

**For Immediate Release****Contact:** Barbara Briggie-Smith

Tel: 515.271.0343

E-mail: bbsmith@desmoinesartcenter.org

**Des Moines Art Center exhibitions focus on delicacy in prints and on the circus in paintings**

*See captions below*

**DES MOINES, IA (January 2012)** – On February 10, the Des Moines Art Center will open two exhibitions: *Delicacies*, a print exhibition which runs through June 17 in the Print Gallery; and *Sideshow: Artists and the Circus*, which runs through April 22 in the Blank One Gallery.

Organized to celebrate the Art Center's recent acquisition of a very rare experimental color etching, *Chinese Arabesque with a Double Parasol* by Anne Allen, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century British printmaker active in France, *Delicacies* presents a group of works from the permanent collection in which artists express a sense of fragility, grace, lightness, and weightlessness. Prints and small sculptures depict an evanescent world of soft, impossibly balanced, flying, melting, and floating forms. These images are delineated in line or are evoked in transparent and luminous colors. The exhibition investigates some of the ways that artists from the eighteenth century to the present create a sense of delicacy through their imaginative visions and use of materials and techniques. Despite their apparently delicate and genteel natures, several of these delightful images are quietly subversive works.

*Delicacies* is organized by Amy N. Worthen, curator of prints and drawings.

**Related Program****Gallery Talk**

Thursday, May 17 / 6:30 pm

Print Gallery

Join Worthen for a discussion of this exhibition.

Chosen from the Art Center's permanent collection, *Sideshow: Artists and the Circus* will focus on works of art that depict the colorful costumes, flying acrobats, and exotic animals of the circus—subject matter with which artists have been fascinated throughout history. This imagery held a particular interest for two pillars of Modernism: Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso, who chose circus scenery as a vehicle for experiments in color, form, and abstraction. Conversely, American Scene artists such as John Steuart Curry and Russell Cowles captured the vibrant performers and animals as they moved across early 20<sup>th</sup>-century America, entertaining both rural and urban audiences. Among others, *Sideshow* will feature works by Yasuo Kuniyoshi and Otto Dix.

*Sideshow: Artists and the Circus* is organized by Laura Burkhalter, associate curator.

### **Related Programs**

#### **Gallery Talk**

Thursday, April 5 / 6:30 pm  
Blank One Gallery

Join Burkhalter for a discussion of this exhibition.

#### ***Sideshow* Film Series**

All films will be shown in Levitt Auditorium and begin at 1:30 pm

Since the dawn of cinema, moviemakers have been drawn to the novelty of the circus. With its elaborate costumes, exotic animals, and unusual personalities, the circus provides an attractive "anything can happen" setting for artists of all genres. For a description of the films, log onto [desmoinesartcenter.org](http://desmoinesartcenter.org).

Sunday, February 19

#### **The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari** 1919

Robert Wiene, director  
71 minutes, not rated

Sunday, February 26

#### **The Circus** 1928

Charlie Chaplin, director  
71 minutes, not rated

Sunday, March 4

#### **La Strada** 1954

Federico Fellini, director  
108 minutes, not rated

#### **Captions:**

##### **Left**

Anne Allen (French, 1748-after 1808)

*Chinese Arabesque with a Double Parasol*, from the series "Nouvelle suite de cahiers arabesque chinois à l'usage des dessinateurs et des peintres (New Suite of Notebooks of Chinese Designs for the use of Designers and Painters)," c. 1795

Color etching from two plates inked à la poupée in gray, blue, blue-green, olive-green, red, orange, and brown on pale blue-green plate toned laid paper

7 11/16 x 5 9/16 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the Des Moines Art Center Print Club, 2011.9

##### **Right**

Yasuo Kuniyoshi (American, born Japan, 1889-1953)

*Amazing Juggler*, 1952

Oil on canvas

65 3/8 x 40 1/8 inches

Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc., 1954.24

### **Des Moines Art Center**

Recognized by international art critics as a world-class museum in the heart of the Midwest, the Des Moines Art Center has amassed an important collection with a major emphasis on

contemporary art. The collection's overriding principle is a representation of artists from the 19th century to the present, each through a seminal work. This accounts for an impressive collection that ranges from Edward Hopper's *Automat* to Jasper Johns' *Tennyson*, Henri Matisse's *Woman in White*, Georgia O'Keeffe's *From the Lake No. 1*, Francis Bacon's *Study after Velázquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X*, Bill Viola's *Ascension*, and Cecily Brown's *Half-Bind*.

The Art Center's physical complex marries with the collection for a totally integrated experience. The collection is housed in three major buildings, each designed by a world-renowned architect - Eliel Saarinen, I. M. Pei, and Richard Meier. With the exception of special events, admission to the museum is free.

In September 2009, the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park opened in Des Moines' Western Gateway Park. Philanthropists John and Mary Pappajohn have provided funding for and donated 27 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, Keith Haring, Ellsworth Kelly, Willem de Kooning, Jaume Plensa, Richard Serra, Joel Shapiro, and Mark di Suvero, is the most significant donation of artwork to the Art Center in a single gift in the museum's history. The Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a collaboration of the Pappajohns, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private donors.

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