



Media Contact

Gina Costa
Phone: 574-631-4720
Fax: 574-631-8501
PO Box 368
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556
gcosta@nd.edu

University of **NOTRE DAME**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Modern Women's Prints

Snite Museum of Art

NOTRE DAME, IN January 14—March 18, 2018

Late in the nineteenth century, many artists in Europe and the United States became interested in printmaking as a creative process. Unlike their predecessors, these printmakers designed their own images, created their printing matrices, and pulled their own multiple originals by hand or at the press. The notion of self-reliance was comfortable to Americans, and many women and men pursued printmaking both as a hobby and as a profession.

During the 1910s and 1920s, women helped organize the spread of print clubs across the United States, and during the Great Depression they worked in the government-sponsored Works Progress Administration print shops. However, when the market for fine prints evaporated during World War II, the graphic media approached to extinction.

In 1959, Tatyana Grosmann founded United Art Limited Editions (ULAE), her print workshop on Long Island. She invited artists working in other media to visit and collaborate with professional printers on their own fine prints. Soon thereafter, the painter June Wayne opened Tamarind Lithography Workshop in Los Angeles with the support of the Ford Foundation. Aside from establishing a professional studio for the complex method of lithography, Tamarind was designed to train master printers, thereby revitalizing printmaking practice in the United States. Over the next fifty years, an unprecedented flourish of graphic art followed in this country as artists from many other visual media tried their hand at printmaking. *Modern Women's*

Snite Museum Press Release

Prints includes works printed and published by ULAE as well as those created by Tamarind-trained Master Printers.

Among the prints included in the Snite Museum exhibition are recent, newly-exhibited acquisitions, an outstanding example of which is *Triptych for the Red Room* by Louise Bourgeois. Born in France, Bourgeois arrived in New York in 1938 and began printmaking in the 1940s. Aside from her consistent work as a printmaker, she became one of the nation's leading sculptors in a career that continued until she was ninety-nine years old. Her *Triptych for the Red Room*, created to complement her installation *The Red Rooms*, treats the complex family dynamics that molded Bourgeois's personality and tormented her throughout her life.

Another featured new acquisition is Kiki Smith's lithographic polyptych *Banshee Pearls* of 1991. During the 1980s, Smith experimented with images of the body by including limbs, bones, and organs in her expressive paintings and prints. In 1980, after the death of her father, the sculptor Tony Smith, she studied anatomy and trained to be an Emergency Medical Technician. As a teenager, her father often called her a banshee for her enthusiastic squeals and, as a result, the artist learned to identify with the ancient female spirits of Gaelic folklore whose shrieks foretold a death in the family. *Banshee Pearls* includes masks and skulls, interspersed with self-portraits taken from childhood photographs, newly captured on a photocopier. The artist complemented physical motifs with drawings of flowers, seed pods, and cells, in this complex, mural-sized polyptych.

Additionally, *Modern Women's Prints* includes works by American artists drawn from the Snite Museum's permanent collection. Among the artists represented are Jennifer Bartlett, Deborah Muirhead Dancy, Grace Hartigan, Lee Krasner, Emmi Whitehorse, and Koo Kyung Sook, their work reflecting an array of printmaking techniques and cultural traditions..

Snite Museum Press Release



Emmi Whitehorse (American, b. 1957), *Untitled* (from Untitled Series), 2011, monotype, 29.75 x 22.25 inches. Acquired with funds provided by the Humana Foundation Endowment for American Art, 2013.022.002. © Emmi Whitehorse

For additional images, contact Gina Costa at gcosta@nd.edu or 574-631-4720.

The Snite Museum of Art, University of Notre Dame

The Snite Museum of Art is located on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, near South Bend, Indiana. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays Noon–5:00 p.m. Admission is free. Museum information is available at 574-631-5466 or at sniteartmuseum.nd.edu. Driving directions and parking information are available at <http://nd.edu/visitors/directions/>. Find us at facebook.com.

The Snite Museum of Art provides opportunities to enjoy, respond to, learn from, and be inspired by original works of art. As a department of the University of Notre Dame, the Museum supports teaching and research; creates and shares knowledge, celebrates diversity through the visual arts, serves the local community, and explores spiritual dimensions of art.

736 words