



**American Federation of Arts**

**For Immediate Release**

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**AMERICAN SPORT PRINTS TOUR NINE U.S. CITIES**

**All-Stars: American Sporting Prints from the Collection of Reba and Dave Williams**

(April 1999)—*All-Stars: American Sporting Prints from the Collection of Reba and Dave Williams* features 65 prints by more than 50 artists in an exhibition focusing on a favorite national pastime—sports. Organized by The American Federation of Arts, the exhibition is on tour in the United States. It is on view at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, Wausau, Wisconsin, from February 25, 2000 through April 24.

*All-Stars* reveals how, as the nation eased into the Gilded Age, the rise of leisure time contributed to the widespread popularity and accessibility of a variety of sports and, subsequently, to American artists' representations of sports figures and events. Featuring prints from the late 19th century to the late 20th century, *All-Stars* includes works by artists famous for their depiction of sports, such as George Bellows, Joseph Golinkin, and John J. Murphy, as well as by those not usually associated with the subject, such as John Baldessari, Winslow Homer, Alex Katz, and Robert Rauschenberg.

Artists choose sports imagery because of the opportunity it affords for innovation and expression, no matter what their personal styles may be," said Reba Williams, guest curator of the exhibition.

This exhibition documents the richness of American art and American sports and increases our appreciation of both. The exhibition features a wide range of athletic activity, from football to badminton, and a number of famous sports personalities (tennis champion Helen Wills in an etching by Childe Hassam and New York Mets pitcher Ron Darling in a print by James deWoody, for example). The power of sports imagery to impart gentle satire and savage wit is evident in Paul Cadmus's *Polo Spill* (1938), mocking the idle rich, and George Wiggins's *Fight Gallery* (c. 1935), depicting spectators' bloodlust at a boxing match.

In addition to comprising dynamic images of more than 30 different sports, *All-Stars* also provides an overview of printmaking techniques: etching, engraving, aquatint, drypoint, wood and linoleum cut, wood engraving, lithography, pochoir, and screenprint. The range of works reflects many major art styles, including Realism, Cubism, Surrealism, Abstractions, and Conceptualism.

An illustrated booklet with brief biographies of the featured artists and an essay by Diane

Cochrane examining the relationship of artists and sport as expressed in American prints of the last century accompanies the exhibition.

The exhibition is organized by The American Federation of Arts. It is a project of ART ACCESS II, a program of the AFA with major support from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund.

*All-Stars: American Sporting Prints from the Collection of Reba and Dave Williams* is on a national tour organized by The American Federation of Arts.

**Previous venues:**

The Museum of Art & History at the McPherson Center, Santa Cruz, CA  
Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY  
Meadows Museum of Art of Centenary College, Shreveport, LA  
Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, CT  
MSC Forsyth Center Galleries, College Station, TX  
Hofstra Museum, Hempstead, NY  
Muscarelle Museum of Art, Williamsburg, VA  
Mobile Museum of Art, Mobile, AL  
Fullerton Museum Center, Fullerton, CA  
Georgia Museum of Art, Athens, GA  
Wichita Falls Museum & Art Center, Wichita Falls, TX.

**Forthcoming venues to date include:**

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, February 25 - April 24, 2000, Wausau, WI

Please note: As museum schedules are subject to change, please verify dates with the presenting institutions or AFA Communications Department before going to press.

**THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF ARTS:**

The American Federation of Arts is the nation's oldest and most comprehensive non-profit art museum service organization. Founded in 1909, the AFA provides its more than 500 member institutions with traveling art exhibitions and educational, professional, and technical support programs developed in collaboration with the museum community. Through these programs, the AFA seeks to strengthen the ability of museums to enrich the public's experience and understanding of art.