Art at Monmouth College

The study and exhibition of art at Monmouth College has a long and interesting history. In 1868, the college purchased the James Barnett Oriental Collection, representing 17 years of research in the Mideast. A few years later, J.C. Nevin, a missionary, gave the college an important collection of Chinese art and antiquities. Many of these items were lost in a devastating fire in 1907.

In 1929, Dan Everett Waid, a noted architect who was a member of the Class of 1887, endowed a Fine Arts Department in memory of his wife. Seven years later, the college acquired a spacious residence at the corner of Sixth Street and Broadway, which became known as the Fine Arts Building. Under the direction of Professor Thomas Hamilton, his wife, Martha, and others, classes in studio art, art history and art appreciation were given in the building for more than two decades.

In the late 1950s, the college acquired a former chicken hatchery on North Ninth Street, which would serve as home to the art department and as a gallery until 1980, when rooms on the upper level of Hewes Library were converted to a gallery. In 1987, the gallery was extensively remodeled, thanks to a gift from the estate of Len G. Everett, and named in his honor.

Through a major renovation of Hewes Library, completed in 2002, the gallery area received a dramatic facelift. Today it includes Gallery 203, which houses exhibits from the Permanent Collection; Gallery 204, where both student and traveling exhibits are displayed throughout the academic year; an Art Archives Room and a Gallery Preparation Room, the latter of which are gifts from former Monmouth College art students, particularly Tina M. Hartwig, Class of 1968.

continued support of the Permanent Collection is welcome, as is the possibility of additions to the Collection itself. For further information about gallery programs and exhibit schedule, contact:

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GALLERY 203
The Permanent Collection
The Len G. Everett Galleries
Hewes Library

Blue Bowl
Chinese
Date Unknown
Glazed Porcelain

Scene with Figures, Peruvian, 20th Century, Carved Mahogany

“View of Atago Hill,” Ando Hiroshige, Early 19th Century, Woodblock Print
Also represented are several paintings, drawings and sketchbooks by the late Len G. Everett, whose estate provided funds for the support of the arts at Monmouth College, and after whom both the Permanent Collection Gallery (203) and the Contemporary Gallery (204) are named.

The most impressive and extensive component of the Monmouth College Permanent Collection is The James Christie Shields Collection of Art and Antiquities. Born in Ethiopia the son of missionary parents, James Christie Shields has spent most of his adult life studying and collecting art and artifacts, particularly from Egypt, the Sudan and the Mediterranean. In 1998, Mr. Shields, who is a 1949 Monmouth College graduate, generously donated more than 600 objects to his alma mater, comprising the current collection. Through his gift, Mr. Shields hopes to share not only the awe and wonder he has experienced from studying and collecting these pieces of antiquity, but also to offer significant study opportunities for the entire Monmouth College community. Subsequent gifts from Mr. Shields attest to his continuing commitment to this endowment.

Because of the sheer size and scope of the Shields Collection, selected works are displayed in Gallery 203 on a rotating basis. Additional works from the Shields Collection and the rest of the Permanent Collection are displayed in the lobby outside the Len G. Everett Galleries.