Earlier this year, President Bardo unveiled the Wichita State University Strategic Plan Preview to guide WSU through our next period of refinement and growth. The plan is defined by its vision, mission, values, and goals—all of which have direct relevance for the Ulrich Museum as we move forward to serve as one of the key resources on campus, as well as a bridge between the university, Wichita, and Kansas.

As outlined in the plan, I am particularly excited by the expressed values of “seizing opportunities; success for all stakeholders; diversity of culture, thought and experience; adaptive approaches; teamwork; and positive risk-taking.” To see values important to me as both an individual and as director of the Ulrich Museum is not only reassuring, but also downright exciting.

Creating opportunities for dynamic and meaningful applied learning experiences for a wide range of students is fundamental to what the Ulrich Museum must do moving forward. My own experiences at the Ulrich more than 35 years ago provided me with a very unique opportunity for applied learning as I worked labeling objects, assisting with the installation of exhibitions, and guiding visiting artists across campus and around town. In graduate school, that hands-on experience with art and artists set me apart from my peers.

The Ulrich Museum sits at a unique and important place. From our platform—using the art of our time, our exhibitions, and programs—we have a strong record of speaking directly to these values. I can see tremendous opportunity for the museum as we actively embody the values outlined in the Strategic Plan.

To help us with these goals we welcome new talent and leadership to the staff of the Ulrich Museum. Jodi Throckmorton has joined us as curator of modern and contemporary art. Jodi’s background is well suited to the curatorial needs of the Ulrich, and her intellect, vision, and enthusiasm bring great promise to our exhibitions program and our collections. Stephanie Tasset is our new registrar. Stephanie brings a strong background in collections management to this position, having worked at the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas. You can learn more about both Jodi and Stephanie in our Spotlight section of this newsletter.

I am so proud to have launched my career here at the Ulrich. I look forward to now increasing and expanding our efforts to not only be one of Wichita’s great art resources, but also to leverage the Ulrich Museum of Art as a meaningful contributor to the WSU experience for every student on this campus.

—Bob Workman, Director
The Ulrich welcomes Jodi Throckmorton as curator and Stephanie Teasley as registrar

Jodi Throckmorton, the new curator of modern and contemporary art at the Ulrich Museum, joins us from the San Jose Museum of Art. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in art history from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and her Master of Arts from San Francisco State University. Two California internships helped shape Throckmorton’s interest in modern and contemporary art. At the de Young in San Francisco, she was exposed to the most significant holding of Bay Area art in the world. At the Achenbach Graphic Arts Council at the Legion of Honor in San Francisco, she cemented her love for modern art.

During her five years at the San Jose Museum of Art, she curated exhibitions including ‘This Kind of Bird Flies’ and ‘Questions from my social calendar’. Free for Ulrich Museum members, $10 for nonmembers. RSVP at ulrich wichita.edu.

Stephanie Teasley joins the Ulrich Museum as registrar, having most recently from the Spencer Museum of Art at the University of Kansas. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Anthropology from Kansas State University, Teasley went on to receive a Master’s degree in art history from the University of Colorado and a Master’s degree in museum studies from the University of Kansas.

Teasley said, “I’m very excited about working at the Ulrich. It’s a goal to make information about our collection more easily accessible to people both inside and outside the institution.” At the Spencer Museum she worked with the anthropological collection cataloging and digitizing 9,000 pieces. At the Ulrich she will work to digitize information and images for the more than 6,600 contemporary art pieces in the Wichita State University Foundation Art Collection.

“Everything is more useful in context,” she said, “having a digital library of the collection is an important step for the museum.”

Challenging Earth’s complex bio-system is the fact that species are becoming extinct at an alarming rate — including the loss of entire ecosystems. Each loss carries with it a missing piece of life’s intricate puzzle and the benefits it brings to the well-being of all.

Biomimicry is a new discipline that studies nature’s designs and processes to solve human problems, offers a deeper understanding of nature, revealing how existing systems may hold many of the answers to Earth’s problems now and in the future.

Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention

Life on Earth is a rich and complex interconnection of literally millions of species. The interdependence among organisms and their environments sustain the conditions needed for survival by all living creatures: clean air and water; crop pollination; pest control, climate regulation; soil nutrients; and diversity of plants and animals. It is the rich biodiversity of Earth that sustains all living things on the planet.

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Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention

August 31 – December 15, 2013

Palk/Wilson/Asmussen Galleries

Nature’s Toolbox is a celebration of biodiversity, creativity, and ingenuity. The exhibition premiered at The Field Museum in Chicago in 2012 and is now on an international multi-year tour.

Through art work created for this project, the exhibition explores four themes: What is biodiversity? Why is biodiversity important? How do humans affect biodiversity? What can we learn from nature about how to flourish?

Through irony and allegory, metaphor and humor, Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention uses art to teach critical scientific principles about Earth and the challenges facing us.

Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention was organized by Art Works for Change, with generous support from The Nature Conservancy Foundation; the Natural Endowment for the Arts Foundation; the Sprint Foundation; the National Audubon Society; and the Polk/Wilson/Amsden Galleries.

Biodiversity is generously supported by The S.M. and Laura H. Brown Charitable Trust; the National Endowment for the Arts; the Adobe Foundation; the Polk/Wilson/Amsden Galleries; and the Sprint Foundation. The Wichita presentation of this exhibition is generously supported by The S.M. and Laura H. Brown Charitable Trust; the Polk/Wilson/Amsden Galleries; Commerce Bank, Trusts; Commerce Brokerage Foundation; and Lee and Ros Stoller.

Join us at the fall party to find out what’s in Nature’s Toolbox: Biodiversity, Art and Invention. We’ll celebrate the innovative eye-catching designs found in nature.

The Ulrich Museum’s fall party will be a natural fit for your social calendar. Free for Ulrich Museum members and WSU students, $10 for nonmembers. RSVP at (316) 978-3664 or email ulrich@wichita.edu.

FALL PARTY

7–9 P.M. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013

EXHIBITIONS ON VIEW

THE ULRICH WELCOMES JODI THROCKMORTON AS CURATOR AND STEPHANIE TEASLEY AS REGISTRAR

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7–9 P.M. SATURDAY, FALL.
Helen Piper

And as always at Ulrich openings, expect the
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 7-9 P.M.
New York
and women; and
coral reefs while illustrating mathematics impervious
National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C.
Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh and the Smithsonian
as Islamic mosaics and weaving.
snowflakes and fractals, to human constructs such
Margaret Wertheim

This year Orr celebrates the publication of
This I Believe
Public Radio broadcast his essay in its
This I Believe
poetry fellowships and the American Academy
Institute for the Study of Culture and Violence, and

Gregory Orr

archivist at WSU Libraries, shares how the resulting
Murals portrayed workers, scenic landscapes, and

Dr. Lorraine Madway

SENIOR WEDNESDAY:
10 A.M. REFRESHMENTS, 10:30 A.M. PROGRAM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

Steven Peterman

ART LUNCH:
12 P.M. REFRESHMENTS, 12:30 P.M. PROGRAM
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 AND WEDNESDAY,
10 A.M.-12:30 P.M.

These events will help you survive Finals Week.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 12-12:30 P.M.
Proctor Hall Reading Room

 cinemas, video, and multimedia, to the large-scale interactive installations
and participatory events. The Ulrich Museum is a leader in the development of
temporary art exhibitions, public programs, and community-engaged initiatives.
The Ulrich serves as a forum for artists and scholars to create opportunities for
public engagement and community building.

Dr. Lorraine Madway

On any given day some 70,000 young people are in juvenile detention or correctional facilities. California, photographer Richard Ross turns his lens on this socially relevant topic. Culled from nearly 1,000 images of juveniles at more than 200 juvenile detention facilities across Kansas, the exhibition of 66 of a sub-set of an ongoing documentary project,
"Juvenile in Justice" will be on display through February 1, 2014.

Richard Ross, Juvenile in Justice (1987-2010)

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