Ellen Wagener (American, b. 1964) D.H. Lawrence Tree, 2011. Pastel on paper. On loan from the artist. Currently installed in the President’s Office Suite, Beardshear Hall. To fund the acquisition of this work of art, please contact Lynette Pohlman at 515-294-3342.
Have you renewed your University Museums Annual Membership for this fiscal year?

This is your opportunity to support the museums and ensure ongoing exhibitions, creative educational programming, and student engagement.

Whether you are renewing or joining for the first time, consider quick and easy online giving through the ISU Foundation's secure website! **GIVE NOW ONLINE**

In Memorium...

*Two long-time University Museums members and supporters passed away in August. Their ongoing generosity and dedication to the mission of the University Museums will be greatly missed.*

**Agatha Louise Huepenbecker Burnet**, 81, passed from this life on August 23, 2012. Agatha was born on Nov. 23, 1930, to Arthur Walter and Margaret (Soest) Huepenbecker in Fort Wayne, Ind. She graduated from South Side High School in Fort Wayne in 1948 and then earned a bachelor's of Science degree in textiles and clothing from Indiana University in 1952, a master's of science degree in textiles and clothing from Iowa State University in 1952, and a Ph.D. in home economics education from Ohio State University in 1969. She taught high school vocational home economics in Valparaiso, Ind., from 1952-55 before joining the faculty in T&C at Iowa State University in 1956 where she served until retiring in 1993 as emeritus professor. From 1973 through 1993, she was head of the department. In 1989, Agatha and Lynette Pohlmian founded the ISU Introduction to Museums class which continues to be taught as a partnership between University Museums and the AESHM department.

Agatha's professional career was marked by outstanding service, most often in a position of leadership, and by many distinguished awards and recognitions. She was national president of the American Home Economics Association, regional vice president of the academic honorary, Phi Kappa Phi, on the governing boards of the Iowa State University Foundation and the Alumni Association, and president of the Mary Greeley Medical Center Foundation Board. Her many awards included the Distinguished Service Award of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, The Iowa State University Faculty Citation, Alumni Medal and Order of the Knoll Faculty and Staff Award, and the Ames Chamber of Commerce Professionalism and Leadership Award. She was an international authority on the historic aspects of textiles and clothing. Since 1989 she was a member of Curator’s Associates and an annual Museum member since 1997.

**Roland “Rollie” George Struss**, 81, of Ames, died August 17, 2012 at his home in Ames. Rollie was born April 9, 1931 in Juniata, Neb. He graduated from Juniata High School, joined the United States Army, and served as a Second Lieutenant in Korea. He received Bachelor of Science degrees in both chemistry and mechanical engineering from the University of Nebraska and a Master's of Science Degree in nuclear engineering from Iowa State University. Rollie married the love of his life, Wilma “Willie” Jean Hagemeyer, in 1956. A nuclear engineer by trade, Rollie started his career at Sandia Corporation in Albuquerque, N. M., where he worked on a variety of nuclear testing projects. He joined the staff at Ames Laboratory, part of Iowa State University, in 1962. Rollie worked at Ames Lab for 34 years until he retired from his position as Associate Director for Operations. Rollie’s career was wide and varied. He led the Ames Lab reactor decommissioning project, worked to develop the solar energy programs, and even worked with Iowa State students on their solar car project.

Rollie was a true renaissance man. Rollie also believed strongly in community work and volunteered extensively throughout his life. In the 1980s and 90s Rollie was a volunteer at the Farm House Museum and especially enjoyed hosting guests - in period costume - at Victorian Holidays and the 4th of July events. Rollie also served on the Board of the Ames Historical Society; he and Willie led the successful fundraising effort that secured a headquarters building for the Society. Rollie loved to travel and he and Willie enjoyed trips to many parts of this beautiful country and abroad. Rollie was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend to many; it can truly be said that to meet Rollie was to meet a friend. He had a limitless curiosity and genuine interest in everyone he met, and took great joy in every adventure he undertook.
Call for Museum Docents

Are you interested in getting more involved with University Museums? We’re searching for docents to lead tours of our Art on Campus Collection. Docents meet once a month for training meetings. To find out more, contact Dorothy Witter at dwitter@iastate.edu or call 515-294-4442.
Susan Platt is a freelance art historian, art critic and a political activist. Her latest book, *Art and Politics Now: Cultural Activism in a Time of Crisis*, looks at art in opposition to war, terrorism, pollution and racism. She earned a master’s degree from Brown University and a PhD from the University of Texas, Austin, and has taught twentieth-century art criticism at several state universities, private colleges and community colleges. She also taught American art in Istanbul, Turkey, as a Fulbright Fellow. Susan Platt will speak in conjunction with the Christian Petersen Art Museum fall exhibition, *Post-Pop Redux: Material Based Art by Andy Magee*. The exhibition and accompanying educational programs highlight the social and political commentary in art during the height of the presidential election.

