

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

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SUMMER EXHIBITIONS AT ART INSTITUTE'S RYERSON AND BURNHAM LIBRARIES OFFER RARE PERSPECTIVE ON EVERYDAY OBJECTS

Typography and Maps from the Library's Collection Evidence of Transformative Historical Moments

The Art Institute of Chicago announces two exhibitions of rarely seen historical materials at the Ryerson and Burnham Libraries that document radical cultural shifts in the 19th and 20th centuries. The first exhibition, *Typing for Tomorrow*, is open until July 31, 2007, and features the work of modern artists who understood print and typography as a means to political and social transformation. Opening July 31, 2007, is *Paris: The Capital of the 19th Century par arrondissement*. This exhibition of historical maps, linked to the city's "Festival of Maps," documents the radical revisioning of Paris as the city was made "modern" in the middle of the 19th century. Together these exhibitions demonstrate the utopian hopes and optimistic energy of artists and urban planners facing the future.

Typing for Tomorrow delves into the belief of many artists working in the early 20th century that how information was communicated was just as important as the information itself. During this period of pronounced industrial and technological change, advertising and other printed materials became ubiquitous in urban centers in Europe. Inspired by printed ephemera, artists such as Filippo Tommaso Marinetti, László Moholy-Nagy and El Lissitzky created unique typographical styles they felt were more

appropriate to the modern age and to the political change they hoped to bring about. These styles brought together form and function, befitting their roots in Italian Futurism, Russian Constructivism and the Bauhaus. The works from the Libraries' collection on view here include books, periodicals, and exhibition catalogues, and they highlight how this international group of artists influenced and inspired each other to bring the art of typography into the public arena.

Paris: The Capital of the 19th Century par arrondissement will focus on topographical representations of the neighborhoods, or *arrondissements*, that make up the French capital. Paris experienced extraordinary growth and transformation in the 19th century, changes that particularly influenced the Impressionist artists that painted the train stations, boulevards, and parks of the "new" Paris. In an effort to modernize a city with medieval roots (and medieval traffic patterns), civic leaders and urban planners undertook one of the most significant urban revisions in history. After 1860, Paris expanded from 12 to 20 arrondissements that spiraled out from the city's center, arrondissements that were supported by modern sewage and water delivery systems, wider streets, and broad boulevards. The maps on view in *Paris* document these changes as well as a host of others, including the relocation of marketplaces and the sites of 19th-century tourist attractions. The content of the exhibition comes from plates from the ultimate edition of a work issued in the 1870s designed to document the various states of urban planning as well as the architecture that resulted from the five international expositions that Paris hosted from 1855 to 1900. This exhibition will close on December 4, 2007.

The Ryerson and Burnham Libraries are one of the largest art museum libraries in the world. They house a research collection of national and international significance

consisting of monographs on art and architecture, exhibition catalogs, art and architecture journals, auction catalogs, microfilm and microfiche, pamphlet files, and archival materials. Exhibitions of their collection are ongoing and can be viewed in the Reading Room, designed by Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge in 1899-1901 and fully restored in 1994.

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SUMMER HOURS

MAY 31 TO AUGUST 31

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

10:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Target Free Summer 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. Target Free Summer 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.