

Charles H. MacNider Art Museum
Donation Policy for
Funds Donated for the Acquisition of Artwork
or
Artwork Donations

The focus of the collection of the Charles H. MacNider Museum is American Art. In its collection the Museum has over 600 pieces of regional and nationally recognized artists. The collection ranges in genre and time frame from the 1850s to contemporary works. As a leader in the museum industry, the MacNider adheres to best practices regarding artwork collection and care. The Museum is committed to the ongoing conservation, research, and display of this outstanding collection.

The Museum's collection continues to grow through the generosity of art donors and living artists. However, the number of objects already in our care requires that we follow strict criteria when determining whether to accept new offers. Factors include: Duplication of artist or genre, programing opportunities, storage constraints, shipping costs, and long term preservation costs. In addition, the Museum mission is to only collect American art. Donations of non-American art will only be considered for ultimate resale to purchase a like American piece. The Museum has limited funds for purchasing and typically does not purchase unsolicited artwork.

Gifts are accepted with the understanding that they become the property of the Charles H. MacNider Museum. This includes monetary gifts for the purposes of collecting artwork. Funds less than \$5,000 typically are unable to purchase artwork due to market demands and will be placed in a general acquisitions fund. The Museum has sole discretion regarding the decision about a gift's purchase, retention, placement, cataloging, location, use, and disposition. Materials accepted but not added to the holdings may be sold. The Museum is unable to return gifts of art or funds should a work of art be deaccessioned. Before the process of selecting artwork may begin, the funds must be deposited in the Museum's account.

Procedure for donations of artwork:

Please send photos of the artwork, clearly showing images of imperfections, signature, and whole rear and front to the Museum Director at eb Blanchard@masoncity.net. We will also need any information pertaining to the object's provenance and history. Please also state if the artwork will be shipped or dropped off at the donor's expense, or the Museum's. Artwork that may be potentially accepted will then be presented to the Acquisitions Committee. Upon an affirmative vote of the Acquisitions Committee, the artwork will then be presented to the Museum Board of Trustees for a final vote.

Items not selected for acquisition must be picked up within 30 days. The Museum can also ship the artwork back at the expense of the donor. Items left over 30 days will be considered abandoned property and will be disposed of as the Museum deems appropriate. The Museum generally does not accept works for an education collection as it uses the actual collection on a frequent basis and lacks storage for additional items.

Procedure for donation of funds for artwork purchase:

Due to the current market prices for artwork, donations less than \$5,000 will be placed in the Museum's general acquisition fund. Funds will combine with other donations to purchase a quality piece of original artwork. Credit line on the donation will read "Museum Acquisition Fund," however individuals will be thanked in the Museum newsletter and annual report.

Donations over \$5,000 will be deposited in the Museum's trust in an account line specific to that fund until purchase. The Acquisitions Committee is receptive to suggestions for the use of the donation; however the ultimate decision will come from the Museum Board of Trustees and the Acquisitions Committee. The Committee will search for pieces that fill in needs of the current collection using a variety of methods including reputable dealers and fine art auction houses. It is not possible to combine funds unless prior consent is given between both parties. Funds remaining after an initial purchase will be combined into the general Acquisitions Fund unless it is over the amount of \$5,000.

The MacNider Museum does not accept unsolicited donations of artwork through the mail without any further information provided. Items that are sent to the Museum or left at the Museum will be considered abandoned property and the Museum reserves the right to dispose of such property as appropriate after 30 days.

Provenance

As an ethical institution the Charles H. MacNider Museum does not collect works that have an unknown and unclear history. Donors, galleries, and auction houses are required to disclose any unknown parts of the artwork's provenance, or history of ownership. The Museum reserves the right to refuse works that do not have clear provenance.

Deaccessioning

When accepting artwork, the Museum acknowledges the long term responsibility for the continual care of the artwork. However, the Museum reserves the right to deaccession works that are no longer relevant to the collection, are duplication, or present significant conservation concerns. Deaccessioning is the process in which Museum may ethically remove art works from our possession. This requires a vote from the Museum Board of Trustees. Deaccessioning is a serious matter and is only used as a last resort. Funds from the deaccessioning process will not return to the donor, nor will the artwork itself should deaccessioning occur. Funds from deaccessioning return to the Museum's Acquisitions Fund.

As an accredited member of the American Alliance of Museums, the Charles H. MacNider adheres to best practices when accessioning works of art.

I have read the above policies and understand the requirements and limitations as stated.

Donor

Date Signed

Address of Donor:

Museum Director

Date Signed

Phone Number

email:
