

Main Line Art Center

746 Panmure Road
Haverford, PA 19041
610.525.0272
www.mainlineart.org



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CONTACT: Rachel Ammon
610.525.0272, ext. 25
rammon@mainlineart.org

Main Line Art Center Highlights Local Artists and Art Collectors *Main Line Collects Philadelphia* **May 13-June 10**

Gallery Hours:
Mon - Thur: 9 am - 9 pm
Fri - Sat: 9 am - 5 pm
Sun: 9:30 am - 4 pm

HAVERFORD, PA (April 1, 2008)— Local art collectors have long recognized the talents of artists who have lived and worked in Philadelphia's vibrant art community. Anchored by the excellence of its academic institutions, many fine artists have flourished here.

Beginning May 13, private collectors in the Main Line community will generously lend post-1950 works for Main Line Art Center's exhibition, *Main Line Collects Philadelphia*. The exhibition of paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings and light fixtures has been assembled by Curator Mary Anne Dutt Justice from 19 private collections, and represents the work of 42 artists from the Philadelphia area.

Main Line Art Center, known for its excellence in exhibitions and programming, first focused on works from private collections in 2005 for *Main Line Collects: Distinctive Choices*. The successful exhibition featured works from 40 internationally-known artists. Justice and Judy Herman, Executive Director of Main Line Art Center, made the decision to focus on local talent this year.

"With the help of such prominent lenders, this is a unique opportunity for the Art Center to focus on the quality of some of the most reputable artists in the region," says Herman. "Main Line Art Center will work to continue to feature other local artists of this stature in future shows for the public to enjoy."

Justice, who visited collectors' homes to choose the art for the exhibition, acknowledges that *Main Line Collects* could not happen without the support of local collectors.

"Collectors have been extremely generous in sharing their work with the community," says Justice. "Lending a work of art to an exhibition leaves a void – the absence of a 'member of the household.' We are especially grateful to these collectors who have entrusted us with their work."

Like all of the Art Center's exhibitions, *Main Line Collects Philadelphia* is free and open to the public. The exhibition is sponsored by Bryn Mawr Trust Company opens with a reception on May 15 from 5-7 pm. *Main Line Collects Philadelphia* runs until June 10.

Further exploring Philadelphia's rich art community, the Art Center is holding a panel discussion on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:30 pm. Moderated by Doug Schaller of Locks Gallery, the panel including artist Jane Irish, Amy Adams, Executive Director of Vox Populi, and Edith Newhall, writer on the arts, among others, will discuss the positives and negatives of the Philadelphia art scene.

Founded in 1937 by a group of local artists, Main Line Art Center's mission is to inspire and engage artistic creativity for individuals of all ages and abilities and to celebrate and strengthen the essential role of visual art in community life. With its vast and wide-ranging course offerings, the Art Center has become a regional leader in visual arts education. Its extensive outreach programs and promotion of new artists through multiple exhibition opportunities help attract individuals new to the arts and cultivate support from art patrons.

For more information about Main Line Art Center and its classes, camps, exhibitions, special events and outreach programs, please visit www.mainlineart.org or call 610.525.0272.

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