Bring Home the Bride': Hovenden’s Painting in the Context of Its Time

This spring Dr. Mary Swanson coordinated the exhibition of the painting and the program, "Bringing Home the Bride: Hovenden’s Painting in the Context of its Time."

"Bringing Home the Bride" is the title of an 1893 painting by Thomas Hovenden. The painting, part of the St. Thomas art collection, was donated by William Considine with assistance from Stan Nyquist, MBA program director. The large painting (5' X 7') originally hung in the art gallery of the World's Columbian Exposition, the 1893 world's fair in Chicago.

Hovenden, who died in 1895, is known as an outstanding genre painter of the 19th century and lived and worked in Pennsylvania. In 1886 the Irish immigrant succeeded Thomas Eakins at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Many scholars from varied disciplines became involved in the program, an opportunity to discuss America in the 1890s, particularly gender issues, culture and customs, and family life. Students and faculty wrote essays and gave lectures examining cultural and historical aspects of America in the 1890s.

The painting is displayed in Room 102, O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library Center, along with photographs and other artifacts of the period, including wedding clothing. Auxiliary exhibits are in the Art Space Gallery in Brady Educational Center and the second-floor art gallery at the downtown Minneapolis campus. The exhibitions run through May 31.

"Bringing Home the Bride," an 1893 painting by Thomas Hovenden, is the focal point of a program at St. Thomas this spring. Exhibitions and presentations examine America in the 1890s, including gender issues, culture and customs, and family life.
Sculpture Garden to Enhance New Science and Engineering Center

Commissions are well under way for the sculpture garden, interior mural drawings, and stained glass windows to be installed in the new Science and Engineering Center (SEC).

The buildings, located directly across from Loras Hall at the corner of Summit and Cretin avenues, will open in September 1997. Dr. Mark Stansbury-O’Donnell chairs the ad hoc committee responsible for developing the SEC art program.

The artists have taken as their starting point mathematical and scientific principles; the history and tools of math, science, and engineering; and the learning experience itself. The sculpture garden will reflect the goals and activities of the SEC and the university, establish a distinctive visual identity for this busy corner of the university and the community, and create an area that encourages human interaction.

Projects range from John Raimondi’s monumental steel, “Cage,” to Steven Jensen’s series of life-size figures, “In the Beginning ... Was the Word.” On the south building tower, Jantje Visscher’s stained-glass windows will draw their inspiration from moiré or interference patterns of the kind that occur in nature. Roman Verostko’s mural drawings, to be hung in the south building near the auditorium, are based on a form that is generated algorithmically by computer code and drawn by a plotter.

Check Out the Video Collection

We have added eight new videos to our collection this semester: “The River,” “The Art of Indonesia,” “Tales From the Shadow Land,” “The Maya: Temples; Tombs and Time,” “Daughters of the Anasazi,” “Faith Ringgold: The Last Story Quilt,” “African Art,” “Pacific Passages: An Up-Close Look at the Islands and Peoples of the Pacific,” and “Aboriginal Art.”

M.A. Proposal Update

The proposal for a master’s program in art history at St. Thomas has received the approval of the faculty committee. The proposal is now in the hands of the administration for their decision, and will then be voted upon by the board of trustees.

Donor Adds to UST Art Collection

“Moving Camp,” a painting by Gary Schildt, was given to the university by Sally Leafman Appelbaum. This gift is a wonderful addition to our permanent collection.

Get your news to ARTHfacts

Please mail your ARTHfacts contributions to Sue Focke, LOR 302, or call (612) 962-5560 with your comments and ideas.

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Great Opportunities for Students

Thinking About an Internship? If you are interested in interning at a local gallery, historical society, art center, or museum, call our internship coordinator, Ginger Moraczewski, 962-5562. Internships for the summer are still available. Stop by for an updated list of application deadlines and contact people. Get a head start on fall and winter internships by completing your résumé this summer.

HECUA’s (Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs) “City Arts” program offers art history and studio arts students attending ACTC colleges a unique opportunity to spend a semester studying and working in the arts in Minneapolis each spring. Its semester-long interdisciplinary program includes an internship placement in a community-based arts organization; a readings seminar which also requires papers based on theoretical and critical texts relating to the arts; lectures and discussions led by community arts leaders; and a field seminar in which students reflect on and share experiences relating to the internship. Three UST art history majors have participated in the program since 1995. Call 646-8831 for additional information.

The Young Scholars Program, now in its ninth year, is designed to assist undergraduate students in engaging more fully in the study of a particular academic discipline. The program offers a $2500. stipend to students to support a 10-week, full-time research project during the summer. Students must submit a written report detailing the results of their research when the study is completed. For additional information call Dr. Mary Swanson, 962-5560.

NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) was held April 24-26 at the University of Texas at Austin. Students are selected based on their research project and present either an oral or a poster presentation at the conference. Travel grants are available for 10 participants. Paper proposals are due in Dr. Mary Swanson’s office by Nov. 10, 1997. Wendy Singer presented a paper at the 1997 conference. For more information call Swanson, 962-5560.
Faculty News

Welcome to Carol Frenning, who comes to St. Thomas after having taught art and architectural history at Metropolitan State University since 1980. Her main research focus is on American religious architecture. She works as well as a liturgical design consultant on projects throughout the country. She is active in local and national chapters of the North American Academy of Liturgy and the Society of Architectural Historians as well as chair of the art and environment committee for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Carol is teaching Modern Architecture this semester.

Welcome to Chip Sheffield, who is teaching Introduction to Art History II this spring. He received an M.A. in the history of art from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a B.S. in philosophy from the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He currently is completing his dissertation, "The Myth of the Peasant in Norwegian Painting (1880-1920) from Naturalism to Modernist Expressionism," at Bryn Mawr College. He has two forthcoming book reviews.

