

**Collaborative Hood Exhibition Inspires Fresh Insights and Highlights Teaching Mission**



Hanover, N.H.—July 27, 2015—The Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, is honored to present the first major exhibition featuring the collection of Trevor Fairbrother, an independent curator, and John T. Kirk, a scholar of early American decorative arts, who have donated important works in their collection to the museum. Organized under seven themes—Histories, Wonders, Goods, Marks, Males, Geometries, and Surfaces—the exhibition will showcase approximately 140 paintings, drawings, photographs, and sculptures as well as early American furniture from the Fairbrother-Kirk collection alongside examples from the museum’s holdings. It features works by Andy Warhol, Marsden Hartley, Glenn Ligon, Carl Andre, Mike Kelley, Robert Wilson, Bernd and Hilla Becher, Richard Artschwager, Tom Wesselmann, Joseph Beuys, Catherine Opie, Elizabeth Peyton, Sol LeWitt, John O’Reilly, John Singer Sargent, and many others.

The exhibition will be on view from August 22 through December 6, 2015, and is accompanied by a 160-page, full-color catalogue featuring over 180 illustrations; essays by Hood Senior Curator of Collections and Barbara C. and Harvey P. Hood 1918 Curator of Academic Programming Katherine Hart, former Hood Director Michael R. Taylor, and artists John O’Reilly and James Tellin; as well as an interview with the collectors. It is distributed by University Press of New England.

During their professional careers, Trevor Fairbrother and John T. Kirk have been curators, scholars, and writers on art: Trevor on nineteenth- and twentieth-century American and contemporary art and John on American decorative arts and furniture. Describing, analyzing, and interpreting objects have been central to not only what they do but also who they are. Since the mid-1970s, Trevor Fairbrother and John T. Kirk have combined their collecting practice, selecting works based on mutual interest and a commitment to the work of contemporary artists. In their short catalogue essay, John O’Reilly and Jim Tellin describe their friends’ former house in Brookline as “an ideal world for modest small-scale works and for the discourse between anonymous craftsmen and artists of renown.”

Over the course of the past thirty years, the Hood Museum of Art has provided our audiences, and particularly Dartmouth students, with the opportunity to examine closely and interpret works of art and material culture—pulling thousands of objects each year from storage for classes to work with in the museum’s behind-the-scenes Bernstein

*Collecting and Sharing: Trevor Fairbrother,  
John T. Kirk, and the Hood Museum of Art*

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MUSEUM OF ART  
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News Release | Contact: Nils Nadeau, Head of Publishing and Communications | (603) 646-2095 | nils.nadeau@dartmouth.edu

Study-Storage Center. It is, in part, the Hood's commitment to teaching with objects that inspired Fairbrother and Kirk to give and lend works of art from their collection to the museum.

After collaborating with the Hood Museum of Art on a number of projects beginning in the 1980s, Fairbrother and Kirk began giving and lending art to the museum in 2010, and this 2015 exhibition features fifty-two of these gifts and another eighty-eight works they have lent. *Collecting and Sharing* foregrounds how these works complement the Hood's holdings in relation to certain pivotal themes and qualities—Histories, Wonders, Goods, Marks, Males, Geometries, and Surfaces—with one notable work from the Hood's collection on display in each section. These non-canonical groupings demonstrate how objects in close proximity to one another can spark fresh insights, especially when they are not otherwise encountered in such contexts. Each visitor to the exhibition can explore what the alignment of a given work to its thematic area might be, while remaining free to imagine alternate groupings as well.

To celebrate the exhibition, John T. Kirk will join with a former student, Karen Keane, Chief Executive Officer, Skinner, Inc., Boston, and frequent specialist on *Antiques Roadshow*, to present "Early American Furniture: Understanding Designs and Appreciating Surfaces," a conversation on American furniture and decorative arts, on Friday, September 25, at 4:30 p.m., in the Hood Museum of Art auditorium. A reception will follow in the Kim Gallery. Katherine Hart, Hood Senior Curator of Collections and Barbara C. and Harvey P. Hood 1918 Curator of Academic Programming, will conduct a special tour of the exhibition on Saturday, October 10, at 2:00 p.m. Trevor Fairbrother will present a lecture, titled "Andy Warhol = Nobody's Fool," on Warhol and his legacy, on Wednesday, October 28, at 5:00 p.m. In addition, Robert Gober, one of the most inventive and acclaimed sculptors working today, will discuss his work and career in a conversation with Fairbrother on Tuesday, November 10, at 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Finally, the collectors will offer some thoughts on the installation and themes of the exhibition in a lunchtime gallery talk on Tuesday, November 17, at 12:30 p.m.

*This exhibition was organized by the Hood Museum of Art and generously supported by the Hansen Family Fund and the Bernard R. Siskind Fund.*

**About the Hood Museum of Art**

The mission of the Hood Museum of Art, as a teaching museum, is to create an ideal learning environment that fosters transformative encounters with works of art. This dynamic educational and cultural facility houses one of the oldest and largest college collections in the country, with more than 70,000 objects acquired since 1772. Among its most important works are six Assyrian stone reliefs that date from around 900 BCE. The collection also presents art from other ancient cultures, the Americas, Europe, Africa, Papua New Guinea, and many more regions of the world. The Hood seeks to inspire and

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educate through direct engagement with original works of art and offers access to the rich diversity of its collections through ongoing highlights displays, special exhibitions, an online collections database, and a wide array of programs and events.

**About Dartmouth**

Founded in 1769, Dartmouth is a member of the Ivy League and consistently ranks among the world's greatest colleges and universities. Dartmouth has forged a singular identity for combining its deep commitment to outstanding undergraduate liberal arts and graduate and professional education with distinguished research and scholarship in the arts and sciences and its three leading professional schools—the Geisel School of Medicine, Thayer School of Engineering, and the Tuck School of Business.

**Media Contacts:**

Hood Museum of Art

Nils Nadeau: (603) 646-2095 • [nils.a.nadeau@dartmouth.edu](mailto:nils.a.nadeau@dartmouth.edu)

Dartmouth College Office of Public Affairs

(603) 646-3661 • [office.of.public.affairs@dartmouth.edu](mailto:office.of.public.affairs@dartmouth.edu)

**Image caption:** McDermott & McGough, *Keyhole*, 1988, oil on linen. Lent by Trevor Fairbrother and John T. Kirk.

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