Glass art, native Sooner open OU shows

The University of Oklahoma's Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 410 W. Boyd St., begins the new year with two diverse exhibitions.

A free reception is scheduled from 3-5 p.m. Sunday to introduce the exhibitions— one composed entirely of objects made of glass and the other of paintings by Oklahoma artist Leonard Good. Both will run through March 7.

"Glass From Ancient Craft to Contemporary Art: 1962-1992 and Beyond" surveys the development of glass as a medium for aesthetic expression on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Studio Glass Movement. Sixty international artists will be represented by 86 works, which include finished pieces, drawings and models from proposed projects, as well as site-specific works.

The artists cover the spectrum of the Studio Glass Movement in three sections: The Beginning, 1962-1982; Current Events; 1982-1992; and The Future and Beyond.

The exhibition was organized by the Morris Museum of Art of New Jersey.

Karen Chambers, exhibition co-curator and author of the exhibition catalog essay, will present a free, public lecture at 2 p.m. Sunday in Holmberg Hall, just south of the museum.

"The FJIMA has a long history of involvement in the craft medium, and our viewing public has traditionally demonstrated a great interest in the magical nature of glass," said Tom Topperzer, museum director.

Funding assistance for the exhibition was provided by the Honorable Robert Tuttle of Los Angeles, who also serves on the FJIMA Board of Visitors, and the Fred Jones Cos. of Oklahoma City.

Also opening is a survey of paintings and drawings by one of Oklahoma's most distinguished artists titled "Leonard Good: Eight Decades."

Good was born in Chickasha in 1907, just before statehood when it was still Indian Territory. He is a professor emeritus of art and the winner of countless awards and honors for his work.

He began his career in art in the 1920s, coming of age between the world wars. During his long and varied teaching career, he taught at the Natchitoches Art Colony and in the Oklahoma City Public Schools, and was an OU professor for 20 years. He was head of the School of Art at Drake University when he retired, returning to Chickasha in 1977.

"Good's meticulously crafted oil and acrylic paintings possess the spontaneity often associated with transparent watercolor, a medium in which he also excels," said Jim Deighton, museum curator. "A profound sense of design and craftsmanship are the hallmarks of Leonard's work and form the foundation for all that he creates."

More productive than ever, Good continues to paint and is an active member in the Oklahoma art scene and the Oklahoma Historical Society. His article, "Oklahoma's Art in the 1930s," appears in the OHS's current issue of The Chronicles of Oklahoma.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is open from noon to 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; noon to 9 p.m. Thursdays; and 1 to 4:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

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