

Racine, WI October 19, 2012

Creators Explore Irish Novelist and Poet James Joyce

Active early in the twentieth century, Irish novelist and poet James Joyce has been a highly influential and compelling figure for other creative minds. Open October 21, 2012 through February 3, 2013, ***Creator and Character: Artists Interpret James Joyce*** includes works that were donated to the Racine Art Museum (RAM) by Karen Johnson Boyd and feature prints that focus on Joyce as subject. Mrs. Boyd originally acquired these works with the intent of organizing an exhibition with this material. RAM is pleased to present her original exhibition at the museum.

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Richard Hamilton
In Horne's House, 1981-82
Etching and aquatint, 62/120

Perhaps best known for *Ulysses* (1922), a work based on Homer's ancient Greek epic poem, the *Odyssey*, Joyce wrote novels, short stories, and poetry. He has been identified as a prominent individual in the avant-garde literary and artistic circles of the early twentieth century. Joyce's manipulations of language and narrative were matched by a demanding and resolute personality as well as a relatively colorful personal life. He and his works are celebrated in cities around the world on "Bloomsday," that is, June 16 (the day chronicled in *Ulysses*).

Many of the artists in *Creator and Character* have engaged with Joyce's literature over a startlingly long period, blending their artistic development with an evolving reading of his works over the course of their lives. This exhibition includes portraits of Joyce as well as reflections on the content and the characters in his works. The artists whose pieces are gathered here, including two major figures of modern art, were drawn to Joyce for various reasons. As one might expect, the creators' interpretations match their own interests, working styles, and project needs. Those featured include Peter Blake, Gisele Freund, Richard Hamilton, David Levine, Robert Motherwell, and Paul Wunderlich.

This exhibition is made possible by: Presenting Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, Emile H. Mathis II Estate, in Memory of his Parents: Emil H. and Anna T. Mathis, RAM Society Members, S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., Windgate Charitable Foundation; Gold Sponsor - Racine United Arts Fund; Silver Sponsors - Elwood Corporation, Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation, Racine Community Foundation, W.T. Walker Group, Inc., Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors - The A. C. Buhler Family, Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, CNH America LLC, E.C. Styberg Foundation, Inc., Educators Credit Union, In Sink Erator, The Marjorie L. Christiansen Foundation, Midwest Contemporary Glass Art Group, The Norbell Foundation, Real Racine, Runzheimer Foundation, Wisconsin Public Radio.

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open to the public Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon - 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.

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