

The **Curtis** Collection



The Curtis Collection

Received by the University in 1980, the Curtis Collection has proven to be a valuable foundation for Ferris State University's on-going "Art in Public Spaces" initiative, a program committed to enhancing the student experience and establishing Ferris as a culturally diverse institution. Currently the University is home to hundreds of pieces of art; both two-dimensional and three-dimensional works have been thoughtfully placed throughout campus. Though the University art collections have grown since the receipt of the Curtis Collection, it remains the most significant as a complete body of works in terms of its historical and educational value.

Dr. Frank Edward Curtis collected these historically significant works of art throughout his lifetime. The gift of the collection was received by the University through a generous donation made by Robert Bullard, a close friend of Curtis, who inherited the collection upon Curtis' death in 1978.

The collection consists of more than 50 oil paintings that can be described as 19th century realist works in the Victorian narrative style. Chicago art appraiser Kelvyn Lilley claimed that the grouping "is a very good cross-section of 19th century landscapes, portraits and still lifes."



Portrait of a Collector

Born and raised in Big Rapids, Curtis was one of seven children of local businessman Martin Curtis and his wife, Ardella. Each of the Curtis children attended Ferris.

Curtis graduated from what was then Ferris Institute in 1911 and went on to a career as one of America's leading orthopedic surgeons, working primarily with crippled children. He served at various times as a professor of medicine at the University of Michigan and Wayne State University and chief of orthopedic surgery at Grace Hospital in Detroit.

His great love of art and interest in collecting paintings evolved during extensive travels throughout Europe which included trips to the world's most famous art museums.

Curtis maintained his relationship with Ferris throughout his life. He was a member of the Presidents Club and the Society of Golden Eagles (alumni of 50 years or more), and in 1974 he was honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.





An Unparalleled Artistic Gift

The Curtis Collection includes significant genre paintings, still lifes, landscapes and portraits by 19th century artists from America, England, France and other countries. Curtis spent a lifetime collecting art for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

This collection introduces students and the public to more than 50 oil paintings that represent the realistic style that appealed to Curtis. As one friend commented, "Frank Curtis saw beauty in everything and wanted to surround himself with things that enhanced living. He had a great love for art."

Ferris is committed to being a steward of this significant collection. Many paintings already have been cleaned and restored by the Conservation Services Laboratory of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Continued maintenance is performed, and when the collection is not on display in the Rankin Art Gallery it is housed in an environmentally-safe storage facility. There are a number of pieces on permanent display at the McKessy House, located at 120 E. Cedar Street, in Big Rapids.

As stated by William Donahue, the coordinator of the arts for Ferris upon the receipt of the collection, "the arts can excite our minds, spark our imagination, stir our emotions, provide relief from the routine tasks of work and sharpen our senses. The arts contribute to a richer personal life."

The Rankin Art Gallery proudly displays the Curtis Collection during June, July and August in honor of Curtis and Bullard, two men that have contributed to enriching the lives of our students, our visitors and our constituents.

Carrie Weis
Gallery Director



The Curtis Collection

Anders, Ernst (German, b. 1845)
"Woman with Blue Velvet
Tocque"
Oil on panel
13 ¼" x 10"

Arpad, Romek
"Still Life with Brass, Copper &
Glass"
Oil on canvas
27" x 33"

Boehm, Paul (Hungarian,
1839-1905)
"Haywagon"
Oil on panel
7" x 10 ½"

Burrell, James (English)
"Stormy Coast" (1881)
Oil on canvas
29 ¼" x 49 ½"

Caso, B.
"Bay of Naples"
Oil on board
7" x 10 ½"

Corot
"Edge of River"
Oil on canvas
9 ½" x 12 ½"

deNagy, Ernest
"School Boy New England"
Oil on canvas
24" x 20"

Dearman, John (English, died
1857)
"Farm Yard" (1848)
Oil on canvas
12" x 20"

Delaire, G.
"Lake Scene with Figures"
(1869)
Oil on canvas
42" x 37 ½"

Dolanyi, B.
"Roses" (1942)
Oil on canvas
39" x 31"

Egley, William Maw (English,
1826-1916)
"Girl at Toilette" (1878)
Oil on canvas

Faed, Thomas (English,
1826-1900)
"The One Wee Bairn"
17 ½" x 23 ½"

