EXHIBITION: Thirty Years of Friends of Kresge Art Museum Acquisitions
DATES: February 5 – March 31, 2005

Friends of Kresge Art Museum Celebrate 30th Anniversary

In honor of the Friends of Kresge Art Museum’s 30th Anniversary, the museum will present the exhibition, Thirty Years of Friends of Kresge Art Museum Acquisitions. The exhibition celebrates the invaluable contributions the Friends’ group has made to the museum’s collection since 1975. These include the newest acquisition, a 17th century Dutch Portrait of a Gentleman by Jacob Van Loo, and other beloved works of art such as Rodin’s Figure Volante sculpture and Harry Bertoia’s Sound Piece. Thirty Years will be on view at Kresge Art Museum from February 5 through March 31, 2005. In addition to pieces on permanent view, this special exhibit will be on display in the Works on Paper Gallery.

In January, the Friends board voted to contribute towards the purchase of Portrait of a Gentleman by Dutch artist, Jacob Van Loo. Van Loo created the portrait during the height of his career in the 1660s. Well known for his history and genre scenes and portraiture, he was one of the foremost painters in Amsterdam during the mid-17th century. Van Loo’s paintings are included in public collections such as the Fran Hals Museum in Haarlem, the Louvre in Paris, and the Minneapolis Institute of Art. This portrait was purchased to honor the Friends’ 30th anniversary.

“We are pleased to help expand the public legacy of the Kresge Art Museum. Our latest acquisition, the wonderful portrait by Van Loo, helps round out the Old Masters holdings and will be an instant and enduring attraction,” said Vice-President of Friends of Kresge, Elinor Holbrook.

Since its establishment in 1975, the Friends of Kresge has funded art acquisitions, providing the only source of such support in the first decades of the museum’s existence. This generosity has been crucial in developing the museum’s well-rounded collection from the ancient to contemporary world. Many Friends’ purchases have become the most well known in the museum’s collection, such as the Black-Figure Neck Amphora, a Greek vase painted around 510 B.C., Paolo di Giovanni Fei’s triptych, and two ancient Roman sculptures. The Friends have also expanded the museum’s photography holdings with examples by Joel Meyerowitz, and the important American Roads portfolio. Michigan artists include Frederick Frieske, Mathias Alten, and John Felsing.

In conjunction with the Thirty Years of Friends Acquisitions exhibition, the Docent Voices Project honors the museum’s devoted docents and commemorates the 30th anniversary of that program. Docents were invited to share their thoughts on their favorite Friends’ acquisitions, which will be shared with visitors.

Admission is free to Kresge Art Museum. The museum is open Monday – Friday 10a.m. – 5p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon – 5 p.m. Kresge Art Museum is located on the campus of Michigan State University, in East Lansing. For information call 517/355-7631 or visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu

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