**Art and Politics**

Susan Platt

Thursday  
September 6, 2012 - 7 pm  
Kocimski Auditorium  
College of Design

**Cultural Activism in a Time of Crisis**

Dr. Susan Noyes Platt, art historian and art critic, will talk about her latest publication, *Art and Politics Now*, and art that addresses social and political concerns. Platt will reveal the power that artists have to make a difference when they choose to thoughtfully engage with the concerns of the world. This lecture will take place on **September 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in 0101 Design** on the Iowa State campus.

“I think both the street and the gallery (or concert hall or theater) can be equally subversive, creative, and engaged. The classically trained musician, actor, or writer, has a depth of understanding that can give them (if they choose) a great freedom to speak, to defy, to break rules and to be explicitly political as well.”

- Dr. Susan Noyes Platt

Dr. Platt has her Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin. She received her master’s degree from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, and her bachelor’s degree from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. She has authored three books and has had articles in various collegiate publications, *Art Journal*, Carnegie Museum of Art, *Art Criticism*, and many more academic and art publications.

For more information about Dr. Susan Noyes Platt, visit www.artandpoliticsnow.com.
**EXHIBITIONS**

**BRUNNIER ART MUSEUM**

**EXHIBITIONS**

August 21 - December 16, 2012

**Relationships Renewed**

*Relationships: Integrated Studio Arts Faculty at the Brunnier* explores dynamic connections in the work of art faculty and colleagues across campus. Educational programs presented will provide stimulating insights into the relationships among visual art and disciplines in the sciences and humanities.

**Relationships Renewed** is the final exhibition in this exhibition cycle. Faculty who have participated over the past five Relationships exhibitions will combine to show new works of art reflecting the fruits of their collaboration with their on-campus partner and one work from at least a decade ago to showcase their development. Educational programming for this exhibition will engage panels of faculty in conversations describing how their work has evolved and how their thinking has been impacted through dialogue with their on-campus partners.

**Post-Pop Redux**

*Material Based Art by Andy Magee*

*Post-Pop Redux* is a collection of found-material sculptural art by artist Andy Magee that combines individual viewer’s perceptions of everyday objects and familiar iconography. Magee uses a variety of found objects that viewers have a personal connection with and generates a completely new meaning by interlacing them with contemporary issues including politics, religion, money, and sex.

As we reach the height of the 2012 Presidential election, this exhibition highlights the political and social commentary in Magee’s art. Magee’s multi-layered interpretive works of art evoke humor, challenge perception, and highlight cultural dualities. His assemblage art invites viewers to engage in discussion of topics that often are considered taboo. No two people interpret art in the exact same way, and Magee’s art allows viewers to find themselves while also creating an understanding of those around them.

Andy Magee (American, b. 1972) is a native of Arkansas who has lived in St. Louis, Missouri for the past fifteen years. Magee earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts from Arkansas State University and his Master of Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Magee’s portrait of President Obama titled *Change* was featured in *Time Magazine’s* 2008 Person of the Year issue. He has received numerous awards, including the Grand Award for the 50th Annual Delta Exhibition, a prestigious seven state regional exhibition held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Magee has three works of art in the collection of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and numerous works of art in private collections across the United States.

This exhibition is presented by University Museums with support from the College of Design, an Ames Community Grant Program, and the University Museums Membership.

