
NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Elizabeth M. Wallace
Manager of Communications and Marketing
Elizabeth-m-wallace@uiowa.edu, 319-353-2847

Aug. 4, 2022

POLLOCK'S 'MURAL' RETURNS HOME TO IOWA CITY AFTER WORLD TOUR

IOWA CITY, Iowa -- After nine years touring Europe and the United States, Jackson Pollock's *Mural* is finally home in Iowa City, where it will be on view when the University of Iowa Stanley Museum of Art reopens Aug. 26.

Stanley Museum of Art Director Lauren Lessing and museum collections staff welcomed *Mural* in its 3,200-pound crate July 14. After acclimating to its new environment, *Mural* rode in the custom freight elevator to the second floor of the museum and is now permanently displayed in the Chris and Suzy DeWolf Family Gallery.

The 8-by-20-foot painting traveled more than 20,000 miles to 14 venues on trucks, cargo planes, and boats, and was viewed by more than 2.7 million people after leaving Iowa City on a planned world tour immediately after the 2008 flood. *Mural* marks a pivotal moment in Pollock's career and is a beacon for art lovers everywhere.

The museum's inaugural exhibition, *Homecoming*, will include *Mural*, as well as more than 600 works of art in all media by some 500 artists.

"We are bringing home all the wonderful works of art that people have missed so much—the rock stars of the Stanley Museum of Art," Lessing said.

The new Stanley Museum of Art building will be officially dedicated at 3 p.m. Aug. 26, followed by its grand-opening celebration Aug. 26–28.

'MURAL' ON THE ROAD

In 2012, *Mural* underwent a two-year technical study and conservation treatment by research scientists at the Getty Center in Los Angeles, followed by solo exhibitions at the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Sioux City Art Center in Sioux City, Iowa. Beginning in 2015, *Mural* was the centerpiece of an exhibition curated by David Anfam and organized by the UI Museum of Art, *Jackson Pollock's 'Mural': Energy Made Visible*, which traveled to the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy; Deutsche Bank Kunsthalle, Berlin; and Museo Picasso Málaga, Málaga, Spain. After the close of that exhibition in 2016, *Mural* anchored further exhibitions at the Royal Academy of Art, London; Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain; Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Columbia

Museum of Art, Columbia, South Carolina; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City.

###

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. For updates, please visit <https://stanleymuseum.uiowa.edu>.

About 'Mural'

Mural is considered by many to be the most important modern American painting ever made. Peggy Guggenheim, the leading dealer of modern art in New York during the 1940s, was eager to present in her home a symbol of support for the new American brand of art she was beginning to champion in her gallery, The Art of This Century Gallery. She commissioned Pollock to create a mural for her new townhouse. Pollock was to choose the subject, and the art's size would be immense (8' 1 1/4" x 19' 10"), meant to cover an entire wall. At the suggestion of Guggenheim's friend and advisor Marcel Duchamp, it was painted on canvas, not the wall itself, so it would be portable. In 1947, Guggenheim closed The Art of This Century Gallery and returned to Europe. She had recognized the significance of the UI studio art program, wrote to Lester Longman, head of the UI School of Art and Art History, on Oct. 3, 1948, reminding him that she had offered to give *Mural* to the university if he would pay to have it shipped from Yale. He responded immediately that indeed he was most interested, and began negotiating with the administration for the cost of freight. Finally, in October 1951, the painting was shipped to Iowa.