



Stanley Museum of Art

UI Stanley Museum of Art receives Henry Luce Foundation grant

Grant will support inaugural exhibit, public programming, and more

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IOWA CITY – The University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art was awarded a \$400,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation that will be used to bring the Stanley’s celebrated American art collection home to Iowa City and to support the museum’s inaugural exhibition, *Homecoming*, expected to open Aug. 26.

“We are incredibly excited and grateful to receive the Luce Foundation’s generous grant at this pivotal moment. This grant will allow us to bring our American art collection home and exhibit it in fresh ways, and it will help us to re-engage our audiences through innovative public programs in the years following our reopening,” said Lauren Lessing, director of the museum. “With the support of the Luce Foundation, we will be able to actively fulfill our mission to welcome the University of Iowa community, all Iowans, and the world to discover and enjoy extraordinary works of art, explore new ideas, and cultivate new insights into history, culture, and the act of creation.”

[Homecoming](#) will present beloved works from the Stanley’s collection side-by-side with new acquisitions, strategic loans, and other artworks that have rarely, if ever, been exhibited. Exhibitions within *Homecoming* that will prominently feature American art include *Generations and History is Always Now*. Curated by Diana Tuite, visiting senior curator of modern and contemporary art, *Generations* will celebrate the Stanley’s role as a teaching museum and laboratory for experiential learning by presenting American artists as researchers who test the limits of expressive possibility. In *Generations*, visitors will be invited to explore the Stanley’s world-class collection of twentieth and twenty-first-century American art, which began with acquisitions made in the 1930s to support the nation’s first MFA program and continued to evolve as generations of UI faculty and students including Grant Wood, Elizabeth Catlett, Mauricio Lasansky, Miriam Schapiro, Philip Guston, Hans Breder, Ana Mendieta, and Oliver Lee Jackson shaped the field of American art. Audiences will also encounter Jackson Pollock’s pivotal 1943 masterpiece, *Mural*, which will return to Iowa City after its extended world tour.

In *History is Always Now*, Cory Gundlach, curator of African art, presents the Stanley's renowned collection of African art in conversation with historic and contemporary artworks created in the United States and around the globe, emphasizing movement and cultural exchange through time and space, and demonstrating how Black and indigenous artists have shaped global art and culture. These new views of the Stanley's collection will be amplified in an accompanying publication entitled *In a Time of Witness* featuring creative responses to the collection by emerging and established alumni of the university's celebrated writing programs. Edited by Derek Nnuro, curator of special projects, the book is scheduled to be released in 2023.

"We are extraordinarily grateful to the Henry Luce Foundation for their support of our inaugural exhibition," stated curator Diana Tuite, "This reinstallation reflects upon the rich history of this institution and implements strategies for presenting our collection in culturally affirming contexts. Through thematic installations that emphasize human interconnection and global exchange, *Homecoming* offers communities the opportunity to engage with our holdings in a new light and contribute to our institutional self-understanding in ways that will shape growth and ongoing reinterpretation."

For 14 years after the loss of its original building in a devastating flood, the Stanley's 17,000 objects—more than one-third of which are works of American art—have been stored in two locations: the Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa, and a temporary teaching space in the Iowa Memorial Union.

Luce funding will enable the museum to employ extra staff to carefully pack, move, and store these objects in the new museum, where they will be discoverable through [the Iowa Digital Library](#) and accessible to faculty, staff, students, and the general public by request.

The grant also will support public programs during the Stanley's first three years in its new building. These programs will include a series of roundtable discussions between contemporary artists working in Africa and the United States and a symposium that will bring visual artists and writers together to present their research and discuss creative responses to works in the collection.

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About the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art

Established in 1969, the [University of Iowa Stanley Museum](#) of Art is a dynamic and innovative teaching and learning resource for the university and its surrounding communities. The collections include significant holdings of African art, Abstract Expressionism, works on paper, textiles, and ceramics, as well as paintings by modern masters such as Pollock, Beckman, Miró, and Motherwell. The strength of the collections continues to draw world-wide attention and allows the museum to play an innovative role in interdisciplinary exploration and collaboration. Admission to the museum is always free and open to all. Currently, the Stanley Museum of Art is open online.

About The Henry Luce Foundation

The Henry Luce Foundation seeks to enrich public discourse by promoting innovative scholarship, cultivating new leaders, and fostering international understanding. Established in

1936 by Henry R. Luce, the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time, Inc., the Luce Foundation advances its mission through grantmaking and leadership programs in the fields of Asia, higher education, religion and theology, art, and public policy.

A leader in art funding since 1982, the Luce Foundation's American Art Program supports innovative museum projects nationwide that advance the role of visual arts of the United States in an open and equitable society, and the potential of museums to serve as forums for art-centered conversations that celebrate creativity, explore difference, and seek common ground. The Foundation aims to empower museums and arts organizations to reconsider accepted histories, foreground the voices and experiences of underrepresented artists and cultures, and welcome diverse collaborators and communities into dialogue.