Kresge Art Museum Unveils New Acquisition to Kick Off 50th Anniversary Celebration

EAST LANSING, MI — Alexander Wyant’s Hudson River School painting, *Autumn on Lake Placid*, was unveiled last evening during the opening reception for *The Kresge Art Museum Collection: Celebrating the 50th*. The painting is part of an ambitious exhibition showcasing more than 130 works of art, chosen from the 1,200+ acquired over the last decade.

Born 1836 on a farm in Ohio, Alexander Wyant saw paintings by George Inness in Cincinnati in 1857 and was so taken with their moody, atmospheric expressivity that he went to New York to meet him. After studying for a year in New York, Wyant traveled through Germany, the British Isles, and finally to Paris, developing a characteristic style of fairly free brushwork, light touch, low key colors, subtle contrasts and sensitivity to atmosphere.

Wyant is an important link between earlier landscape painters and the later impressionists. “This factor as well as our long standing desire for a classic Hudson River School painting, which this is, made this an important acquisition for us,” said April Kingsley, curator at the Kresge Art Museum, “usually they are quite large but *Autumn*, a smaller piece, is a perfect one.”

*Autumn on Lake Placid* was among the last paintings finished before Wyant left on an expedition to the American Southwest. There, he suffered a stroke which left his right side partially paralyzed, forcing him to relearn how to paint with his left hand.

*The Kresge Art Museum Collection: Celebrating the 50th* will be on view through March 15, 2009. Sponsors are the MSU Federal Credit Union and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Kresge Art Museum is located in East Lansing, MI, on the campus of Michigan State University, first floor of the Kresge Art Center at the intersection of Physics and Auditorium Roads between the Alumni Chapel and the MSU Auditorium. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 p.m., Thursday until 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum will be open Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Presidents’ Day. For additional information, call (517) 355-7631 or visit www.artmuseum.msu.edu.

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Caption/Credit for attached image: Kresge Art Museum, Michigan State University, Alexander Helwig Wyant (American, 1836-1892), *Autumn on Lake Placid*, 1873, Oil on canvas, 12-1/8 x 20 inches, MSU purchase, funded by the Emma Grace Holmes Endowment, 2008.30

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