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**CHRISTIAN PETERSEN ART MUSEUM**

**EXHIBITIONS**

August 20 - December 14, 2012

**Continuing Exhibitions**

French Art Nouveau: From the Permanent Collection

The Age of Brilliance: Cut Glass

Iowa College Pottery

Salon to Modern Gallery: Art from the Permanent Collection

Hot & Cool: Three Generations of Gaffers

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Andy Magee in *Post Pop Redux.*
The Land-grant Act and the People’s College: Iowa State University

Morrill Hall, ground floor hallway

This comprehensive historic timeline is installed on the walls of the ground floor corridor in Morrill Hall. The purpose of this installation is to provide an exciting and informative reference point to the history of Iowa State, featuring the institution’s prominent role as the first land-grant college to fully accept the provisions of the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862.

The timeline is divided into various time periods focusing on the important and interesting events that played a part in the creation and development of the University from inception to modern day. Each section focuses on a wide variety of events and the people that were innovators over the last 150 years in developing Iowa’s only land-grant college into the world class university it has become.

Morrill Hall’s central location and historic significance has made it a compelling and logical choice for the timeline installation. Since reopening after its dramatic restoration in 2007, the University’s second oldest structure has played host to an average of over 10,000 visitors annually and has become a starting point for many guided and self-guided tours. Guided visitors are often told of Morrill Hall’s history as chapel, library and museum, but many self-guided visitors come and go without the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in the history of the building and University. The goal of this current project is to both enhance the experience of the visitors to Iowa State’s campus and to better educate those visitors of the unique and illustrious role the college and community has played in advancing education and fulfilling the dreams of Senator Justin Smith Morrill and President Abraham Lincoln as enshrined in the Morrill Act.

This exhibition is designed by Allison Sheridan, University Museums and funded by Ann and Al Jennings, Carole and Jack Horowitz, Mary Watkins, Dorothy Schwieder, and the Ames Community Grant Foundation – Ames Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Cabinet of Curiosities

Reiman Gallery, 0003 Morrill Hall

The origin of many of the world’s museums is often rooted in private collectors “Cabinets of Curiosities” or Wunderkammer – cabinets of wonder. The study of historical museums brings to light the importance of these early private encyclopedic collections in exhibition design, cataloging, curating, and collecting. The earliest teaching collections at Iowa State are built upon some of the same methods of collecting and cataloging. Beginning in the 1890s, the third floor of Morrill Hall housed the college’s museum composed of natural history specimens ranging from an aardvark to an alligator. Some of these same taxidermy animals have found their way back to Morrill Hall through this exhibition.

Cabinet of Curiosities juxtaposes objects from over 30 teaching and art collections across campus to evoke individualized meaning and relationships. This exhibition presents objects amassed over Iowa State’s 150 plus year history in a style that reflects the early collector’s presentation of objects. Provenance and the presence of objects astounds in this exhibition where most of the objects are infrequently, if ever, seen by the public. The exhibition blends collections of naturalia and artificialia to entice the visitor to truly explore and experience the unfamiliar, exotic, bizarre and nostalgic objects that are part of Iowa State University’s academic land-grant heritage.

This exhibition is organized and curated by Allison Sheridan, University Museums and Jennifer Munoz (M.A. student, interior design) and funded by David and Hanna Gradwohl, and University Museums and its Membership.

Photo by Bob Elbert.
SEPTEMBER 2012

Thursday, September 6 at 7:00 p.m. in 0101 Design
Cultural Activism in a Time of Crisis
Dr. Susan Noyes Platt, art historian and art critic, will talk about her latest publication, Art and Politics Now, and art that addresses social and political concerns. Platt will reveal the power that artists have to make a difference when they choose to thoughtfully engage with the concerns of the world.

Tuesday, September 11 at 3:00 – 6:00 pm in Morrill Hall, ground floor hallway
The Land-Grant Act and the People’s College — Gallery Walk and Open House
September 11, 2012 marks the 150th anniversary of Iowa’s acceptance of the Morrill Act. Join exhibition curator Allison Sheridan for a tour of the newly installed exhibition, The Land-Grant Act and the People’s College: Iowa State University. Take your photo with Abraham Lincoln and enjoy light refreshments as we honor the act that had a monumental impact on Iowa State’s history. A book signing for the new publication will follow the gallery walk. This event is sponsored in part by Tanya Zanish-Belcher, University Museums and its Membership.

