FOCUS on entertainment in the Norman area

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Anniversary Exhibition: Celebrating the Permanent Collection
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Exhibition marks museum’s anniversary

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only 6,000 objects, a great number the result of the philanthropy of individual donors. Under current director and chief curator Tom Topzer, museum attendance has grown steadily, reflecting a healthy mix of international and regional art, as well as traditional and contemporary artists. In his 12-year tenure, Topzer has brought such shows as “Rembrandt: Etchings.” “Sandy Skoglund: Photographs and Sculpture” and “Allan House: Retrospective” to the museum and established an endowment of more than $1.5 million.

He also has helped to fulfill Jacobson’s vision of establishing a place to showcase art. According to Topzer, “Now, more than ever, people need a place to be inspired and refreshed, to get away from the pressures which we all face in our day-to-day lives. A place to keep in touch with our past while looking to the future. An art museum provides such an environment. We collect the finest expressions of an artist, both past and present, which provides the ideal setting for meditation, inspiration or renewal. Besides, it’s just fun!”

The anniversary exhibition, beginning with the opening today and running through Dec. 15, contains samples of works collected from 1915 to the present. These include Native American works from the Kiowa Five and the Studio; the Jacobson collection of North African arts and crafts acquired during his sabbatical year; and prints by American and European artists such as Whistler and Matisse.

“New Deal” art, kimonos from the Wentz-Matzene collection, pieces from the Tang Dynasty, and State Department works by O’Keeffe, Hopper and Shahn, as well as photography by Ansel Adams and Berenice Abbott are included. Oklahoma artists and past faculty members Oscar Jacobson and Eugene Bavinger are represented, as are contemporary artists Glassco, Andoe and Bradley.

To see the fruits of 60 years of acquisition, the public is invited to the opening of the anniversary exhibition tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. Regular museum hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4:30 p.m. On home football game Saturdays, the museum is open from 10 a.m. until kickoff, and there is no charge for admission.

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Only a small sample of the wide variety of artwork on display at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, the works shown on today’s Focus cover are “Big Solid Sender,” oil on canvas, 1964, by Alan Davie; “Hunting Song,” a tempera painting by Allan C. House; three Chinese tomb figures in terra cotta from the T’ang Dynasty; and a 1926 oil painting by Georgia O’Keeffe. Shown on this page is a lithograph by Henri Matisse. Cover design by Janice Higgins Blunk.

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