

MARY BETH MCKENZIE'S PRINTS AND DRAWINGS ON DISPLAY AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

New York, New York: Mary Beth McKenzie is pleased to announce the exhibition of her work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. *Untitled (Diner)* - monotype, plate and drawing - are part of the permanent collection currently on view in the Johnson Gallery for Drawings and Prints from April 14 – July 12, 2009. The three works are just a few of several acquired by the Met from her collection.

A native of Ohio, McKenzie has lived in New York City for over 40 years. Educated at the Cooper School of Art in Cleveland and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, McKenzie moved to New York to continue her studies at the National Academy of Design, The Art Students League, and independently with Robert Philipp, Robert Brackman, Jose Cintron, Daniel Greene and Burton Silverman.

McKenzie's paintings are a portal into the artist's private life. Drawing inspiration from family, friends and acquaintances, McKenzie allows the viewer an intimate look into subject matter she finds appealing. "My paintings stem from my everyday experiences," explains McKenzie. "My subjects are the people with whom I come in contact and the objects and places that are a part of my surroundings. I have always been preoccupied with the human figure - people alone or in relation to other people or objects."

The Metropolitan Museum of Art began acquiring McKenzie's work in 1992 as part of their 20th Century Painting Collection. *Self Portrait - Matisse Print* was the first addition and was included in the Met's 2001 self-portrait exhibition "Looking at You" curated by William S. Lieberman, Chairman of the Department of 20th Century Art. Subsequent acquisitions included *Paul* and *Self Portrait - Red Background*. In 2002, the Met obtained monotypes depicting McKenzie's childhood home and recent procurements include a series of colorful circus monotypes and sketchbooks illustrating primary studies of many of her completed works. Nearly two dozen pieces of McKenzie's art are now part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's permanent collection.

In addition to the Met, McKenzie's work is included in the collections of the National Museum of American Art (Smithsonian Institution); Brooklyn Museum of Art; the Museum of the City of New York; National Museum of Women in the Arts; Butler Museum of American Art; New Britain Museum of American Art; National Academy of Design, The Art Students League; and the New York Historical Society. McKenzie's paintings are also in private and corporate collections across the United States and Europe, notably the R.J. Reynolds Corporation; Dominick Visconsi Corporation; Amerda Hesse Collection and Privatbanken Collection.

Over the years, McKenzie has exhibited widely in group and solo shows and has earned numerous awards for her paintings. In 1994, the National Academy of Design elected her a National Academician. McKenzie has been featured in "American Artist" and "Artist's Magazine" and in 1987 Watson-Guptil published a monograph of her work, *A Painterly Approach: An Artist's Guide to Seeing, Painting and Expressing*.

Mary Beth McKenzie teaches at the Art Students League of New York and The National Academy of Design.



Untitled (Diner)
by Mary Beth McKenzie
Monotype

- **What:** [Mary Beth McKenzie Prints and Drawings](#)
- **Exhibition:** ["Selections from the Permanent Collection"](#)
- **Where:** [The Johnson Gallery for Drawings and Prints
Metropolitan Museum Of Art - NYC](#)
- **When:** [April 14 - July 12, 2009](#)
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