fine Arts in Little Rock, Arkansas. From 1953 to 1958, he was the first curator of fine arts at the United States Military Academy, West Point, where he also established the Fine Arts Department. Mr. Steadman also held positions as acting director of the Museum Art School at the Canton (Ohio) Institute (1952-1953); as assistant director and head of the Museum School in Roswell, New Mexico; and as an art history lecturer and studio art professor at the University of New Mexico.



William E. Steadman, Jr. and Mrs. Richard A. Harvill viewing the Alfonso Medina exhibition at UAMA, 1962.