



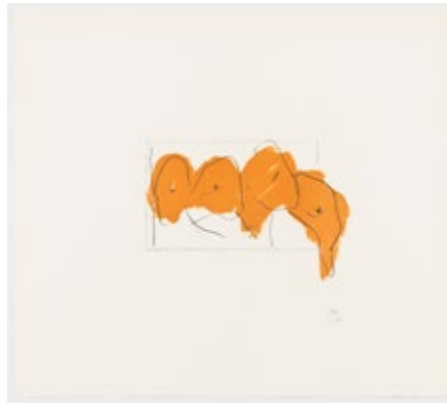
Tunis Ponsen (Dutch-American)
Sunlight and Shadows, date unknown
Oil on canvas (Simmons Collection)

Dutch born painter, Tunis Ponsen (1891-1968), was highly prolific during his professional years 1930 to 1967. His paintings—which depict scenes and images that once captured the artist's heart—are known to evoke emotions of nostalgia for some contemporary viewers. From landscapes depicting the verdant rolling fields of western Michigan and eastern seaboard water scenes, to still lifes and florals, compelling portraits, and personal interior scenes, Ponsen's imagery conveys visually what may be the artist's diary of his life.



Ben Shahn (Lithuanian-American)
Wheatfield, 1958
Screenprint with hand coloring (Student Union Collection of Contemporary Art)

As a member of the Social Realist movement, Ben Shahn's (1898 – 1969) expressive figurative paintings, murals, and posters were inescapably tied to his pursuit of social justice and lifelong activism within leftist political beliefs. Shahn assisted Mexican muralist Diego Rivera in the early 1930s, and was employed by the Works Progress Administration in the mid-1930s. In 1935, Shahn was hired as one of the first Farm Security Administration (FSA) photographers. He used his photographs and lithographs of Depression era economic plight on farms to advance the agency's moral mission to inform the wider population to support rural economic and social reform.



Robert Motherwell (American)
Untitled, 1991
Color etching and aquatint print (General Collection)
Gift of Terry Scarborough ('74) on occasion of the exhibition Motherwell: product. placement. collages and collage-prints of Robert Motherwell, Hanes Gallery, January – March, 2020.

Robert Motherwell (1915-1991) was a seminal Abstract Expressionist painter and printmaker. Influenced by the automatic writing and drawing prescribed by the Surrealists, Motherwell's practice was characterized by an intuitive approach to painting. He is perhaps best known for his iconic *Elegy to the Spanish Republic* series, which consists of 150 variants of black forms on white backgrounds that memorialize the injustices of the Spanish Civil War. Motherwell's biomorphic, serial shapes in this print are reminiscent of the organic motifs in his *Elegies* that are repeated in varying sizes and degrees of compression and distortion.

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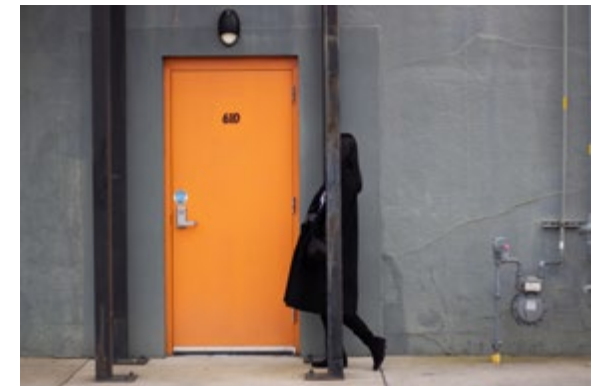
Office of the President
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ArtCollections.wfu.edu

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTIONS *Office of the President*

The University Art Collection provides students opportunities for direct engagement with original works of art, while cultivating an environment that creates dialogue, fosters creativity, and promotes interdisciplinary thinking. The permanent collection consists of 9 distinct collections representing a long history of acquisitions and gifts.

The artworks in the Office of the President represent selections from the Student Union Collection of Contemporary Art, John P. Anderson Collection of Student Art, General Collection, Print Collection, and Simmons Collection.