Dr. Susan Webster published an article titled "The Descent from the Cross in Sixteenth-Century New Spain" in The Early Drama, Art, and Music Review. She presented a paper, "Confratellities and Popular Religion in the Colonial Americas," at the International Congress of the Medieval Studies Association in May. Acting chair of the department for spring semester, Susan received a $6,600 Maxi Grant to conduct research on art, ritual, and confratellities in Mexico and Ecuador this summer. She also was named Aquinas Scholars Professor of the Year by students in the UST honors program.

Dr. Mary Swanson will be a lecturer for the Smithsonian Institution's study tour of Norway July 12-26. She presented a paper, "Ethnicity and Finnish Textiles," April 26 in Chicago at a symposium sponsored by North Park College and the Finnish Embassy.

Dr. Mark Stansbury-O'Donnell is on sabbatical revising his book on the analysis of pictorial narrative in Greek art. He will be teaching two classes first summer session.

Dr. Shelly Nordtrop-Madson presented a paper in Denmark in April. She wrote an article titled "Wedding Fashions of the 1890s" for the Hovenden exhibition.

Anne D'Alleva delivered a paper, "Dance Grounds as Sacred Space in Eighteenth-Century Tahiti," at the annual conference of the College Art Association in February. She has received a UST Research Assistance Grant and will spend the summer doing archival research in Hawaii and Australia. She will return in August to deliver a paper on the artistic traditions of the Pitcairn Islands at the biennial South Seas Symposium, to be held in Albuquerque, N.M.

Student and Alumni News

Congratulations to our May graduates: Majors Kari Amundson, Catherine Damico, Rebecca Frenning, Becky Goldstrand, Mary Monn, Helen Stidger, Noreen Waters (cum laude) and minors Ashley Drake, Tesa Furst, Molly Mulgrew, Kathleen Noon, Patricia Rosensteel, Wendy Singer, Jorge Sosa.

Jenny Jacobs graduated in December. She now works as site manager at the Hennepin County History Museum. Her plans include graduate school in philosophy, fall 1998.

April Yarbrough and her husband, John, have a new son, Maxwell Bultman. Max joins a big brother, Eddie.

Cat Damico, Jennifer Geffre and Jennifer Jacobs wrote essays for the Thomas Hovenden exhibition publication featuring the 1893 painting, "Bringing Home the Bride."

Kari Amundson interns at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Margaret Bermal graduated in December from Tufts University with an M.A. in art history.

Deb Bauer '92 was promoted to full editor at Juntunen Video in Minneapolis.

Michelle Capistrant '96, interned at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts this past winter. Look for Michelle's article on the 3M billboard project in the upcoming ARTS magazine.

Renee Firner has been awarded the Young Scholars Award to assist her with a 10-week research project over the summer.

Jennifer Geffre assists with exhibitions and interns 20 hours a week at McNamara Publishing's marketing and advertising departments.

Becky Goldstrand interns at HECUA. Tom Begley interned there last fall.

Wendy Singer presented "Reminders of Death and Lessons for Life: Vanitas and Memento Mori Paintings of the Spanish Golden Age" at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research in April at the University of Texas at Austin.

Heather Thimm is spending spring semester studying in Spain.

The Rev. Paul McGee '89 is associate pastor at St. Hubert's Church in Chanhassen. He related he is impressed with the growth of the art history program. When he started here as a student, the department was a windowless office in O'Shaughnessy Educational Center with two full-time and one adjunct professor.

Please welcome the following new art history majors and minors: Majors Zania Fleming and Ryan Glovak and minors Sally Brandt, Gina Heubner and Margaret Kogan; and studio arts/art history major Thomas Throop.
Spend a 1998 January Term Abroad
"Paris, Florence and Rome: Art and Aesthetics": Spend Jan. 8-29, 1998, visiting museums and galleries in Paris, Florence and Rome. Walk down narrow, medieval Parisian streets; visit the Louvre and Musée d’Orsay; visit Renaissance palaces and churches and experience the paintings in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence; visit the Vatican and St. Peter’s and view Roman and Baroque monuments. Dr. Mary Swanson and Dr. Thomas Sullivan, professor of philosophy at UST will lead the tour.

"Converging Cultures in the Yucatan Peninsula": Head south to the sunny Yucatan Peninsula Jan. 4-25, 1998. Dr. Susan Webster will lead the course, designed to familiarize students with the visual culture and history of the Yucatan peninsula before, during and after the Spanish conquest. Major Mayan sites such as Chichén Itzá and Uxmal will be explored. The nature and context of the Spanish conquest and subsequent evangelization of the Mayan peoples are investigated through an exploration of numerous colonial Franciscan monasteries and the charming colonial cities of Mérida and Valladolid.

Check Out These New Fall Courses
"Arts of Africa and the African Diaspora" will focus on the visual arts of New World cultures with African roots. Art forms to be discussed include architecture, sculpture, painting, masks and performances. The course will explore the African origins of these traditions as well as the unique ways that they have changed and grown in the New World.

"Art of the Pacific Islands" will focus on the art of this region from prehistory to the present. Cultures to be studied include Hawaii, New Zealand, Easter Island, Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, the Solomon Islands, Indonesia and the Philippines, and Australia. This course will cover architecture, painting, sculpture, tattoo and body ornament, and masking traditions, and pay particular attention to the changes that have occurred in artistic practice in the post-contract period.

Dr. Susan Webster received notification of her tenure and promotion from the Rev. Dennis Dease, St. Thomas president. It was not official, however, until she was granted tenure (as is the custom in the Art History Department) by her co-workers. A ceremony was held at La Cucaracha where Susan received the mantle, scepter and crown of tenure along with a reading of a proclamation outlining her accomplishments and future duties. Congratulations, Susan!