



APPLETON ART CENTER

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Appleton Art Center Recipient of Art Collection and Endowment Fund
Announces name change; to become The Trout Museum of Art

Appleton, Wis., - The Appleton Art Center today announced that it will receive an art collection representing over 400 years of art history. The Trout Collection, assembled during the past 40 years by Dr. Monroe E. and Sandra Lemke Trout, is an eclectic mix of over 150 works of art, including American, European, Asian and African paintings, sculptures and other decorative objects. In addition to the collection, the Trouts have provided a \$1 million endowment to preserve, protect and promote the collection.

As a result of this donation, the Appleton Art Center will be renamed The Trout Museum of Art, effective September 9, 2010. An exhibition featuring works from the Trout Collection will open to the public on Friday, September 10.

"The generosity of Monroe and Sandra Trout helps us to realize our longtime hope to have a permanent collection of visual art right here in our community," says Timothy Riley, executive director, Appleton Art Center. "The collection enhances our ability to borrow significant works from other museums, like the Smithsonian Institution, the Art Institute of Chicago or The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Riley continues, "With the Trout Collection and the museum's other exhibitions comes new opportunities for educational programming. Each work of art in the collection is an eyewitness to a time and place—near, far, past, or present. It is the hope of Dr. and Mrs. Trout that those who visit the collection will be inspired by it."

The gift of the Trout Collection was contingent upon the Appleton Art Center improving its security and climate-control systems to American Association of Museum standards. The updates, along with significant gallery renovations, were made possible through the support of private donors, corporations and foundations, led by a challenge gift from Lyle and Victoria Reigel; Lyle Reigel also donated the Reigel Building (111 W. College Avenue) to the Appleton Art Center in 2002.

"With the support of many community leaders, Appleton Art Center demonstrated to the Trouts that we wanted the art collection here." says Kent Willetts, board president, Appleton Art Center. "We are honored to be custodians of the Trout Collection and pledge to be good stewards of this wonderful gift. There is nothing like this collection currently in our region; the Trouts could see that this gift should have a positive impact on this community."

Kathi Seifert, co-chair for the regional economic development organization, New North, Inc. agrees. "The positive impact that this collection will have within our region will be far reaching. Not only will it promote tourism, but the Trout Collection adds another rich element to Northeast Wisconsin's cultural arts offering—and the arts help to inspire young people and make this region a more well-rounded and attractive place to live, work, and enjoy life."

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The Trouts currently reside in Knoxville, Tennessee. Coincidentally, 2010 marks the Trouts 50th wedding anniversary, which took place in Appleton, as well as the 50th anniversary of the founding of Appleton Art Center.

Currently closed for construction, the Appleton Art Center will reopen to the community on August 6, 2010. Rotating portions of the Trout Collection will be on display at the museum throughout the year. Artists featured in the collection include James McNeil Whistler, Norman Rockwell, Salvador Dali, Eduard Leon Cortes, Marc Chagall, and Sarah Churchill.

For exhibit information, museum hours and visitor or membership information, visit www.troutmuseum.org.

About the Trouts

Dr. Monroe E. Trout has been a force in the health care industry for over 40 years, serving on the boards and executive teams of various firms in that industry, including SAIC, Ineedmd, the University of California San Diego Foundation, Baxter International, Sterling Drug, Cytran, American Healthcare Systems and Cytoc Corp. In 1960, he married Sandra Lemke. During their 50 years of marriage they collected art as they traveled the world. In 1995, Monroe Trout was accepted into the Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans; to view his Horatio Alger biography, visit <http://bit.ly/aeV0VZ>. Dr. Trout graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He later earned his law degree from Dickinson Law School. An Appleton native, Sandra Trout graduated from Appleton High School and the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

About the Appleton Art Center

The Appleton Art Center was established in 1960 with a mission to promote, teach and nourish the creation and appreciation of the visual arts. The activities, which allow the Appleton Art Center to fulfill its mission, include exhibitions, educational programming and special events such as the annual Art in the Park artist exhibitor festival, lectures, workshops, family fun days, musical performances and an annual exhibit for local artists.

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