"The Stephane Janssen Collection of Contemporary American and European Art: In Memory of R. Michael Johns" opens Sunday at OU

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Tim Scott, Caprice Woosley and Scott Meek star in "Arsenic and Old Lace"

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NEW NETWORK ADDS TWO NEW COMEDIES: Platypus Man & PIGSTY

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Janssen collection opening at OU art museum

Powerful paintings, mixed-media assemblages and sculptures executed in passionate, tough and, at times, fierce expressions that command the viewer’s attention.

These descriptions refer to an exhibition of contemporary American and European artworks from the collection of Stephane Janssen that opens with a public reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday and runs through Feb. 16 at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 410 W. Boyd St.

The exhibition, titled “The Stephane Janssen Collection of Contemporary American and European Art: In Memory of R. Michael Johns,” was curated by Thomas R. Toperzer, director of the OU museum of art, and originates at the museum. During 1995-96, the collection will be shown throughout Europe.

“This is an exceptional opportunity to look at approximately 75 challenging works of art by 30 internationally established contemporary artists,” Toperzer said. “These works of art have generated critical interest for their intense aesthetic and physical form, as well as for each artist’s compelling need to create them.”

Featured artists include Alechinsky, Appel, Gilli, Haffka, Oliveira, Fruneda, Scholder, famous group of COBRA artists — artists from Copenhagen, Brussels and Amsterdam.

Janssen views each piece — and artist — as his “personal friend.” His collecting philosophy is that each work of art must convey passion and intensity and maintain longevity.

In addition to the collected works of American and European art, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art will present an installation of 30 photographs, also collected by Janssen, titled “Survivors Not Victims: Portraits by Patrick V. Brown.”

The photographs will be installed by the artist in a series of three crosses, emphasizing the images of people living with HIV-AIDS, accompanied by explanatory pedestals.

The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursdays; and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Free parking passes, for use in the reserved spaces on the north ends of the Parrington (north) Oval, are available at the museum’s security desk.

For more information, to make arrangements for group tours, or for accommodations on the basis of disability, call the museum at 325-3272.