



New Orleans Museum of Art

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New Orleans Museum of Art Presents *Gentlemen Callers: Paul Cadmus and George Dureau from the Collection of Kenneth Holditch*

More than 60 works on paper on view May 24 to Oct. 12

[Hi-res images available upon request.]

NEW ORLEANS, La. (Monday, May 19, 2008)—Beginning this Saturday, May 24, the New Orleans Museum of Art presents *Gentlemen Callers: Paul Cadmus and George Dureau from the Collection of Kenneth Holditch*, a look at two divergent 20th century artists who shared an interest in the male form, and who were collected in-depth by New Orleans resident Kenneth Holditch. The exhibition continues through October 12.

“The serious study of the male nude model was once the foundation of formal art education,” said George Roland, NOMA’s Curator of Prints and Drawings. “But with the advent of the ‘celebrity’ artist in Victorian times, self expression became the focus of artistic education and less emphasis was placed on life drawing. Modern artists like Cadmus and Dureau, however, focused on the male form even as artistic trends were veering into abstraction. They present works that celebrate realism and accuracy with elegance and sophistication.”

Gentlemen Callers: Paul Cadmus and George Dureau from the Collection of Kenneth Holditch is free to Louisiana residents after June 8. From now through June 8 (during the major exhibition *Rodrigue’s Louisiana: Cajuns, Blue Dogs, and Beyond Katrina*) Museum admission is \$5 for Louisiana residents, \$10 for non-residents, \$9 for seniors. The Museum is always free to all children under 18 and all NOMA members.

Roland will lead an informal tour of the exhibition on Wednesday, June 4, at 6:30 p.m. The tour is free with regular general admission.

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Gentlemen Callers

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About the artists

Cadmus (1904-1999) first gained notoriety in 1934 when his painting, *The Fleet's In!*, depicting drunken sailors carousing with prostitutes and one another, was removed from exhibition at The Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., due to accusations that it was obscene. It was male nudes, however, that would cement his reputation, first within the gay community, and eventually with the art world at large.

Dureau, a New Orleans native educated at Louisiana State University and Tulane School of Architecture, developed a singular style, usually depicting mysterious male nudes which were notable for either their obvious physical deformities or their apparent perfection. In addition to his paintings and drawings in the permanent collection, Dureau is known to NOMA visitors as the designer of the monumental bronze gates that lead into the Freeman Courtyard.

About the collector

Holditch, literary scholar and professor emeritus at the University of New Orleans, is the author of numerous short stories, poems, and essays on major Southern writers. He is the author of *Tennessee Williams and the South* and, with *New York Times* drama critic Mel Gussow, edited the Library of America's two-volume edition of the works of Tennessee Williams, who was a personal friend of Cadmus.

About NOMA and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden

The New Orleans Museum of Art, founded in 1910 by Isaac Delgado, houses more than 40,000 art objects encompassing 4,000 years of world art. Works from the permanent collection, along with continuously changing temporary exhibitions, are on view in the Museum's 46 galleries Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Thursdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission to the Museum is free to Louisiana residents (\$5 through June 8) through the generosity of the Helis Foundation.

Admission to the adjacent Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden, featuring work by 57 artists, including several of the 20th century's great master sculptors, is always free during regular Museum hours.

The New Orleans Museum of Art and the Sculpture Garden are fully accessible to handicapped visitors and wheelchairs are available from the front desk.

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