

# THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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## ART INSTITUTE OPENS EXHIBITION OF WORKS ON PAPER

### CELEBRATING MAJOR GIFT FROM ADELE AND WILLARD GIDWITZ

#### Endowment, Exhibition Testify to Gidwitz Commitment

The Art Institute of Chicago will open *Adele and Willard Gidwitz: Creating a Collection of Postwar Works on Paper at the Art Institute of Chicago*, an exhibition of ten major works of art on paper funded by the Gidwitz family, on **May 5, 2007**, in **Galleries 141 and 142**. The exhibition, open until August 5, 2007, is not only a showcase of work from some of the most significant artists of the postwar era but also a celebration of a significant gift by the Gidwitz family to the museum. This gift, the Adele and Willard Gidwitz Endowment, will be used to fund future acquisitions for the Department of Prints and Drawings.

Over the past two decades, the generosity of the Gidwitz family has enabled the Art Institute to acquire nine drawings and one unique print by some of the most important Western postwar artists. The Gidwitzes worked closely with Art Institute curators to identify and acquire for the museum significant works by Frank Auerbach, Georg Baselitz, Richard Diebenkorn, Adolph Gottlieb, Philip Guston, Alex Katz, Gerhard Richter, David Smith, and Tom Wesselman.

“What is remarkable about this choice group of works is how tremendously each acquisition enriches the museum’s holdings; many are the only unique works on paper by the artists. The Art Institute is fortunate to have maintained this creative partnership with the Gidwitz family, the success of which demonstrates the fruits of patient and sustained consideration of individual artists and the

collection as a whole,” said Suzanne Folds McCullagh, Anne Vogt Fuller & Marion Titus Searle Curator of Prints & Drawings at the Art Institute.

Many of the works on view in Galleries 141 and 142 were produced at pivotal moments in the artists’ careers. The two drawings by Diebenkorn from 1955 and 1966—one figurative, one abstract—demonstrate his facility with and interest in the divergent artistic styles of the postwar years. A particularly vibrant, movement-filled gouache, *Untitled* (1955) by acclaimed sculptor David Smith, dates from a period of furious creativity for the artist and relates to two of his sculptures, *Raven II* (1955) and *Raven I* (1956). Adolph Gottlieb’s *Crypt* (1945-47) was the first work from his *Pictograph* series to enter the museum’s collection, and it represents an attempt by the artist to use simplified, elemental forms to create a more universal language of expression.

The works from the Gidwitz collection also showcase the process of art making for these seminal artists. Alex Katz’s monumental final preparatory drawing (1982) for his painting *Red Coat* is more than eight feet tall, and the visible pin-pricks Katz made along the outlines of the image to transfer it to the canvas indicate a working practice grounded in that of the old masters. Gerhard Richter’s synergistic *24-3-86* (1986) is a conceptually intricate work; here, Richter has essentially made a drawing in paint not on paper but on an enlarged photograph of one of his previous paintings. Tom Wesselman’s charcoal study, *Drawing for Still-Life #12* (1962), a magisterial early Pop Art drawing, experiments with perspective, space, and scale, all in the guise of a traditional still-life.

Over the past 22 years, the Gidwitz Family’s generous support of the Art Institute of Chicago has enabled the Department of Prints and Drawings to add many high-quality and important postwar works on paper to its collection. Undoubtedly, the newly established Adele and Willard Gidwitz Endowment will continue to advance and enrich the museum’s holdings in much the same manner.

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

**SPRING MUSEUM HOURS**

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

10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Thursday. 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](http://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.** 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.**