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Solemn Spaces: Works by Robert Kipniss

Quiet beauty depicted through multiple media types with artist's original poetry

December 4, 2023 (Fort Wayne, IN) – The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is pleased to present “Solemn Spaces: Works by Robert Kipniss” **now through February 25, 2024** in the Museum’s galleries at 311 E. Main Street. Robert Kipniss is a distinguished American painter and printmaker. His work has been shown in solo exhibitions at galleries and museums worldwide. In addition to his artistic accolades, Kipniss is an accomplished poet and author.

For over six decades, Robert Kipniss has prolifically created paintings, lithographs, mezzotints, and drypoints that share stylistic characteristics and subject matter. His works have been described as conveying solitude and inward experience. He is a Royal Academician (retired), an elected member of the National Academy of Design, New York, and holds two honorary doctorates. His work is represented in the collections of numerous public institutions, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and many others. He has created over 750 editions and is perhaps best known as one of the leading living practitioners of mezzotint.

This exhibition from the FWMoA’s Special Collections and Archives dives into the shared stylistic characteristics between Kipniss’ writings and art, which hints of human presence but displays no actual figure. His distinct minimal style of muted tones and unadorned, almost geometric forms—often featuring a lone cup, house, or chair—call to mind the often solitary and sometimes lonely journey of the human soul. In 2016, the artist donated 129 prints and paintings to the Fort Wayne Museum of Art to establish a definitive archive representing the artist’s work over his long career.

To celebrate the art of this acclaimed artist, FWMoA will host a **Curator’s Tour of the exhibition with Charles Shepard, FWMoA’s President and CEO, and Associate Curator of Special Collections and Archives, Lauren Wolfer** as part of its monthly **Second Thursday at FWMoA series on January 11, 2024 at 6:00pm**. Second Thursdays at FWMoA are a chance to explore the museum in a social atmosphere through conversation and discovery, featuring art and gallery activities led by museum curators and artists. Join us every second Thursday of the month year-round for free admission, cash bar, and light appetizers. Check our events calendar for upcoming programs.

This exhibition is supported by the Edward D. and Ione Auer Foundation and Second Thursdays at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art are sponsored by ProFed Credit Union.

General admission to see this exhibition at the museum is free for FWMoA members, \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors 65+, and \$25 for families. General admission is free for everyone on Thursdays 5-8pm. Veterans, active military personnel, and their families receive free general admission. FWMoA gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10-6pm, Thursdays 10-8pm, and Sundays 12-5pm.

About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art: Beginning with art classes in 1888 given by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Fort Wayne Museum of Art has evolved into the primary resource for the visual arts in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting regional and nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive permanent collection of American Art, including the Steven Sorman Archives and more than 350 pieces of glass sculpture. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. This activity is made possible, in part, with support from the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

For more information, visit www.fwmoa.org.

Image Credit:

1. Robert Kipniss, "Still life with Fruit and Knife," Mezzotint on paper, American, 2007, Gift of an Anonymous Donor
2. Robert Kipniss, "Toward Longridge," Oil on linen, American, 2015, Gift of an Anonymous Donor
3. Robert Kipniss, "Fluttering," Mezzotint on paper, American, 2014, Gift of an Anonymous Donor

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