

Asheville Art Museum



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**Art work image shown (available in high resolution):**

Andy Warhol, *Emily Fisher Landau*, synthetic polymer paint and silkscreen ink on canvas, 40 x 40 inches.  
Courtesy of Emily Fisher Landau, New York © 2013 The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York.

## ***Asheville Art Museum Debuts Traveling Exhibition from the Whitney Museum of American Art: Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection***

On view from Saturday, June 15 through Sunday, September 8, 2013

**Opening reception: July 13, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

ASHEVILLE, NC — *Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection*, an exhibition featuring a selection of art works from a historic gift pledged to the Whitney Museum of American Art in 2010 by longtime trustee Emily Fisher Landau, **opens at the Asheville Art Museum on Saturday, June 15, 2013**. The exhibition will be celebrated with an Opening Reception on Saturday, July 13 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the North Wing of the Asheville Art Museum.

Co-curated by Donna De Salvo, the Whitney's Chief Curator and Deputy Director for Programs, and David Kiehl, the Whitney Museum's Curator of Prints and Special Collections, *Legacy* includes more than eighty works from Emily Fisher Landau's collection of 419 works by nearly one hundred key figures in American art. It is one of the most important gifts the Whitney has received to date. Considered one of the preeminent collectors of postwar art in the United States, Emily Fisher Landau's personal approach to collecting has long paralleled that of the Whitney, an institution similarly devoted to the art of its time.

Emily Fisher Landau began collecting art in the late 1960s and since the early 1980s she has focused on building an important collection of contemporary American art. *Legacy* traces many

of the ideas that have preoccupied artists in the United States since the late 1960s. Questions about the relevance of painting in the aftermath of Minimalism, debates about representation and the so-called “culture wars”, and a revived interest in personal narratives are driving forces in the Emily Fisher Landau collection. *Legacy* allows these questions, as well as the question of what it means to collect contemporary art, to unfold in the Asheville Art Museum.

One section of *Legacy* focuses on Minimalism, broadly defined, with seminal works by artists such as Carl Andre and Agnes Martin, as well as works by John McLaughlin, Joseph Kosuth, Martin Puryear and Al Taylor. Another section of the exhibition signals a return by artists to representational and other subjects generally associated with painting by artists such as John Baldessari, Barbara Kruger, Mark Tansey, Peter Cain, and Susan Rothenberg, as well as paintings by Willem de Kooning and Cy Twombly.

*Legacy* highlights Landau’s support of a younger group of artists who engaged in the political and social dialogue that came to the forefront in the vibrant downtown New York scene in the 1980s, a period when Landau began in earnest exploring downtown galleries and artists’ studios. Important works by Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Robert Mapplethorpe, Peter Hujar, Keith Haring, David Wojnarowicz, and Lorna Simpson deal with AIDS, issues of politics and gender, and race.

*Legacy* also shows the long-standing commitment Landau made to several artists. Here, Richard Artschwager and Ed Ruscha are each represented by works spanning their entire careers. Also, a number of works by Jasper Johns, including a painting from the *Catenary* series and a selection from the gift’s complete set of the artist’s screenprints made between 1968 and 1982, provide an in-depth look at Johns’s career and mastery of this printing process.

*Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection* was originally organized and curated by The Whitney Museum of American Art. Hosted by the Asheville Art Museum through September 8, 2013, *Legacy* has received major support from The Midgard Foundation and is also sponsored by an anonymous donor, [Bank of America and Merrill Lynch](#), [George’s Stor-Mor](#), Sally M. Kennedy, Michael J. McCue, Ladene and Russell Newton, Harry C. Rowney, Cherry and Paul Lentz Saenger, Pat and Paul Samuels, Mark and Marti Sidelnick, [TD Bank](#), and Florence Wallin in memory of Franklin Wallin.

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**Featured artists include:** Carl Andre, Richard Artschwager, John Baldessari, Matthew Barney, Peter Cain, Willem de Kooning, Barbara Kruger, Carroll Dunham, William Eggleston, Eric Fischl, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Keith Haring, Jenny Holzer, Peter Hujar, Michael Hurson, Neil Jenney, Jasper Johns, Joseph Kosuth, Annette Lemieux, Sherrie Levine, Glenn Ligon, Robert Longo, Robert Mapplethorpe, Agnes Martin, John McLaughlin, Martin Puryear, James Rosenquist, Susan Rothenberg, Allen Ruppersberg, Edward Ruscha, Lorna Simpson, Kiki Smith, Mark Tansey, Al Taylor, Cy Twombly, Andy Warhol and David Wojnarowicz.

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## **About the Asheville Art Museum:**

Founded by artists in 1948 in Asheville, NC, the Asheville Art Museum annually presents an exciting, inviting and active schedule of exhibitions and public programs based on its permanent collection of 20th and 21st century American art. Any visit will also include experiences with works of significance to Western North Carolina's cultural heritage including Studio Craft, Black Mountain College and Cherokee artists. Special exhibitions feature renowned regional and national artists and explore issues of enduring interest. The Museum also offers a wide array of innovative, inspiring and entertaining educational programs for people of all ages.

Additional information for upcoming exhibitions and public programs at the Museum can be found online at [www.ashevilleart.org](http://www.ashevilleart.org).

**Special thanks to [Bold Life](#), [Verve](#) and [Carolina Home & Garden](#) magazines, as well as [The Laurel of Asheville](#), for their support as a Media Sponsor of the Museum for the 2013 fiscal year.** For more information about media sponsorships, please email Kathleen Glass, Communications Manager, at [kglass@ashevilleart.org](mailto:kglass@ashevilleart.org).

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The Asheville Art Museum is the only nonprofit visual arts museum serving the 24 counties of Western North Carolina. Incorporated by artists in 1948, the Museum collects, preserves and interprets American art of the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on work of significance to the Southeast.

Centrally located in downtown Asheville on Pack Square, the Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Special docent-guided tour packages are available for groups and students.

Admission to the Museum is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for seniors (ages 60+) and students (K-college). Children age five and younger are admitted free. Members are admitted free to the Museum. The Museum's Shop, Holden Community Gallery (first floor, North Wing), Biltmore Gallery (adjacent to the main entrance) and Atrium art installations are open for the general public to enjoy free of charge.

The Asheville Art Museum is accredited by the American Association of Museums and receives general operating support from businesses, foundations and individuals, as well as from the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes that a great nation deserves great art. Additional support is provided by the City of Asheville and Buncombe County.

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