

**News Release
Public Information
Department**

January 2001

A Unique View Inside: "A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects"
at the Brooklyn Museum of Art March 2 through July 1, 2001

Media Preview Thursday, March 1, 10 a.m. to Noon

More than 200 major artworks, ranging from antiquities to contemporary paintings, lent by over 80 collectors, all of whom have deep connections to Brooklyn, will be presented in the exhibition **A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects** on view from March 2 through July 1, 2001 at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Each of the objects reflects the remarkable diversity that has always been Brooklyn's signature.

A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects celebrates the variety and character of people connected to Brooklyn through the objects they collect. The exhibition will bring together lenders as diverse as the objects they've lent; some were born here and stayed, some moved away, and some have returned. The objects will be grouped by collector and accompanied by the lender's photo and statement when available.

Brooklyn-born Museum Director Arnold Lehman recalls the stimulus for **A Family Album Brooklyn Collects**: "Some of my fondest memories while growing up were of coming to the Museum and seeing the wonderful objects here," Lehman said. "After being appointed director, I received hundreds of letters from current or former Brooklyn residents expressing the same memories and saying that the Museum sparked their interest in art and collecting. That's what gave us the impetus for this exhibition. We wanted to broaden Brooklyn's definition from a geographic place to a state of mind, a connective tissue that runs throughout the country," said Mr. Lehman.

Brooklyn Collects

page 2

Every curatorial department of the Brooklyn Museum of Art has been involved in locating collectors and securing loans. Elizabeth Easton, Chair of the Museum's Department of European Painting and Sculpture, coordinated the Museum-wide effort. The result is an impressive and engaging array of art of the highest quality from ancient Egyptian and classical sculpture, to photography, textiles, furniture, prints, drawings, and the latest contemporary art.

"The exhibit extends the parameters of the Museum's encyclopedic collection," comments Dr. Easton "The impetus behind each collection is personal. Some have inherited their objects; some collectors are descendants of the Museum's founders, while others have spent devoted years to assembling objects from a specific moment in the history of art." Dr. Easton added that several works that have been contributed to the exhibition are by Brooklyn-born or based contemporary artists.

The artists have been invited to include testimonials with their group of objects, reflecting on their earliest reminiscences of visits to the Museum, of their Brooklyn neighborhoods, or their personal relationship to their art. "I believe that for many Brooklyn expatriate collectors, involvement in this exhibition is a bit of a homecoming," said Ms. Easton.

To further underscore the homecoming theme for **A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects**, the Museum is creating "**Home Team**," a national membership campaign. More than 10,000 former Brooklynites, in targeted locations throughout the country, will be offered free memberships and will be invited to a VIP reception, for which *New Yorker* cartoonist Roz Chast has created a very special "Family Album" cartoon as the cover of the invitation.

There also will be a wide range of public programs scheduled to coincide with the exhibition.

A Family Album: Brooklyn Collects is sponsored by **KeySpan**.

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www.brooklynart.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

Museum Hours:

Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
First Saturday of each month, 11 a.m. to 11
p.m.; all other Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.;
Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Thanksgiving,
Christmas, and New Year's Day. Museum Café
open until 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday
and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday,
and holidays. Museum Libraries and Archives
are open by appointment. Museum shops are
open 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; till 6 p.m. on
Saturdays and Sundays.

Directions:

Subway: Seventh Avenue express (2 or 3) to
Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum stop. Bus
B71, B41, B69, B48. On-site parking available