



PRESS RELEASE

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The Williams College Museum of Art Presents *Kidspace at WCMA: Artistic Curiosity*

November 10, 2012–April 21, 2013

Images available upon request.

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Williamstown, Mass. – The Williams College Museum of Art (WCMA) presents *Kidspace at WCMA: Artistic Curiosity*. The exhibition will be on view from November 10, 2012 through April 21, 2013. WCMA is proud to present its first Kidspace exhibition as part of its continuing collaboration with the Clark and MASS MoCA. Kidspace promotes the understanding and teaching of art through experiential learning opportunities designed for elementary and middle school students, teachers, and families. This year Kidspace expanded its programming, with Kidspace experiences for general visitors at all three museums under the umbrella theme of curiosity. The exhibition at WCMA examines the role of curiosity in art making. From sculpture and sketches to prints made of pie filling, the exhibition highlights the work of artists who take inspiration from scientific phenomena, investigate the inner life of human thoughts and emotions, and experiment with the artistic process itself. The exhibition includes works by Charles and Maurice Prendergast, David Hockney, Edward Ruscha, Joseph Cornell, Louise Nevelson, Amy Podmore, and Diane Arbus.

Visitors can explore their own curiosity in a variety of hands-on activities throughout the exhibition, including a place where they can sketch natural and historical curiosities on loan from the Berkshire Museum. Visitors can jot down their own questions on post-it

notes to share with others. The museum will collect these questions and answer them selectively on its blog. An interactive gallery guide will feature art detective games, drawing challenges, and inventive art-making ideas to try at home.

Joann Harnden, interim director of education, and Elizabeth Gallerani, coordinator of Mellon academic programs, curated this exhibition. "WCMA has been a proud member of the Kidspace partnership since its inception. Every year we have designed Kidspace-themed tours of WCMA for school groups, and we are thrilled to expand the reach of Kidspace with an exhibition at WCMA that all of our visitors can experience," said Harnden. Support for this exhibition is provided by the Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust.

WCMA will host *Family Day: Curiosity* on Saturday, March 2, 2013 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with hands-on art making and activities in the galleries. Let curiosity be your guide. Join us for artistic experiments with unusual materials and thought-provoking art-making projects. Share your questions with us: Have you ever wondered what the back of a painting looks like? What's the oldest object in WCMA's collection? What on earth is a "spit-bite" print?!? We'll collect your questions on family day and pick the most intriguing ones to answer on our blog.

Williams College Museum of Art

The Williams College Museum of Art is located on Main Street in Williamstown, Massachusetts. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 1 to 5 pm. The museum is wheelchair accessible and open to the public. Admission is FREE. For more information, contact the museum at (413) 597-2429 or visit wcma.williams.edu.

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