

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEAST YOUR EARS ON THE ART INSTITUTE'S FIRST PODCAST!

Free Art Institute "Musecast" Now Available

Learn More About the Museum's Collection and Programming

Through Exclusive Interviews, Conversations, Features, and Music

The Art Institute of Chicago announces the inauguration of its podcast "magazine," the **Art Institute of Chicago Musecast**, which is now available for downloading. Musecast is the first produced podcast about the museum's offerings, and a new "episode" will be released every six weeks, beginning December 19. The podcasts can be listened to online at the Art Institute of Chicago's web site, www.artic.edu/aic or downloaded via iTunes to individual computers and MP3 players. Podcasts are available free through the iTunes music store.

Each Art Institute Musecast runs approximately 15 minutes and consists of short feature segments about the museum's collections and programming. For the past several months, select lectures and gallery talks have been available for downloading from the museum's web site, but the Musecast brings the collection alive for the first time through produced interviews, conversations, features, and music.

The first episode, available now, highlights current exhibitions at the museum as well as ongoing programs. Listeners can hear the museum's role in *Silk Road Chicago* as they are introduced to Betti Xiang, a Silk Road Ensemble musician

who has been and will continue to be featured as a musician-in-residence at the museum. Xiang, a virtuoso on the *erhu* (a two-stringed Chinese instrument played with a bow and, at times, percussively), explains and plays the *erhu* in this segment of the podcast while she discusses the folk music of China and the themes of the Silk Road in a conversation with Mary Sue Glosser, the director of performance programs at the Art Institute.

The second feature of the podcast takes listeners from the Silk Road to the emergency room as Sarah Alvarez, a lecturer in the museum's Department of Education, conducts a training session with a group of nursing students from the University of Chicago. Alvarez is a coordinator in the museum's Art Express program, which is designed to bring the museum's collection to schools, workplaces, and communities. For the student nurses, Alvarez devised an exercise in sustained looking that hones the students' visual diagnostic skills. Listeners can hear in the podcast the spirited discussion of Alvarez and the nursing students as they examine Picasso's *Old Guitarist*.

Artforum magazine named the museum's current *focus* exhibition, *Mel Bochner—Language 1966-2006*, one of the best exhibitions of the year. The third segment of the podcast features a conversation between Bochner—a conceptual artist who has worked consistently with language from the beginning of his career—and the exhibition's co-curator Mark Pascale from the museum's Department of Prints and Drawings, paying particular attention to Bochner's works on paper.

Finally, the podcast updates listeners on the construction of the Art Institute's Modern Wing and offers a summary of events at the museum through the holidays.

The second podcast, to be released in early February, will feature some of the local designers highlighted in the museum's *Young Chicago* exhibition; a conversation between a local art dealer and curator Douglas Druick in honor of the museum's *Cézanne to Picasso: Ambroise Vollard, Patron of the Avant-Garde* exhibition that opens February 17; and surprising stories of love that have

blossomed inside the Art Institute's limestone walls.

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The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park.

FALL/WINTER MUSEUM HOURS

10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Thursday. **Ford Free Evenings after 5:00 p.m.**

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday.

Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

Please check www.artic.edu before your visit.

Admission: Adults, \$12.00; children 12 and over, students, and seniors, \$7.00; children under 12 free; members always free. Ford Free Evenings are free to all, except for certain special exhibitions that may require full or extra admission fee. City of Chicago residents with Chicago Public Library cards can borrow a "Check Us Out" card from any library branch for free general admission to the nine members of Museums in the Park, including the Art Institute of Chicago. To reach the Art Institute on the World Wide Web, contact us at: <http://www.artic.edu/aic>

The Art Institute of Chicago is a museum in Chicago's Grant Park, located across from Millennium Park.