

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Keeley LaForme
727-895-5030 ext. 109
716-930-2499 (c)
keeley@b2communications.com

Distinctive works now part of the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg's permanent collection

Paintings, photographs, drawings and sculptures by renowned international and local artists are among works new to MFA

St. Petersburg, Fla. (Feb. 7, 2018) – The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg has added 109 works from a diverse range of artists, styles and eras to its collection. New works include post-war and contemporary works, European art, Asian art, distinctive sculptures, and a number of unique photographs.

Among the noteworthy artists represented by the MFA's recent accessions are Pablo Picasso, Dominique Labauvie, Aaron Siskind, Mickalene Thomas, William Pachner and many more. The accessions include works donated to the MFA, as well as works purchased by the museum.

"The MFA is committed to accessioning important works of art into our growing collection to provide our community with a diverse range of art," said Kristen A. Shepherd, Executive Director, Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg. "We look forward to seeing how our community will respond to these works."

The works added to the MFA's permanent collection include:

Aaron Siskind, *Pleasures and Terrors of Levitation*

The MFA received a donation of 10 large prints from this series by photographer Aaron Siskind. Siskind is considered one of American photography's best artists for his conception of photography as a form of abstract expression. The photographs donated to the MFA are among his most sought-after images, and add to the museum's already impressive collection of 62 photographs from this important artist. *The photographs are currently on view in the Miriam Acheson Gallery through February 25. The photographs were a generous donation of Dr. Robert L. and Chitrane Drapkin.*

Pablo Picasso, two prints from the book *Les Textes du Buffon*

These prints, including *Le Taureau (le boeuf)*, 1936, underscore the artist's fascination with animals. The two prints feature the same subject but represent difference states in the printmaking process.

Dominique Labauvie, *The Agora*, 2016

Sculptor Dominique Labauvie was born in Strasbourg, France and has lived in Tampa since 1998. *The Agora* references the historical Greek agora, which served as a civic gathering place and was the center of social and economic activities. The sculpture's subject addresses the devastation of human life and culture due to war and strife. Labauvie's focus for *The Agora* is to develop roots and hope for the future. *The Agora is now on view in the Great Hall. MFA purchase.*

Mickalene Thomas, *Interior: Zebra with Two Chairs and Funky Fur*, 2014

Mickalene Thomas's vibrant and often heavily collaged works explore themes of identity and cultural definitions of beauty. This print highlights the artist's deft hand with printmaking techniques. It was purchased from the renowned Tandem Press at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The work is on view now in the Contemporary Art Gallery. The work was purchased by the MFA with funds donated by Martha and Jim Sweeny.

William Pachner, Untitled, n.d.

After William Pachner's entire family was killed in concentration camps during World War II, the artist, who was working at Esquire magazine in the U.S. at the time, ceased his commercial career to focus on his artistic career. He did so as a means to bear witness to his experiences. This work, which is the 14th work from the world-renowned artist in the museum's collection, highlights his turn to abstract landscape painting, which he saw as a turn to spiritual renewal.

The MFA works diligently each year to add depth to its permanent collection in order to display and highlight diverse artistic themes and expressions.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive N.E. has a world-class collection, with works by Monet, Morisot, Rodin, O'Keeffe, Willem de Kooning, and many other great artists. Also displayed are ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, and Native American art. Selections from the photography collection, one of the largest and finest in the Southeast, are now on view in a gallery dedicated to the medium. **Kristen A. Shepherd** is the Executive Director.

Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, until 8 p.m. on Thursday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. **Admission is only \$5 after 5 p.m. on Thursday.** Regular admission is \$17 for adults, \$15 for those 65 and older, and \$10 for students seven and older, including college students with current I.D. Children under seven and Museum members are admitted free. Groups of 10 or more adults pay only \$12 per person and children \$4 each with prior reservations. The MFA Café is open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Special ticket prices apply for entrance to *Star Wars™* and *the Power of Costume*. For more information, please call 727.896.2667 or visit mfastpete.org.