'Marsden Hartley: American Modern'

Jan. 23 — March 7
Fred Jones Jr.
Museum of Art
University of Oklahoma
Spectacular American modernist exhibition to open at museum

An essential ingredient of Marsden Hartley’s complex art and life was his homosexuality

Transcript Staff

A comprehensive retrospective of one of the most important artists of the American early modern period, Marsden Hartley, will open Saturday at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, 210 W. Boyd.

Examples of works from each period of his shifting artistic practice and beliefs are represented, including early post-impressionist Maine mountain scenes, pre-World War I abstractions completed in Paris and Berlin, Provincetown experiments, New Mexican landscapes, still lifes from the ’20s and ’30s, Bavarian mountain pastels, 30s archeic portraits, and late Maine landscapes.

Running the gamut

Hartley was part of the influential group surrounding Alfred Stieglitz in the early 1900s. Arthur Dove, John Marin, Georgia O’Keeffe, and Paul Strand were his colleagues and the core of the Stieglitz circle. Like his friend, Pablo Picasso, Hartley’s work fascinates because it runs the gamut of avant-garde painting styles. He is equally well-known for his groundbreaking abstract works and his lyrical landscapes.

This exhibition, drawn from the single largest collection of Hartley’s work at the Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, Minn., presents his many different styles and attempts to explain — through accompanying text panels — why he made such radical changes in the course of his career.

To complement the Hartley exhibition, an exhibition of 20th Century watercolors and photographs from the museum’s permanent collection, including works by painters Prendergast, Marin, Stuart Davis and Edmond Hopper, and American Modernist photographers and the Stieglitz circle, will also be shown.

“Marsden Hartley: American Modern” runs through March 7 and is curated by Patricia McDonnell of the Weisman Art Museum. It is made possible in part with the assistance of the Oklahoma Arts Council, the Norman Arts and Humanities Council Hotel/Motel tax and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Museum hours

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art at the University of Oklahoma is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 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 permit or in the Asp or Elm Street parking garages.

For more information or accommodations on the basis of disability, call 325-3272 or visit the museum Web site, www.ou.edu/fjma.

Carpenter Square Theatre announces auditions in Edmond on Feb 7 for summer musical