



Release Date:
October 31, 2008

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Let the Games Begin - 08-08-08 - at the Norton Museum of Art!

West Palm Beach - Organized to coincide with the opening of the Beijing Summer Olympic, *Let the Games Begin: The Art of Competition and Just Plain Fun* features works of art associated with games ranging from fierce competition to simple pleasure. A broad spectrum of works from a variety of cultures and artistic media were selected to celebrate the history of games. Included are Chinese, American, European, contemporary, and photographic art from the Norton collection with a handful of loans from other museums and private collections. The exhibition is divided into five sections: the Olympics, Ball Games, Games of Skill and Chance, Just Plain Fun, and the Game Room, representing the cultures of China, the United States, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Germany, France, Italy, Russia, and Japan.

One of the centerpieces of this exhibition is Giorgio de Chirico's *The Sailors' Barracks*. This painting shows a disquieting scene of games interrupted. Balls, a baton, and a folded card mysteriously lie at rest. A looming sense of the unknown is compounded by the abrupt shift from the tipped plane in the foreground to the distant view of an architectural arcade receding into space. Despite the clarity of each object in de Chirico's painting, the seemingly unstable planes as well as the disorienting spaces enhance the sense of foreboding. Painted at the outbreak of World War I, *The Sailors' Barracks* evoked world events that filled the artist with anxiety and dread. In this work, ball games are used to represent an idyllic time of peace shattered. The use of games as a metaphor for tranquility dates back as far as Homer's *Iliad*, and illustrates the importance of games throughout time and cultures.

The Norton Museum of Art is open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. (Closed Mondays from May through October and on major holidays.) General admission is \$8 for adults, \$3 for visitors ages 13-21, and free for Members and children under 13. West Palm Beach residents receive free admission to the permanent collection every Saturday, with proof of residency. Palm Beach County residents receive free admission to the permanent collection the first Saturday of each month, with proof of residency. An additional charge may apply for special exhibitions. For additional information, please call (561) 832-5196 or visit www.norton.org.

Let the Games Begin Education Programs

Curator's Conversation
Sunday September 7, 3:00 p.m.

Let the Games Begin

Laurie Barnes, Elizabeth B. McGraw Curator of Chinese Art, leads a gallery talk in *Let the Games Begin: The Art of Competition and Just Plain Fun*, an exhibition organized to celebrate the Beijing Olympics. Gallery seating is limited.

Treasures of the Month**

Join a public discussion in the galleries about artworks in the collection on the first Saturday and third Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. These topics relate to the special exhibition, *Let the Games Begin*.

August 9 and 20

Two Boys Blowing Bubbles, 1655/1665, by Dutch baroque painter Adriaen Hanneman

September 6 and 17

Playing Cards and Flask, 1912, by Italian Futurist artist, Gino Severini

November 1 and 19

The Maze Garden, 1997, an environment by British contemporary artist Adrian Fisher

Lunchtime Tours

Examine specific themes and artists on these 30-minute tours, from 12:30-1:00 p.m. Tuesdays in October the focus is on *Let the Games Begin*.

For Families

Third Annual Chinese Moon Festival*

Sunday, September 14, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

When the autumn harvest moon is full, the Chinese celebrate by lighting colorful lanterns and enjoying delicious mooncakes. Learn more about the legends behind the festival, try mooncakes, and enjoy Chinese art, activities and music during this popular event!

First Saturday Family Studio*

Saturday, October 4, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Global Gaming

Learn about many types of games played all over the world! Participate in a treasure hunt in the galleries, then make an internationally-inspired 'game' artwork to take home. Limited to twenty children, ages 5-9 and their parents; a \$5 materials fee is payable at the door. Call (561) 832-5196, ext. 1171, to register.

A New Program: Youth Studio*

This program expands the First Saturday Family Studio for older students.

Saturday, October 4, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Global Gaming

After checking-out some of the many games that are played all over the world, create your own internationally-inspired 'game' artwork to take home. Limited to twenty participants, ages 10-13; a \$5 materials fee is payable at the door. Call (561) 832-5196, ext 1171 to register.

Sunday Fundays*

Sunday, October 12, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Art of Games

Join us for an exciting adventure through the world of gaming. Meet an actual video game creator, and experience what it is like to design a major character for your own game! Recommended for children, ages 4 to 12. Drop-in visitors are welcome.

*Family Programs are generously underwritten by The Sarah Vierck Mettler Family Fund, The Andrea and Charles Bronfman Fund for Families, the Samuel Rosenthal Endowment for Outreach Programs, and The Picower Foundation.

** Treasure of the Month is generously underwritten in part by the Gilbert and Ann Maurer Fund.

Images Available for Press/Credit Lines:

ROCKWELL KENT (American, 1882-1971): *Drifter*, 1933. Wood engraving on paper, 5 3/8 by 6 7/8 inches (13.7 by 17.5 cm). Purchase, the R.H. Norton Trust, 75.52. Courtesy of the Plattsburgh State Art Museum, Plattsburgh College Foundation, Rockwell Kent Collection. Bequest of Sally Kent Gorton.

TINA MODOTTI (Italian, 1896-1942): *Stadium, Mexico City*, from the portfolio *Electa Editrice*, 1926, printed 1979. Gelatin silver print, ed. 63/1000, 7 5/8 by 9 5/8 inches (19.4 by 24.4 cm). Gift of Baroness Jeane von Oppenheim, 98.430

GIORGIO DE CHIRICO (Italian, 1888-1974): *The Sailors' Barracks*, 1914. Oil on canvas, 32 by 25 1/2 inches (81.3 by 64.8 cm). Bequest of R. H. Norton, 53.30. © 2008 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/ SIAE, Rome ARS - requested.

China, Tang dynasty (618-906), 8th century. *Tomb figures of a man and woman playing polo*. Earthenware, traces of polychrome decoration, 15 1/2 x 13 x 3 5/8 in. Purchase, the R.H. Norton Trust, 62. 13-.14

DR. ROBERTO MACHADO (Cuban, 1905-1979): *Arqueros (Archers)*, about 1945, printed 1998. Black and white photograph, 10 1/16 x 9 3/4 in. Partial gift of the Machado Family and purchased in part with funds from Marie D. Schwartz and the R. H. Norton Trust, 99.50