Kayla Amador (American)
Untitled, Obscura 7 (Orange door), 2019
Digital photograph/Inkjet print (John P. Anderson Collection of Student Art)

Kayla Amador ('19) was a Japanese Language & Culture and Studio Art Double-Major. Through video art and photography, her work combines her interests in the field of Japanese cultural studies with her own personal experiences as a multiracial woman of color. This digital photograph from the series *Obscura*, explores urban spaces and the interplay between light, shadow, color, and texture. The shadow-like figure traverses these environments and becomes interwoven with features of the scene, drawing attention to the relationship between the figure and depicted space. Amador was a member of the 2016-2017 Student Union Art Acquisition Committee. After graduating, she was the WFU stArt Gallery Manager from 2019-2021.



Teju Cole (Nigerian-American)
Zurich, 2014, 2018
 Pigment print (General Collection)



Teju Cole (Nigerian-American)
Tripoli, 2018
 Pigment print (General Collection)

Writer and photographer Teju Cole combines text and image in these photographs from his project entitled *Blind Spot*, which sprung from a period of semi-blindness. Cole eventually regained his sight, but the experience changed how he saw things as a photographer: "It really did become sacred. This intensity of looking at the world, and looking really closely, and photographing things that were not exciting, but things that were sort of washed with presence, with light." He is the photography critic of the NYT Magazine and the Gore Vidal Professor of the Practice of Creative Writing at Harvard. Born in the U.S., raised in Nigeria, Cole studied medicine and obtained a doctorate in art history before writing his first novel, *Open City*, and taking up photography.

These photographs were featured in the exhibition *Blind Spot* in Hanes Gallery in 2019 and were purchased by the President's Office for the Art Collection. Cole spoke at Wake Forest in 2018 as part of the University's *Voices of our Time* series.



Paul Fournier (Canadian)
Reef Necklace, 2000
 Lithograph (Print Collection)

Paul Fournier's *Reef Necklace* is one of six prints in a series that loosely depicts sea life. Inspired by coastal geological formations seen on his travels to Ireland, Scotland and England, the artist creates a universal image by combining these influences with those from his familiar Canadian landscape. Fournier demonstrates an almost Fauvist sense of color and an ability to be both playful and lyrical in the same moment.

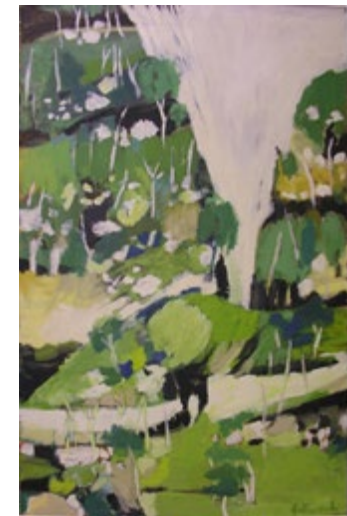


Derek Besant (Canadian)
All Day Long You'll Squint at the Gray Sky, 1997, from "Prairie Music Suite"
 Linocut print (Print Collection)

Derek Besant is a Canadian artist known for his prints, watercolors and large-scale installation public art. Besant was invited to Wake Forest University along with 7 other printmakers to teach and produce a print suite as part of the University's "Year of the Arts 1996-1997". The "Year of the Arts" was dedicated to the memory of the late James Ralph Scales, Wake Forest president from 1967-1983. "The aim of the year is to encourage participation in and support for the university's arts programs," said James Dodding, Wake Forest's theater professor. Professor of Printmaking, David Faber, participated in the portfolio and arranged for the donation of the "*Prairie Music Suite*" to the University's Print Collection. Typical of Besant's work, he gives the viewers only parts of the whole – clues – and encourages the viewer to create the narrative.



Maud Gatewood (American)
62 South, 1971
 Serigraph print (General Collection)



Maud Gatewood (American)
Untitled (Abstract Landscape), 1950s
 Oil on canvas (General Collection)

Maud Gatewood (1934-2004) is considered to be one of North Carolina's most acclaimed painters. During her lifetime, Gatewood experimented with a range of styles, including realism and abstraction in various media. She never focused on one style, preferring instead to explore different materials and approaches. A feminist who organized around health, gender and socioeconomic issues, Gatewood's subject matter frequently explored challenging social issues. Gatewood graduated from the Woman's College (now UNCG) in 1954; earned an MFA in 1955 from The Ohio State University; and in 1963 won a Fulbright to study in Austria under renowned painter Oskar Kokoschka. She taught at Averett University, Davidson, and UNC-Charlotte, among other North Carolina universities.