American Impressionism, Plateau Tribal Canoes and Pop Art at Spokane's MAC

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SPOKANE — The Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture announced its slate of exhibitions for 2020 starting on May 23 with American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection, an exhibition of 41 paintings representing American artists from the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist movements.

Opening on June 6 is a tribute to the annual inland canoe journey, Awakenings: Traditional Canoes and Calling the Salmon Home in collaboration with United Tribes of the Upper Columbia.

A companion exhibition, Roots of Wisdom: Native Knowledge, Shared Science, will explore how western science and age-old practices come together to improve our world.

The MAC brings POP Power from Warhol to Koons: Masterworks from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation on Oct. 3.
“We are bringing collections representing several significant art movements that can be enjoyed right here in the Inland Northwest. In addition, we have our own rich traditions to share, culminating in a unique experience for museum visitors.

“Where else can you take in the height of American Impressionism and experience on-site canoe carving from our area’s native tribes? As we celebrate a new decade, we provide a means to contemplate our roots,” said Wes Jessup, executive director.

The 2019 exhibitions, featuring internationally renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly, a summer offering of mystical creatures from New York’s American Museum of Natural History and Norman Rockwell’s America in the fall, set a new record for exhibition attendance with more than 69,500 visitors.

December 2019 also saw the highest number of memberships sold, logging over $40,000 in a single month.

“There is tremendous excitement surrounding The MAC’s exhibitions and programs right now.

“With the ushering in of the Chihuly works in February 2019 through the closing of Rockwell’s America this month, all of our key performance indicators saw significant growth. It is exciting to see our board, staff, members and the community coming together to move this organization forward,” Jessup said.

Pompeii: The Immortal City, Saturday–May 3.

In just 24 hours the cities of Pompeii and neighboring Herculaneum were buried by a catastrophic volcanic eruption in 79 AD. Pompeii: The Immortal City plunges visitors into the heart of the drama and the ruins of the ancient city.

Artifacts and artworks excavated from Pompeii and interactive mechanical models take them into the world of a first-century Roman city.

Spectacular immersive moments allow visitors to experience the destruction of the city and to identify with the inhabitants of that time, immobilized by the volcano’s ashes.
They’ll hear the roar of Mount Vesuvius and feel the earth move under their feet as the volcano erupts before their eyes.

American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection, May 23–Aug. 16.

American Impressionism: Treasures from the Daywood Collection features 41 extraordinary paintings from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The artworks display the distinctive Impressionist brushstroke along with subjects ranging from scenes of the bucolic countryside to intimate portraits of friends and neighbors, reflecting the transition of American artists from more formal academic styles and subjects to the modern influences of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism.

Exhibition organized by the Huntington Museum of Art and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

Awakenings: Traditional Canoes and Calling the Salmon Home, June 6–June 2021.

Plateau tribes of the Upper Columbia are experiencing a resurgence of canoe culture, reconnecting with tribal traditions and with the river that was once so integral to their way of life.

The MAC, in collaboration with the United Tribes of the Upper Columbia, will tell the story of the annual inland canoe journey — from the purchase of old growth cedar logs and carving the dugouts to the annual launch and landing at Kettle Falls each June — through contemporary and historic canoes supported by the words of those who have experienced it.
This summer and fall watch UCUT carvers create a 20-foot dugout canoe on the grounds of the MAC.


Children and families will discover the unique partnership between cutting-edge western science and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples.

The exhibition tells the stories of four communities, giving visitors real life examples of how complementary solutions to ecological and health challenges are being applied to improve our world.

Through the voices of elders and youth, storytelling, hands-on interactives and clever video games, visitors will take part in the growing movement toward sustainability and reclamation of age-old practices.

Exhibition designed and produced by Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

POP Power from Warhol to Koons, Oct. 3-Jan. 24

Masterworks from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation.

From Campbell’s Soup to Mickey Mouse, and from comic strips to balloon dogs, POP Power from Warhol to Koons celebrates the evolution of Pop art, a perennial movement that revels in the new and the now, the celebrity and the commodity, and art made accessible for all.

This exhibition focuses on leading contemporary figures such as Jeff Koons, Damien Hirst and Takashi Murakami, creatively shown alongside the likes of seminal American Pop leaders like Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, James Rosenquist and Robert Indiana, to name just a few.

Curated by the Taubman Museum of Art’s deputy director of exhibitions and education, Patrick Shaw Cable.

Learn more at northwestmuseum.org.