

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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**THE MONTCLAIR ART MUSEUM RECEIVES
PRESTIGIOUS STATE ARTS AWARDS**

—Museum Recognized for Excellence in the Arts—

MONTCLAIR, NJ, May 14, 2010—The Montclair Art Museum (MAM) has been designated a Major Arts Organization by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for a solid history of excellence in substantial arts programming and contribution to increasing the quality of life in New Jersey. This marks the 12th straight year that MAM has been accorded this designation. Additionally, MAM received a Citation of Excellence, which is given to the Major Arts Organizations that receive the highest evaluation by the review panel. State Arts Council leadership held an awards reception on April 29, 2010, in Trenton to recognize the importance of the work of the Montclair Art Museum.

MAM’s director, Lora Urbanelli, said: “We are so pleased that the Museum’s efforts, year after year, to deliver excellence in arts programming to New Jersey residents and beyond are recognized by the State. As the first institution in New Jersey designed as a museum, MAM has always regarded its public service role as a serious and prominent part of its mission and tried to fulfill it at the highest level possible. Our residents deserve no less.”

These awards, the State Arts Council’s most prestigious marks of distinction, are designated based on grant application review and conferred upon the Montclair Art Museum for the duration of the grant period for which funding is received.

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts is a division of the NJ Department of State. It receives funding in direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey through a dedicated Hotel/Motel Occupancy fee and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 1966, its volunteer members and professional staff have worked to improve the quality of life in New Jersey by helping the arts to flourish. For more information about the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, visit www.njartscouncil.org.

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Photo Caption (*left to right*): Steve Runk, Executive Director, NJ State Council on the Arts; Sharon Burton Turner, Chair, NJ State Council on the Arts; Lora Urbanelli, Director, Montclair Art Museum; Michele Shea, Manager of Institutional Giving, Montclair Art Museum; Amy Simon, Council Member, NJ State Council on the Arts; Joyce C. Goore, Council Member, NJ State Council on the Arts.

About the Museum

The Montclair Art Museum, a notable, community-based institution with an international reputation, boasts a renowned collection of American and Native American art that uniquely highlights art making in the United States over the last three hundred years. The collection includes more than 12,000 objects: paintings, prints, original works on paper, photographs, and sculpture by American artists from the 18th century to the present, as well as traditional and contemporary Native American art and artifacts representing the cultural developments of peoples from all of the major American Indian regions. MAM's Yard School of Art is the leading regional art school, offering a multitude of comprehensive courses for children, youth, adults, seniors, and professional artists.

The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Avenue in Montclair, N.J. Information and directions are available on the Museum website, montclairartmuseum.org, or by calling 973-746-5555. MAM is open Wednesdays through Sundays, Noon – 5 p.m., and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays, and major holidays. Museum admission is \$12 for nonmember adults, \$10 for senior citizens and students with I.D., and free for members and children under 12.

All Museum programs are made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vance Wall Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Museum Members.

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