

**YALE
UNIVERSITY
ART
GALLERY**

FACT SHEET

TELLING A LARGER STORY: COLLECTING MINIATURES FOR A NEW CENTURY

WHAT

Telling a Larger Story: Collecting Miniatures for a New Century complements the concurrent exhibition *Art for Yale: Collecting for a New Century*. On display are new acquisitions from the Gallery's collection of American miniatures, spanning the heyday of the art form in this country.

WHEN

The exhibition is on view **September 18, 2007–January 13, 2008**

WHERE

Yale University Art Gallery
1111 Chapel Street (at York Street), New Haven, Connecticut

DESCRIPTION

Among the miniatures on display in *Telling a Larger Story* are works of incredible beauty and historical consequence, dating from around 1760 to 1850. Many specialists in the field are represented, including John Brewster, Jr., Anson Dickinson, William M. S. Doyle, Sarah Goodridge, Nathaniel Hancock, Anna Claypoole Peale, Walter Robertson, and Moses B. Russell and his wife, Clarissa Peters. Also on display are rare, signed miniatures by the folk artist Aramenta Dianthe Vail. In several instances, the miniatures exhibited are the first works by these artists to enter the Gallery's collection. Painted in watercolor on ivory and sometimes framed to be worn as jewelry, these small portraits or tiny scenes of romance or mourning often served as a way to hold onto absent loved ones. They were commissioned by couples celebrating their marriage or the birth of their first child, by young wives grieving for husbands lost to war or disease, by parents filled with joy or suffering devastating loss. Each keepsake is a significant work of art in its own right; together they help us to tell the story of miniature painting in America, and the larger tale of the miniature's unique role in social history.

The exhibition was organized by Robin Jaffee Frank, the Alice and Allan Kaplan Senior Associate Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture.

**YALE UNIVERSITY
ART GALLERY**

Founded in 1832, when patriot-artist John Trumbull donated to Yale College more than 100 of his paintings, the Yale University Art Gallery is the **oldest college art museum in the United States**. Today, the Gallery's encyclopedic collection numbers more than **185,000 objects, ranging in date from ancient times to the present day**. These holdings comprise a

world-renowned collection of American paintings and decorative arts; outstanding collections of Greek and Roman art, including the artifacts excavated at the ancient Roman city of Dura-Europos; the Jarves, Griggs, and Rabinowitz Collections of early Italian paintings; European, Asian, and African art from diverse cultures, including the Charles B. Benenson Collection of African art; art of the ancient Americas; the Société Anonyme Collection of early twentieth-century European and American art; and Impressionist, modern, and contemporary works.

**PUBLIC
INFORMATION**

The Gallery is located at 1111 Chapel Street, in New Haven, Connecticut. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Thursday until 8:00 PM, September–June); Sunday 1:00 to 6:00 PM; closed Mondays and major holidays. Open to the public; free admission. Public information: 203.432.0600, or <http://artgallery.yale.edu>.

Press Information

For additional information and visual materials, please contact Amy Jean Porter, Associate Director of Communications, at 203.432.0611 or amy.porter@yale.edu.