Pride of place is a universal human response. The geography and customs of home often engender significant meaning, and it is accurate to talk about being “imprinted” with a place. In Wichita, a sense of place and pride runs deep and strong.

Pride of place touches the collection project we are presenting this spring and summer at the Ulrich. For more than a year, the staff have been lovingly caring for, researching and writing about 57 gems from the vault to be featured in the exhibition and accompanying publication Art of the Time: Selections from the Ulrich Museum of Art.

The collection publication pairs two native Wichitans who, through remarkable gifts, have achieved larger fame. Scholar and guest author Robert Silberman states that W. Eugene Smith is “arguably the greatest of all photojournalists.” Smith grew up in Wichita and was a childhood friend of the late Pete Armstrong, a Wichita community leader and major art patron. Antonya Nelson wrote a creative response to Smith’s most famous image, The Walk to Paradise Garden. Nelson also hails from Wichita, and her parents were both WSU professors. Author of four novels—two set in Wichita—Nelson often contributes to such magazines as the Kansas Traveler. As a weekender, she shares this pairing with you, our members. The conversation between the two creative works is sheer genius; see if you don’t agree.

Please come, look and enjoy.
—Dr. Patricia McDonnell, Director

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Trish Higgins, and the Kansas Arts Commission and Ulrich Museum Alliance membership. This publication is made possible in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE.
Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Closed Mondays and major holidays

PRICING
Student Free
WSU Faculty or Staff $30
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—Antonya Nelson


In or out: it doesn’t matter. If they are together, un-alone, they are at the mercy of their bored teller, who is putting the spouse, the prickling temptation of infidelity, an extended hand.

The lonesome child can see it all—happy flowers, ripe berries, birds feeding bright messages for the lucky couple. They will be resourceful, courageous, brilliant, and triumphant.

The thorns and wolves and witches and woe that wait in the woods, the many enemies of love and light and goodness. Etcetera, yawning ad nauseam.

Admission is always free.

The Walk to Paradise Garden
—Antonya Nelson

...
It recently came to my attention that Childe Hassam’s mood may be, you can see it in the painting.

The painting is peaceful while looking at a distant valley. The painting is peaceful and the artist painted by Childe Hassam that he purchased as a young reporter in Paris. While I do not own the Childe Hassam in our home, I feel so privileged to see the painting daily and have many opportunities to discuss it with our guests.

It is my favorite, yet it is one of many sterling works of art in the holdings of the Ulrich Museum of Art on our beautiful campus at Wichita State University.

ART OF OUR TIME: SELECTIONS FROM THE ULRICH MUSEUM OF ART, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Excellence and innovation – when human endeavor combines these qualities, a masterpiece results no matter the context. Proudly, the Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University features 37 works of major artistic accomplishment in our permanent collection, works equally excellent and innovative. Art of Our Time, which comprises an exhibition and related collection publication, is the kind of project that museums intentionally pursue.

It stands at the heart of our Mission for 2006, the Ulrich has built a collection of the most adventurous and more than 3,600 modern and contemporary works of art. Opening eyes and minds and offering moments of visual pleasure through encounters with the art of our time is paramount to the Ulrich. This collection project reveals how the museum has assembled an art collection to serve this cause well.

Art of Our Time offers the opportunity for visitors to explore the sweep of art making over the past 100 years. From Robert Henri’s 1917 painting Genghis with the Sono-Corc Box to Zhang Huan’s photo-documentation of his 2000 performance Family, from the expressive strokes of Robert Motherwell’s 1971 Les Caves No. 2 to the digital animation of Jenny Beavan’s 2001 video Most Loud, the collection explores a variety of works, styles and episodes in recent art making. Photography enters a particular collection strength, and stunning prints byaguipal Edward, Edward Wilson and Pedro Friedeberg are on view.

The Ulrich is also producing a collection catalog in association with the Denver Art Museum. The Ulrich director and curator joined five guest authors to work on each of the 57 featured works. Experts in their field, including Claude Shearman, photographer Larry Schwarm created an elegant, photo-worthy WSU campus interaction with the Martin H. Bush Outdoor Sculpture Collection Wichita architect Dean Brady directed a striking gallery installation to further enhance and set off each work of art.

Whether a city school pupil WSU engineers mental business owner or local artist, a visitor to the Ulrich summer exhibition will enjoy and learn from this strong collection.

ART OF OUR TIME: SELECTIONS FROM THE ULRICH MUSEUM OF ART, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

April 24–August 8, Polk/Wilson galleries

Enjoy music and refreshments.

ULRICH EXHIBITIONS ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY THE ULRICH SALON CIRCLE AND MUSEUM ALLIANCE.