Spectacular American Modernist Exhibition to Open at Museum

"Hartley has really done it. He has done what in Kandinsky is only a direction... Each canvas is a thing in itself and contained within itself and the accomplishment of it is quite extraordinarily [sic] complete."
---Gertrude Stein

A comprehensive retrospective of artist Marsden Hartley (1877-1943), one of the foremost exponents of modernism in America, will open at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 410 W. Boyd in Norman, on January 23. The exhibition is drawn from the single largest and most important collection of Hartley's work, the Hudson and Ione Walker Collection at the Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota.

The painter lived in Maine, New York, and Berlin and was an intimate in the circles of Alfred Stieglitz in New York, Gertrude Stein in Paris, and Mabel Dodge Luhan in New Mexico. Grafting European modernism onto an American foundation, Hartley drew inspiration from such diverse sources as Cezanne, Picasso, and Matisse; Native American art and the landscape of the Southwest; and writers such as Emerson and Whitman. Hartley ran a gamut of styles, and he is equally as well-known for his groundbreaking abstractions as for his brilliantly colored, lyrical landscapes.

The exhibition features major works from each of Hartley's periods, including early post-impressionist Maine mountain scenes, pre-World War I abstractions produced in Paris and Berlin, Provincetown experiments, New Mexican landscapes, still lifes from the '20s and '30s, Bavarian mountain pastels, '30s archaic portraits, and late Maine landscapes. Accompanying text panels will contextualize the art and attempt to explain why Hartley made such radical changes in the course of his career.
To complement *Marsden Hartley: American Modern*, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art will also exhibit selections from its own superb collection of works by Hartley's contemporaries. Paintings by Maurice Prendergast, Georgia O'Keeffe, John Marin, Stuart Davis, John Sloan, and Edward Hopper will be shown, as well as Camera Work-era photographs including vintage works by Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Frederick Evans, Baron Adolf de Meyer, and Alvin Langdon Coburn.

*Marsden Hartley: American Modern* is organized by the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. The catalogue and exhibition tour have been made possible by support from the National Endowment for the Arts. The exhibition runs through March 7 and is sponsored in part with the assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council; the Norman Arts and Humanities Council Grant Program, funded by the Norman Hotel/Motel tax; and Dr. Mark Allen Everett.

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4:30 p.m. Parking is available on the campus's north oval with a museum parking pass or in the Asp or Elm Street parking garages. For more information or accommodations of the basis of disability, call 325-3272 or visit the museum Website, www.ou.edu/fjjma.

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