

**“NIGHT OUT” CELEBRATES ARTISTIC LEGACY OF LGBT ARTISTS,
DECEMBER 1, 2005**

The Yale University Art Gallery teams up with the University’s Larry Kramer Initiative for Gay and Lesbian Studies (LKI) and the Beinecke Rare Books and Manuscript Library to host “Night Out,” a landmark event in observance of Day With(out) Art on Thursday, December 1, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. The event, which takes place at the Gallery and is free and open to the public, will present paintings, sculptures, and prints from the collection that engage imagery and issues of sexuality. This is the first time that a major American museum has examined its collection specifically through the lens of sexuality.



Charles Demuth, *Man with Sailor* (study for *On That Street*), 1932. Graphite, 11 x 8 5/8 in. (27.9 x 21.9 cm). Yale University Art Gallery, Gift of Dr. and Mrs. William R. Hill in memory of Richard Weyand

Jonathan Katz, Director of LKI, will give talks and lead discussion throughout the evening, offering ways for audiences to understand and speak about complex works in straightforward language. Katz will address such topics as how sexuality has been represented absent the body; how to read sexuality through clues within images; and how to discuss artists’ sexuality – and what it means when an artist lived before the language of homosexuality existed. Rarely seen works by artists such as George Bellows, Charles Demuth, Winslow Homer, Robert Morris, and Louise Nevelson will be featured.

Mr. Katz stated, “There has historically been pressure in the museum world not to talk about sexuality, and Night Out leads the way towards consideration of lesbian and gay artists *as* lesbian and gay artists. The collection of the Yale Art Gallery includes many important works that express sexuality, which is remarkable considering these works were not specifically collected for that purpose. It’s striking, in 2005, the Yale Art Gallery is the first in the nation to mount a display of lesbian- and gay-themed works from its own collection. I hope other museums realize it’s safe to follow Yale’s example.”

Other scholars and graduate students will also be on hand for discussion, and the Gallery’s study rooms will be opened to the public. Michael Hatt, Head of Research at the Yale Center for British Art, will discuss works from the nineteenth century, and Crawford Alexander Mann, a graduate student in the History of Art at Yale, will discuss objects on view in the American Galleries. The Gallery’s Print Study Room will feature additional works and will be open on a first-come first-served basis. Many of the works will be brought out on view for a limited time only and then removed – as a tribute to Day With(out) Art and the loss of artists and art due to the AIDS crisis. A moment of silence will take place at 6:30 PM to commemorate these artists and this day of national recognition. A special AIDS portfolio from the

collection of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs will also be on view, featuring prints that address the crisis in the 1980s. Included in the portfolio are works by artists such as Jim Hodges, Frank Moore, Jack Pierson, and Lari Pittman.

Pamela Franks, the Gallery's Curator of Academic Initiatives, said the Gallery is thrilled to host Night Out and praised the interdisciplinary nature of the event, which will shed new light on the Gallery's collection. Ms. Franks noted "The Gallery is committed to looking at its collection from many angles, including that of sexuality, and we have found the collection to be rich in gay and lesbian works. As a university museum, we listen to students and take note of their interests and questions about art. We have a special responsibility to take positions that advance knowledge and understanding."

Other events for the evening include continuous film screenings of short pieces that address art and the AIDS crisis. The night is foremost a commemoration and an opportunity for meaningful dialogue presented in an informal manner.

Day With(out) Art

Day With(out) Art began in 1989 as a day of celebration and mourning intended to educate the public about the growing HIV/AIDS crisis. Today, thousands of cultural institutions and AIDS groups participate annually in Day With(out) Art either by closing their doors for the day or by planning special programming to call attention to the impact of HIV/AIDS on the artistic community. Initially named "Day Without Art," parentheses were added in 1997 to reflect how prolonged medical treatment has been successful in extending the lives of artists with HIV/AIDS. As more and more people began coping and learning to live with the illness, Day "With(out) Art" became a day both of loss and of hope.

Yale University Art Gallery

Founded in 1832, when patriot-artist John Trumbull donated to Yale College more than one hundred of his paintings, the Yale University Art Gallery is the oldest college art museum in the United States. Today, the Gallery's encyclopedic collections number 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 recently acquired 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. The Gallery is both a collecting and an educational institution, and all activities are aimed at providing an invaluable resource and experience for Yale University faculty, staff, and students, as well as for the general public.

The Gallery is free and open to the public: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM (Thursday until 8 PM, September–June); Sunday 1–6 PM. Closed Mondays and major holidays. 1111 Chapel (at High Street), New Haven, Connecticut. For more information, please visit <http://artgallery.yale.edu>.

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