FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MODERN MASTERS
20TH CENTURY ICONS
FROM THE ALBRIGHT-KNOX ART GALLERY

March 2–June 8, 2014 | www.denverartmuseum.org

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MODERN MASTERS Traces the Path of Modern Art through 50 Masterworks by the Era’s Most Iconic Artists

Clyfford Still Museum presents related exhibition, 1959: The Albright Art Gallery Exhibition Recreated, through first joint ticket with DAM

(Defter, Colo.) – The Denver Art Museum (DAM) and the Clyfford Still Museum (CSM) will co-present the exhibition Modern Masters: 20th Century Icons from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, March 2–June 8, 2014, at the Denver Art Museum. The exhibition brings together approximately 50 iconic artworks by more than 40 influential artists from the late 19th century to the present. Curated locally by Dean Sobel, director of CSM, the exhibition is drawn from the collection of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York, one of the finest collections of 20th century art in the country. The exhibition provides an unparalleled opportunity to witness the major stylistic developments that shaped the course of modern art. Modern Masters will feature masterpieces by some of the most prominent names in art history including Vincent van Gogh, Pablo Picasso, Georgia O’Keeffe, Salvador Dalí, Frida Kahlo, Roy Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol as well as one of the finest drip paintings ever created by Jackson Pollock. The exhibition will require a special ticket that will provide access to both the exhibition at the DAM as well as 1959, a correlative exhibition at CSM.

“Sometimes considered radical or off the wall, the artwork presented in these exhibitions explores a time of great creativity,” Sobel said. “It’s a rare treat to be able to see the development of modern art and then go next door to the Clyfford Still Museum and explore the evolution of one artist in-depth.”

A related exhibition, 1959: The Albright Art Gallery Exhibition Recreated, will be presented at the CSM February 14–June 15, 2014. Also curated by Sobel, 1959 recreates Still’s landmark exhibition held at the Albright-Knox in the fall of that year. This exhibition was the largest of Still’s career and the first following his decision to break ties with the art world in 1951. He included works made during the 1930s and

Images available upon request

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major paintings made in New York during the 1950s. These artworks were not well known at the time and had never previously shown to the public. Further connecting the exhibitions and institutions, Modern Masters includes a strong example of Still’s work from this time period, PH-48, 1957.

“Modern Masters showcases one of the best collections of modern art in the country,” said Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the DAM. “Not only are most of the iconic artists of the time represented, but the works themselves are masterpieces from each artist. We are thrilled to work with our neighbor the Clyfford Still Museum to bring this outstanding exhibition to Denver.”

Located in the level two Hamilton Building temporary exhibition spaces, the exhibition begins in the late 1800s and includes stellar examples of Post-Impressionism by Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Van Gogh and Paul Gauguin, which provide a springboard for various expressionist and visionary tendencies apparent in later works throughout the exhibition. Modern Masters also considers ideas that contributed to the development—and conscious rejection—of the art movements Cubism, Surrealism, Pop Art and Minimalism. The largest grouping in the exhibition features approximately 20 mid-century American artists, many of whom identified as Abstract Expressionists, including Pollock, Mark Rothko, Willem de Kooning, Robert Motherwell and Still. Still is uniquely associated with the Albright-Knox as a result of his gift of 31 paintings to that institution in 1964.

The exhibition also brings to light other themes that reappear throughout 20th century art, such as subject matter drawn from everyday life and the emphasis on “process,” particularly in painting. During this time, the medium itself and the ways in which it was applied became an expressive agent for meaning and emotion.

**Ticket Information**

A timed and dated ticket is required for Modern Masters, which includes an audio guide as well as general admission to both the DAM and CSM, including 1959. A Modern Masters ticket is valid through the run of 1959 at CSM and does not need to be used on the same day as a visit to the DAM. Patrons must retain their Modern Masters ticket for entry to the CSM.

Tickets go on sale December 2 for DAM and CSM members at each institution. Public tickets go on sale December 16, online at www.denverartmuseum.org, by phone at 720-913-0130 or on-site.

**Exhibition Tour Schedule**

**Denver Art Museum, March 2–June 8, 2014**

Albright-Knox Art Gallery, July 3–September 14, 2014
Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, February 19–June 1, 2015
Milwaukee Art Museum, June 19–September 20, 2015
**Exhibition Credit Line**
This exhibition was initiated by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York, and was organized by Albright-Knox Chief Curator Douglas Dreishpoon. It is supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities. The Denver Art Museum and the Clyfford Still Museum presentation has been made possible by U.S. Bank, Snell & Wilmer, the generous donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign and the citizens who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by *5280 Magazine*, CBS4 and *The Denver Post*.

**Media Resources**

**Denver Art Museum**
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/denverartmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/denverartmuseum)
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/denverartmuseum](http://www.twitter.com/denverartmuseum)

**Clyfford Still Museum**
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/clyffordstillmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/clyffordstillmuseum)
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/Still_Museum](http://www.twitter.com/Still_Museum)

**Denver Art Museum**
The Denver Art Museum is an educational, nonprofit resource that sparks creative thinking and expression through transformative experiences with art. Its holdings reflect the city and region—and provide invaluable ways for the community to learn about cultures from around the world. Denver metro citizens support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), a unique funding source serving hundreds of metro Denver arts, culture and scientific organizations. For museum information, call 720-865-5000 or visit [www.denverartmuseum.org](http://www.denverartmuseum.org).

**The Clyfford Still Museum**
The Clyfford Still Museum was founded to promote public and scholarly understanding of the late artist’s work and legacy, through the presentation and preservation of the Clyfford Still and Patricia Still estates, donated to the City of Denver in 2004 and 2005 respectively, and totaling approximately 3,000 artworks. Considered one of the most important painters of the 20th century, Still (1904–1980) was among the first generation of Abstract Expressionist artists who developed a new, powerful approach to painting in the years immediately following World War II. The Stills’ estates—now understood to contain nearly 95 percent of the artist’s total output as well as his extensive archives—were sealed off from the public from 1980 to 2011. The new museum is in the heart of the city’s Civic Center Cultural Complex. The Clyfford Still Museum is located at 1250 Bannock St., Denver, CO. It is open Tuesday–Thursday and Saturday–Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The museum is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day. For more information about the Clyfford Still Museum, call us at 720-354-4880, visit [www.clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://www.clyffordstillmuseum.org), find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

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