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Tufts University Art Gallery
at the Aidekman Arts Center
40 Talbot Avenue, Medford, MA 02155
<http://artgallery.tufts.edu>

TUFTS UNIVERSITY AWARDED TWO COLLECTION CONSERVATION GRANTS

Exhibition spotlighting conservation assessment process planned for June 2010

MEDFORD, MA – Tufts University’s Director of Galleries and Collections Amy Ingrid Schlegel announced today that the University has been awarded two collection conservation grants: the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP), administered by Heritage Preservation, and the Preservation Assistance Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Tufts University Art Gallery, the entity charged with managing the University’s Permanent Art Collection, will work with two conservators starting in May and throughout the summer. “These federally funded grants allow Tufts University to take a huge leap forward in planning the care and maintenance of the core of its Permanent Art Collection in perpetuity,” Schlegel stated. The Gallery will highlight a selection of these assessments in “real time” in an exhibition designed as an open conservation studio. The exhibition will be held in the Tisch Family Gallery of the Tufts University Art Gallery from June 3 to August 1, 2010.

These grants permit a comprehensive assessment of the University’s accessioned art holdings as well as conservation treatment and reports on its painting collection, numbering several hundred objects. The painting collection ranges from historic portraits of the University founders to work by modern and contemporary artists such as Helen Frankenthaler, Joel Janowitz Alice Neel, Paul Stopforth, and Grant Wood.

Heritage Preservation’s **Conservation Assessment Program** is supported through a cooperative agreement with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Heritage Preservation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. CAP provides funds for the hiring of a professional conservation specialist, Thomas Branchick, to identify the conservation needs of our collection and recommend ways to correctly improve collection conditions. Mr. Branchick will spend two days surveying our site and write a comprehensive report that identifies conservation priorities. The on-site consultation will enable us to evaluate our current collections care policies, procedures, and environmental conditions, helping us make appropriate improvements for the immediate, mid-range, and long-range care of our collections.

The **NEH Preservation Assistance Grant** supports the conservation assessment of individual works as well as the overall evaluation of the conditions under which the paintings are stored and displayed. Cambridge conservator Elizabeth Leto Fulton will examine the paintings and work with Gallery staff to develop a long-term plan for the preservation of these historical works, including paintings by: Ralph Albert Blakelock, Elaine de Kooning, Grace Hartigan, John Frederick Kensett, Willard Metcalf, Maud Morgan, David Park, Milton Resnick, John Singer Sargent, and others.

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The Tufts University Art Gallery is located in the **Aidekman Arts Center, 40 Talbot Avenue**, on Tufts University’s Medford campus. The Gallery is fully accessible and admission is free. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00 to 5:00 p.m., and Thursdays until 8 p.m. Free visitor parking is available in the two parking lots off Lower Campus Road. Call **617-627-3518** for more information or visit artgallery.tufts.edu.