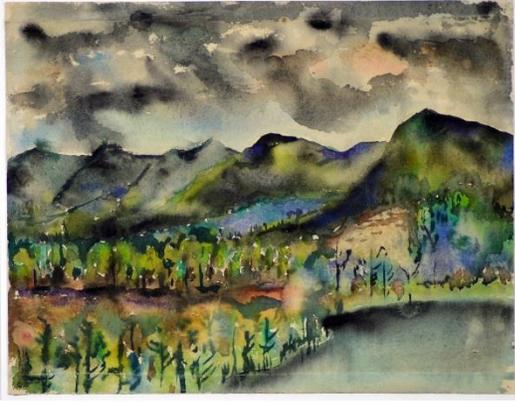


Asheville Art Museum



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Art work image shown (available in high resolution):

Joseph Fiore, *Black Mountain, Lake Eden*, 1954.
Watercolor on paper, 14 x 18 inches. Gift of the Falcon
Charitable Foundation. Asheville Art Museum, Black
Mountain College Collection. 2012.53.01.22.

Asheville Art Museum Celebrates Artist and Students of Black Mountain College in Lasting Gifts

Opening on Saturday, July 27, 2013

Opening reception: Friday, August 2, 2013 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

ASHEVILLE, NC — *Lasting Gifts*, an exhibition featuring works from a wide array of students and teachers who attended the legendary Black Mountain College, **opens at the Asheville Art Museum on Saturday, July 27, 2013**. The exhibition will be celebrated with an Opening Reception on Friday, August 2 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. (free with membership or regular Museum admission). *Lasting Gifts will remain on view through Sunday, January 19, 2014* (previously scheduled to close on November 17, 2013).

Lasting Gifts presents a small selection of recent acquisitions to the Asheville Art Museum's ever-growing Black Mountain College Collection, which now stands at more than 1,100 works to date. The College, a liberal arts institution that operated from 1933 to 1957 in Black Mountain, North Carolina, welcomed and nurtured some of the most prominent figures in midcentury American art and culture.

Although the program was not limited to any particular style, technique or school of thought, the pedagogical impulse throughout Black Mountain College's existence emphasized experimentation and experience. The school endeavored to operate democratically, with everyone contributing to keep the small college community running. Artists Josef Albers, Anni Albers, Robert Rauschenberg, John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Ruth Asawa and Buckminster Fuller all studied or taught at Black Mountain College. Josef Albers's courses in color, design, drawing and painting, and Anni Albers's weaving and textile design classes, which adapted

Bauhaus teaching to general education, have had a lasting influence on art education. The 1940's saw the addition of special summer sessions in the arts which attracted a large number of artists. A work-study construction program by BMC students and faculty became a breeding ground for future architects and designers under the tutelage of American modernist architect A. Lawrence Kocher and others. Renowned Bauhaus teacher and founder Walter Gropius lectured at summer programs. The late 1940's and 1950's saw a greater emphasis on the arts with writing, printing, performances, musical recitals, poetry readings, theatrical productions and the early "happenings" staged by composer and conceptual artist John Cage.

Lasting Gifts presents works by artists who either taught or studied at Black Mountain College. Portraits, like Marianne Preger-Simon's ink drawings, capture personalities of Black Mountain College students and teachers. The campus architecture program and Lake Eden landscape are represented in William Albert Lanier's elegant *Plan for the Minimum House* and Joe Fiore's expressive *Black Mountain, Lake Eden*. The playful classroom experiment in John Urbain's *Untitled (BMC Study/Abstract)* makes way for his more sophisticated meditation on color and geometric abstraction, *Three Heads*.

Due to its lasting influence on American art since the middle of the 20th century, Black Mountain College has long been an area of collecting focus by the Asheville Art Museum. In 2007, the Museum began a partnership with Mary Emma Harris, Black Mountain College scholar and director of the Black Mountain College Project. This exhibition represents a small selection of works from a rapidly growing collection representative of our region's and nation's cultural heritage.

The Black Mountain College Collecting Project is supported in part by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the North Carolina Arts Council. Lasting Gifts is sponsored by the [Maurer Family Foundation](#). In addition, the exhibition and all related public programs are made possible in part by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide non-profit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Museum thanks Mary Emma Harris for her dedication to the history of Black Mountain College and to the Asheville Art Museum Black Mountain College Collecting Project.

Art work image shown (available in high resolution): Joseph Fiore, *Black Mountain, Lake Eden*, 1954. Watercolor on paper, 14 x 18 inches. Gift of the Falcon Charitable Foundation. Asheville Art Museum, Black Mountain College Collection. 2012.53.01.22.

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.

Special thanks to Planet Zeus Media, publisher of [Bold Life](#), [Verve](#) and [Carolina Home & Garden](#) magazines, and to [The Laurel of Asheville](#), for their support as a Media Sponsors of the Museum. For more information about media sponsorships, please email Kathleen Glass, Communications Manager, at 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.

The Asheville Art Museum asks when reprinting images, please keep all artwork at their original proportions; please do not crop them or alter them disproportionately. Provided image credit information is mandatory and images are not for resale.