Forcade, Raoul Andre-Jacques
(French, 19th century)
"Picking Apple Blossoms"
Oil on board-cradled
25 ½" x 21"

Haller, G.
"Autumn Landscape"
20 ½" x 11 ½"

Haller, G.
"Winter Landscape"
20 ½" x 11 ½"

Hardy, Frederick Daniel, R.A.
(English, 1826-1911)
"Papa's Return" (1889)
Oil on canvas
23" x 19"

Koekkoek, Hendrik Barend
(1849-1909)
"Driving Sheep"
Oil on canvas
12 ¼" x 18"

Lajos, Polarys (Hungarian)
"Head of Peasant Woman"
Oil on board
8 ½" x 8"

Langley, William (English, late
19th, early 20th century)
"Highland Scene"
Oil on canvas
24" x 36"

Lee, Frederick Richard, R.A.
(English, 1798-1879)
"The Teign Valley"
Oil on canvas
30" x 25"

Linggrande, Berta
"Coast of Naples"
Oil on board
10 ½" x 19 ½"

Mardiello
"Fish Vendor"
Oil on canvas laid on Masonite
19" x 27"

Meredith, William (English,
b. 1851)
"Foot Path to Haslemere
Surrey"
Oil on canvas
12" x 16"

Meredith, William (English, b.
1851)
"Keyhoe Corner, Chipping,
Camden"
Oil on canvas
12" x 16"

Mihalovits, Miklow (Hungarian,
b. 1888)
"Nude"
Oil on canvas
19 ¼" x 14 ¼"

Moreau, H. (French, 19th
century)
"Girl Tending Fire with Dog"
Oil on panel
18" x 14 ½"

Morland, Henry (English,
1730-1797)
"Child with Basket of Flowers"
Oil on canvas laid down on
board
24" x 18"

Northcote, James (1746-1831)
"Portrait of a Lady"
Oil on canvas
36" x 28"

Owen, William R.A.
(1769-1825—attributed)
"Child with Drum"
Oil on canvas
29 ½" x 24 ½"

Peg, G. (English,
mid-19th century)
"Head of Woman"
Oil on canvas
21" x 17"

Petleo
"Roses" (1937)
Oil on canvas
23 ½" x 19 ½"

Remprecht (Hungarian)
"Still Life Fruit and Interior"
Oil on board
7 ½" x 10 ¾"

Remprecht (Hungarian)
"Still Life with Chianti Bottle"
Oil on board
5 ¼" x 7 ¼"

Remprecht (Hungarian)
"Still Life with Jug and
Landscape"
Oil on board
7 ½" x 10 ¾"

Remprecht (Hungarian)
"Still Life with Tea Cup"
Oil on board
5 ¼" x 7 ¼"

Reynolds, J. P.R.A. (English,
1723-1792)
"Robinette"
Oil on canvas
30" x 25"

Rippengill, R.
"Profile of Woman in
Tasseled Hat"
Oil on canvas
23 ¾" x 19 ½"

Richet, Leon (French,
1874-1907)
"Farm House at the Beach"
Oil on canvas

Semenowsky, Eisman
(19th century)
"A Romaney Lass"
Oil on panel
13 ½" x 10 ½"

Stockman, S. (German)
"The Old Fiddler" (1888)
Oil on panel
10" x 14"

Underhill, Frederic Charles
(English, 19th century)
"Waiting for the Boats"
Oil on canvas
35 ½" x 27 ½"

Smith, J.B. (English, 19th
century)
"Fisher Boy"
14" x 12"

Unknown Artist (Hungarian,
20th century)
"Peasants in Landscape"
Oil on canvas
19" x 23"

Unknown Artist
"Snow Scene"
Oil on board
8 ¾" x 9 ½"

Unknown Artist
"Spanish Woman"
Oil on panel
20 ¾" x 16 ¾"

Van Leemputten, Cornelius
(Belgian, 1841-1902)
"Sheep in Road"
22" x 18"

Viski, J.
"The Fox Hunt"
Oil on canvas
23" x 31"

Von Kaulbach, Friedrich August
(1850-1920)
"Gypsy Woman" (1915)
Oil on cradled panel
29 ½" x 37 ½"

Webb, M. (English)
"River Front Quay"
Oil on canvas
23 ½" x 35 ½"

Zabehlicky, Alois
"Still Life with Oysters, Chalice
and Tureen"
Oil on canvas
27" x 39 ½"

