

Collecting Drama, 14 February – 31 May 2006

As the debut show in a visual arts space adjacent to a theatre, *Collecting Drama* self-consciously celebrates a theme shared across the arts. Whether acted out in a play, written in a novel, or painted on a canvas, drama is a central element in art. As Shakespeare wrote, "all the world's a stage...." *Collecting Drama* is thus our play, the paintings our actors. We present a narrative about the drama in visual art while also telling a story about art in Seattle.

The artworks that compose *Collecting Drama* are pulled together from the collections of several of The Lee Center for the Arts benefactors. For us, this adds a special meaning to the exhibit. It allows us to vividly convey the huge role Seattle's art patrons play in helping the arts to thrive in our city. *Collecting Drama* spotlights this point, expanding the concept of a donor wall into a visual tribute. The Lee Center for the Arts would not have been possible without the energy and generosity of so many.

There is also a more broad narrative in the show. In presenting Robert Rauschenberg's dream-like "Somnambulist," Cindy Sherman's confrontational masquerade, and Kenneth Callahan's swirling composition, the exhibition takes up the entire range of theatrics as its subject, from the fantastic to the pretend. The soft curves of Anthony Quinn's mask and the painted scene at the Paris Opera House, speak to the more literal construct of the stage; Quinn is a famous actor turned sculptor, and Mikhailenko turns the lobby of an opera house into her subject. Marc Chagall's lithograph, from his "A Midsummer Night's Dream" series, punctuates the point, highlighting just how much the visual arts and the performing arts are tied to one another.

Most importantly, with new walls as their stage, a massive glass curtain, and an audience built from theatre-goers, the University population, and the community at large, the work in *Collecting Drama* makes it pointedly clear that The Lee Center for the Arts is not just a space to watch actors on the stage. A new gallery for the drama of the visual arts opens in Seattle. Enjoy!

Carrie E A Scott
Curator

Seattle University would like to especially thank Dr. & Mrs. Ellsworth C. Alvord, Mr. & Mrs. James Dykeman, Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Hedreen, Mr. & Mrs. Rhoady R. Lee, Jr., Bill & Ruth True, and Betty Woods & Don Lockwood for all their help in making *Collecting Drama* possible.

Exhibition Checklist:

Kenneth Callahan

Convolusion

Year Unknown

Oil/Tempera/Board

36 X 34.5 inches framed

From the collection of Jeanne Marie and Rhoady Lee, Jr.

Marc Chagall

Midsummer Night's Dream

1973

Lithograph

22 X 14.75 inches framed

From the collection of Dr. Ellsworth and Nancy Alvord

Nina Mikhailenko

Paris Opera

1999

Watercolor

21 x 16 inches

From the collection of James and Geri Dykeman

Anthony Quinn

Dormiente

Year Unknown

Bronze

17 x 13 inches

From the collection of Betty Woods and Don Lockwood

Robert Rauschenberg

Somnambulist

1985-86

Acrylic on fabric laminated on canvas

64 x 107 3/4 inches

From the collection of Richard and Elizabeth Hedreen

Cindy Sherman

Untitled #323

1995

Cibachrome, 4/6

58.5 x 40 inches framed

From the collection of Bill and Ruth True