Henry Luce Foundation Grant Will Fund New Collections Study Space

ALBANY, N.Y. (June 27, 2018) — The University at Albany Art Museum has been awarded a $75,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation’s American Art Program. This generous funding will be used to maintain the activities and educational initiatives of the Museum’s newly created Collections Study Space, which houses the University at Albany Fine Art Collections. The Collections are comprised of over 3,000 objects and reflect 50 years of modern and contemporary art, including paintings, photographs, prints, drawings and sculpture by many of the most prominent artists of the 20th and 21st centuries.

The University Art Museum is committed to the idea that first-hand encounters with works of art play an integral role in teaching and learning across the disciplines. The new Collections Study Space, located near the Museum, is designed to safely house the Collections and serve as a viewing and study gallery for fine art, archives, and special collections in a classroom context.

“We are extremely appreciative of the support that the Henry Luce Foundation is providing for this project,” said Corinna Ripps Schaming, interim director of the University at Albany Art Museum. “The realization of this new multi-purpose space is a great opportunity to share the University Fine Art Collections with our students, faculty and the community. We are
looking forward to offering a wide variety of innovative educational programming that will further enhance this wonderful resource.”

A range of registrarial functions will be performed on site, including cataloguing, photographing, and conditioning works of art. A designated teaching area in the Collections Study Space will accommodate classes of up to 20 students or small community groups. Professors from across the disciplines can bring classes to the new space, and develop coursework and curatorial projects based on artwork in the Collections. University faculty members and Museum staff will continue to work together to further new best practices in museum-based pedagogy across the disciplines.

The Collections Study Space will also serve as a site for discussions, talks, small panels, readings and informal conversations related to the artists and artworks in the Collections. Future plans include inviting artists, curators, writers, and scholars to develop innovative programs and original research linking the Museum’s exhibition program and the Fine Art Study Collections.

“The Luce Foundation is pleased to support institutions that value their American art collections and that seek to share them with audiences in fresh and meaningful ways,” said Teresa A. Carbone, program director for American Art at the Henry Luce Foundation.

As part of a comprehensive, public, research institution, the University at Albany Art Museum is committed to providing spaces for creative, rigorous, interdisciplinary inquiry that can actively transform higher education. Thanks to the Luce Foundation grant, the Museum will strengthen its service to the University by offering a range of behind-the-scenes experiences that inform current museum best practices and foster an environment in which contemporary art can be experienced through multiple perspectives.

The Collections Study Space will be free and open to the public during designated hours and will offer opportunities to schedule guided tours, view focused curatorial projects, and browse selected books and periodicals from its library.

For more information on the Collections Study Space, contact Interim Director/Curator Corinna Ripps Schaming at cschaming@albany.edu or Darcie Abbatiello, Registrar, at dabbatiello@albany.edu

About the Henry Luce Foundation
The Henry Luce Foundation seeks to bring important ideas to the center of American life, strengthen international understanding, and foster innovation and leadership in academic, policy, religious and art communities. The Foundation’s American Art Program was established in 1982 to support museums, arts organizations and universities in their efforts to advance the understanding and experience of American and Native American visual arts through research, exhibitions, publications and collection projects.
About the University at Albany Art Museum
The University Art Museum, part of the dynamic learning environment at the University at Albany, was founded in 1967 to advance knowledge and foster understanding in contemporary visual arts. Through exhibitions, programs, publications, and collections, the museum seeks to provide a forum for artists and audiences that enriches the intellectual life of the university and community. The 9,000-square-foot-facility was designed by architect Edward Durell Stone and has become known as an icon of late 20th century modernist architecture. The Museum has presented over 400 exhibitions, and its collection is particularly strong in contemporary works on paper.

About the University at Albany
A comprehensive public research university, the University at Albany-SUNY offers more than 120 undergraduate majors and minors and 125 master's, doctoral, and graduate certificate programs. UAlbany is a leader among all New York State colleges and universities in such diverse fields as atmospheric and environmental sciences, business, criminal justice, emergency preparedness, engineering and applied sciences, informatics, public administration, social welfare, and sociology taught by an extensive roster of faculty experts. It also offers expanded academic and research opportunities for students through an affiliation with Albany Law School. With a curriculum enhanced by 600 study-abroad opportunities, UAlbany launches great careers.