

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
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PRESS RELEASE

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**NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY ANNOUNCES 2012-2013 CELEBRATION OF NEWARK ART & ARTISTS
FEATURING EXHIBITION, PROGRAMS, AND EVENTS**

Kick-Off Reception on Oct. 3rd, 6 p.m.

NEWARK, SEPT. 28, 2012— The Newark Public Library is gearing up for a yearlong celebration of Newark art and artists featuring an exhibition and related programs and events that reflect the city's great diversity across the generations, and its transitions and transformation. A kick-off reception will be held Oct. 3rd at the Main Library.

Newark Art and Artists: Prints, Photographs, and Other Works on Paper from the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library is a two-part exhibition of prints, photographs, books, and other works on paper that either have Newark as their subject, or are created by artists who have lived, studied, worked, or were born in Newark. The exhibition includes works created between 1800 and 2012, and is drawn entirely from the holdings of the Library's Special Collections Division.

Part 1 of the exhibition opens Oct. 3 when the Library will host a 6 p.m. reception open to the public at Centennial Hall in the Main Library, 5 Washington St. The exhibition, which will be in the Main Library's Third Floor Gallery, will be on view through Jan. 12, 2013. Part 2 will open on January 23, 2013.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Library will be hosting a series of related programs and events, including: free portfolio reviews by outside curators and other art professionals; art resource fairs with information about opportunities to show art, see art, sell art, and create art in Newark; artists' talks; film screenings; and panel discussions.

The first Portfolio Review and Art Resource Fair will be held Saturday, October 27, 1-4 pm, at Centennial Hall in the Main Library. Organized by the Library's Special Collections and Reference Divisions, the fair will provide art organizations an opportunity to educate visitors about places to show art, see art, sell art, and make art in Newark. Curators and other art professionals will also be providing free portfolio reviews for Newark Library cardholders. For additional information about participating in the fair or arranging a portfolio review, contact Jared Ash at 973-733-7745.

While the Library has presented numerous exhibitions in the past dedicated to Newark and New Jersey, the new exhibition is the first of this size to focus exclusively on Newark artists of the past and present in more than a decade at the Library. Each part will feature about 100 works.

“For more than a century, The Newark Public Library has proudly supported Newark artists, and we have never wavered in our commitment to serve as a key resource for all creative individuals working in all forms of media,” said Library Director Wilma Grey. “We see this exhibition and the coming year’s activities as a reaffirmation of our commitment and our availability, and we are excited to open our doors even wider and welcome those women and men who not only have connections to Newark’s past and present, but who share a passion for artistic work.”

Part I of the exhibition includes works from the 19th and 20th centuries, by artists who are now deceased. Featured artists include: Enid Bell, George Bradshaw, Minna Citron, Robert Conover, Stuart Davis, Ralph Fabri, Henry Gasser, Bernard Gussow, Jorgen Jorgensen, Adolf Konrad, Michael Lenson, Peter McCord, and Luigi Rist, among others. The earliest work in the exhibition is a hand-colored family register from the early 1830s, engraved by Peter Maverick, and the latest work is a photo-etching with collage by Minna Citron, from 1977.

Part 2 of the exhibition will feature works by a wide range of contemporary, living Newark artists of multiple generations, from internationally renowned, to newly emerging.

Newark Art and Artists is co-curated by Jared Ash, Special Collections Division, and Matthew Gosser, College of Architecture and Design at the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Funding for the exhibitions, portfolio reviews, and resource fairs has been provided in part by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

Additional funding from the Dodge Foundation will allow the Library to purchase prints by contemporary Newark artists for the Library’s Fine Prints and Photographs Collection, and expand the total number of Newark artists represented in the Collection. According to Ash, many of these new purchases will be displayed in Part 2 of the exhibition, alongside additional works by Newark artists that the Library hopes to receive as gifts from artists and private collectors.

“Newark’s history as a center for creativity and art production spans more than two centuries,” said Ash. “That history is particularly well-documented in the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library, which has been collecting and exhibiting prints, photographs, and other works of art on paper by Newark artists for more than 110 years.”

Ash added: “In bringing these works together for the present exhibition, we hope that contemporary Newark artists will recognize that they are part of a great legacy, and that non-artists will recognize the rich contributions that artists have been making to Newark for generations. “

Exhibits and exhibit-related programs are free and open to the general public during regular library hours, Monday through Saturday. Group visits and tours of the exhibition are available by arrangement. For additional information, please visit www.npl.org, or contact the Special Collections Division through email at: specialcollections@npl.org, or by calling 973-733-7745.

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