



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

CONNECTICUT

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Contact: Laura Sheehan, Interim Director of Marketing and Communications

Telephone: 860.231.5297

Email: lsheehan@usj.edu

New Acquisitions for the Art Gallery at University of Saint Joseph

WEST HARTFORD, CONN. – The University of Saint Joseph Art Gallery acquired new pieces for its collection at a Purchase Party on November 16. Members of Friends of the Art Gallery chose from a group of works pre-selected by Gallery Director Ann H. Sievers. The new acquisitions will remain on view at the Art Gallery through Sunday, December 16.

The Art Gallery, located in The Bruyette Athenaeum on the University of Saint Joseph's West Hartford campus at 1678 Asylum Avenue, is **open Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.; closed Monday.** Admission is free of charge.

The members' first choice was a color woodcut by Vassily Kandinsky, one of the founders of the German Expressionist group Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider). First published in his artist's book *Klänge (Sounds)*, "Two Riders on a Red Background" was printed in an artist-supervised edition in 1938 for inclusion in *XXe siècle*, a fine arts journal that published original prints.

The second work selected is an untitled color lithograph (1953) by Cuban-born Wilfredo Lam for an issue of the art review, *Derrière le Miroir*. The lithograph shows the abiding influences of Surrealism and Afro-Cuban culture on his work. Both works, which were purchased with funds set aside from members' annual dues, help fill gaps in the Gallery's collection of 20th century art.

A third work was subsequently purchased with a combination of Art Gallery funds and gifts from individual donors. Enrique Chagoya's "Escape from Fantasylandia: An Illegal Alien's Survival Guide" (2011) is a codex – an accordion-folded artist's book – made with lithography and gold metallic powder on the bark-based paper used by ancient Meso-American cultures. Embodying what the artist terms "reverse anthropology," it re-imagines an alternative history in which the dominant culture of the 21st century is Meso-American rather than Anglo-American.

The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of graduate, undergraduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with a focus on service. Coeducational graduate master's and doctoral degree programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford,

Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Undergraduate programs for women and for coeducational adult students take place on our beautiful suburban campus and include more than 22 majors and six pre-professional programs, each of which provides personal attention in a caring environment. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph welcomes students from diverse backgrounds and religious traditions. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

1678 Asylum Avenue ♦ West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2791 ♦ Tel: 860.231.5334 ♦ Fax: 860.233.5695