



ea

Calder

Selections:
From The Claude M. Erwin, Jr. Collection

6 March - 18 April 2008

Bradbury Gallery
Fowler Center, Arkansas State University
201 Olympic Drive
Jonesboro, Arkansas

When I give, I give myself.

- Walt Whitman

In 1998 Claude M. Erwin, Jr. gave himself. He donated to Arkansas State University twenty-nine original works of art by some of the best known artists of the twentieth century. This significant gift was an even greater act of generosity when you learn that these pieces were literally taken from the walls of his home. They were selections from his private collection that he lived with, contemplated and loved.

When he was asked what his favorite work in the collection was, he responded, "Can you have a favorite child?" As is so often the case, this statement, made in jest, speaks the truth.

To hear Mr. Erwin discuss an artwork is quite moving. It is clear that he genuinely responds to and experiences each individual work. He talks of sitting and looking at a piece, how it changes depending on the light, his mood or his position in relation to it. You understand that he has received something important in return, a perception of beauty or truth or mystery or knowledge.

His willingness to part with these works of art, pieces that he speaks of so passionately that you feel they are essentially his dear friends, makes evident his desire to share this experience with others. But again you understand he is the one who has received something important in return, the realization that his gift to us can help to develop or expand someone else's appreciation for the arts.

Les Christensen, Director
Bradbury Gallery



Henri Matisse, from the "Poesies Antillaises" series
Cover: Alexander Calder, "Musical Notes"

This exhibition, "Selections from the Claude M. Erwin, Jr. Collection" features the original body of work donated to the university in 1998, as well as three new pieces Mr. Erwin has recently given to the ASU Permanent Collection of Art. All of these artworks will be exhibited publicly for the first time. Mr. Erwin has also been a longtime patron of ASU's Delta National Small Prints Exhibition. The seven prints he purchased as part of that collection and twenty two new pieces, selected from his private collection, will also be included in the exhibition.



SELECTIONS

FROM THE
CLAUDE M. ERWIN, JR.
COLLECTION

6 MARCH - 18 APRIL 2008
OPENING RECEPTION:
6 MARCH 2008, 5PM

BRADBURY GALLERY
FOWLER CENTER
ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
201 OLYMPIC DRIVE
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS
870 972 2567

TUESDAY - SATURDAY 12 - 5
SUNDAY 2 - 5

SALVADOR DALI, *MERCURY*, HAND COLORED ETCHING ON PAPER, 23 X 16 INCHES
THE ERWIN COLLECTION, ASU PERMANENT COLLECTION OF ART

Bradbury Gallery
Arkansas State University
PO Box 2339
State University, AR 72467

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