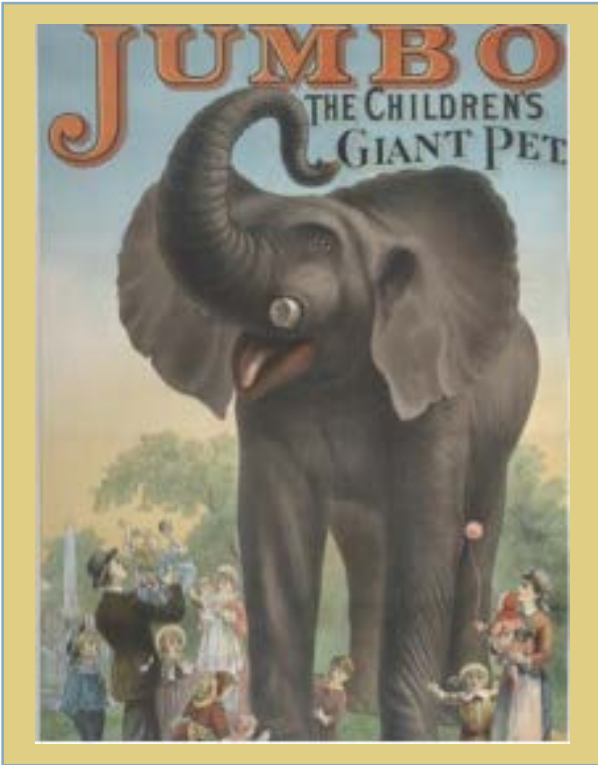


## JUMBO: MARVEL, MYTH, AND MASCOT

SEPTEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 7, 2014



*Jumbo, The Children's Giant Pet*, 1882. Color lithograph poster by the Hatch Lithographic Co., The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, Tibbals Digital Collection, ht2004500

**MEDFORD, MA - The Tufts University Art Gallery at the Shirley and Alex Aidekman Arts Center** proudly presents **Jumbo: Marvel, Myth, and Mascot** on view from September 11 through December 7, 2014.

The exhibition coincides with the 125th anniversary of the arrival on campus of Tufts' mascot Jumbo the Elephant. A life-size bronze statue will be dedicated on the university's main quad by Carmel, CA-based sculptor Steven Whyte in October.

The exhibition, curated by Tufts Professor of Art History and Museum Studies Andrew McClellan, is the first of its kind to narrate Jumbo's life story from star of the London Zoo to college mascot by means of original images (posters, couriers, photographs, etc.) and artifacts drawn from public and private collections in the U.S. and Canada. The exhibition charts Jumbo's journey from Africa, his rise to celebrity at the London Zoo and his highly publicized purchase for Barnum's circus, "The Greatest Show on Earth", then, after his untimely death, Jumbo's transformation into a larger-than-life "mythic" creature and household name. The exhibit concludes with his afterlife in popular culture, as the centerpiece of the Tufts natural history museum, and as beloved college mascot. A fully-illustrated book accompanies the show.

Jumbo came to Tufts as a gift from P.T. Barnum, one of the University's founding trustees. Jumbo arrived posthumously in 1889, a few years after he was killed in a railroad accident and subsequently prepared for display by the noted taxidermist Henry Ward of Rochester. Jumbo was the centerpiece of the Barnum Natural History Museum (now Barnum Hall) until a fire burned the building and its contents in 1975. Jumbo was then transformed into the Tufts mascot.

### GALLERY HOURS:

Tuesday-Sunday 11am-5pm  
Thursday 11am-8pm  
Closed for Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 24-Dec.1, 2014

The Tufts University Art Gallery is fully accessible and admission is free. Suggested donation: \$3.

### GALLERY CONTACTS:

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