



3301 4th Street • Lubbock, TX 79409-3191 • (806) 742-2442 • FAX 742-1136 • EMAIL: museum.texastech@ttu.edu • www.museum.ttu.edu

For Immediate Release: July 5, 2006

Contact Person: David Dean, 742-2442

SALMAGUNDI CLUB: AN AMERICAN INSTITUTION

The Museum of Texas Tech University (MoTTU) is pleased to host the exhibition ***Salmagundi Club: An American Institution***, opening **Sunday, July 23** and running through September 17. The Museum is located at 3301 4th Street (SE corner of 4th and Indiana Avenue), where ample free parking is available in the north and west lots.

The Salmagundi Club, founded in 1871, is one of the oldest art organizations in America. Its beginning was rather modest. In 1871, a small group of professional artists met on Saturday evenings in the studio of J. Scott Hartley, a renowned sculptor and son-in-law of George Inness. The group's time was spent critiquing each other's work, painting, sketching, and socializing. The group began to attract interest in the art community and by 1880 the group was so well established they decided to incorporate. Mr. Hartley suggested that the new club be named The Salmagundi Sketch Club, a name inspired by Washington Irving's writings where "Salmagundi" was referred to as a stew of many ingredients. The club became an important venue in New York City for art exhibitions. This exhibition of over 65 works is a survey of the important club's history.

The Salmagundi Club became an important center for American art and takes great pride in its roster of members that includes such renowned artists as George Inness, Howard Chandler Christy, Robert Blum, William Merritt Chase, Emil Carlsen, Hugh Bolton Jones, Dean Cornwell, Gari Melchers, John Francis Murphy, Frank H. Desch, Guy Wiggins, Childe Hassam, N.C. Wyeth, Louis Comfort Tiffany, as well as known lay (non-artist) members like John Philip Sousa, Stanford White, and Tony Pastor, to name a few.

In 1894, to raise money for the growing club's library, artist members were invited to decorate ceramic mugs, which were then fired by the club potter Charles Volkmar. The club hosted a dinner followed by an auction of the finished mugs. For many members, the book collection became an invaluable source and today the library continues to be accessible to Salmagundi members. Over the years, many decorated mugs have been returned to the club and are on exhibit in the library, along with the largest collection of artists' used palettes in America.

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MUSEUM OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY: Open 10 AM -5 PM Tue-Sat, open until 8:30 PM on Thu, 1-5 PM Sun. Closed Monday. **ADMISSION FREE**
MOODY PLANETARIUM - STAR SHOWS: \$1 adults, \$.50 students, 5 or younger and 60+ Free; LASER SHOWS: \$1 students, \$1.50 adults.
LUBBOCK LAKE LANDMARK: Open 9 AM -5 PM Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 PM Sunday. Closed Monday • At N. Loop 289 & Clovis Hwy. **ADMISSION FREE.**

In 1917, with the support of its members, a Fifth Avenue brownstone was purchased and became the Salmagundi Club's permanent home. It became the center of artistic activity in New York's Village for many decades. Today, the Salmagundi Club has a membership of over 600, many who continue to gather at the Fifth Avenue headquarters. The club collection is a testimony to all the members past and present that were, and are, proudly associated with this American institution that was destined to make history in the art world.

For more information or to request special assistance, contact the MoTTU Education Office at 806.742.2432, or email to museum.education@ttu.edu. Stay up to date with MoTTU exhibitions and events at www.museum.ttu.edu.

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“There’s something for everyone at the Museum.”