Wednesdays, September 12 through November 14, 5:20 p.m. (no yoga October 24th), 1017 Morrill Hall
Artful Yoga
Release that mid-week stress surrounded by the beauty of the Christian Petersen Art Museum during this free weekly yoga practice. Transform body, mind and spirit through a flowing series of postures and breath work! No yoga experience is necessary, but please bring your own yoga mat. Meet the Recreation Services yogi in 1017 Morrill Hall. If the weather is nice enough, Artful Yoga will be moved outside to the Anderson Sculpture Garden — south side of Morrill Hall. This free yoga practice is sponsored by University Museums and Recreation Services.

Thursday, September 13 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. at the Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman
Relationships Renewed Reception
The faculty in Integrated Studio Arts invite you to join them in celebrating the exhibition Relationships Renewed at the Brunnier Art Museum. Enjoy light refreshments, conversation, and a brief program at 5:00 with remarks from Des Moines Art Center Director Jeff Fleming, College of Design Dean Luis Rico-Gutierrez, and faculty exhibition coordinator Ingrid Lilligren.

Wednesday, September 19 at 12:00 p.m. the ISU Campus
ArtWalk – Howe & Hoover Hall
Join Barbara Bruene, docent, for a tour of the art in and around Howe and Hoover Halls. Meet Nancy outside the east entrance to Howe Hall.

Thursday, September 27 at 6:00 p.m. in 2019 Morrill Hall
Concepts, Context, and Duality
Join artist Andy Magee as he discusses his exhibition of found-material sculptural art. Magee uses a variety of found objects that viewers have a personal connection with and generates a completely new meaning by interlacing them with contemporary issues including politics, religion, money, and sex.

Thursday, September 27 from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Christian Petersen Art Museum, 1017 Morrill Hall
Post-Pop Redux Exhibition Reception
Join University Museums as we celebrate artist Andy Magee and the current exhibition Post-Pop Redux: Material Based Art by Andy Magee.

Sunday, September 30 at 2:00 p.m. in the Brunnier Art Museum, 295 Scheman
Conversations on Relationships
This panel discussion will engage a diverse group of art faculty in order to explore relationships and interconnections between art and other disciplines. This conversation will feature Emily Godbey, Steve Herrnstadt, Ingrid Lilligren, Chris Martin, and Chuck Richards.

Education programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

If you would like to sponsor an education program, or a series of programs, please contact Nancy Girard at nancyg@iastate.edu or 515.294.3342.

A full listing of programs can be found on the University Museums website under “Calendar.”

On rare occasions, a program must be cancelled, so we suggest that before making a special trip to the Museums you visit our website www.museums.iastate.edu or call 515-294-3342 for program information.
MUSEUM MOMENTS

a. Artist Andy Magee and volunteers Ronnie Lindeman, Rae Reilly, and Celinda Stamy install hundreds of Dole Juice cans for the installation 100% Juice in the Christian Petersen Art Museum.

b. Jen Munoz, co-curator, installs objects in the Cabinet of Curiosities exhibition.

c. Destination Iowa State students pose in front of Bill King’s Marry Me in the Anderson Sculpture Garden on August 18th.

d. Public artist Larry Nowlan with clay in-progress sculpture of Bill Bergen in his Windsor, Vermont studio. Bronze sculpture to be installed at the new ISU Sports Complex in early November.

e. Grounds crew helps to clean and wax Beverly Pepper’s Janus Agri Altar sculpture in the Agronomy courtyard.
The Land-Grant Act and the People’s College

Open House

Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the state of Iowa’s acceptance of the Morrill Act

Learn more about the history of ISU, our Land-Grant heritage, and how it impacts campus today.

September 11, 2012
3:00-6:00 p.m.
Morrill Hall, ground floor

Enjoy refreshments with Abe Lincoln followed by a book signing for the new publication at this free event.

The Morrill Act allowed more people to have access to higher education...

...and improved the lives of millions of American citizens.
Albert Eugene Cook, the donor and eponym of the Cook Corn Trophy was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Willard Cook. He became the manager of the Cook Ranch in Sac County in 1893 and later became the sole owner after buying the interests of two other heirs of the C. W. Cooks. (Brookmont Farm History, AS TIME GOES BY; The Odebolt Chronicle, May, 1977.) A.E. Cook also became an important citizen and friend but not an alumnus of Iowa State.

The Beginnings
The Brookmont Farm, also known as the Cook Ranch, was made up of 12 sections, 7680 acres, in a block spanning three sections north and south and four sections east and west. It included sections 27 through 34 of Cook (named for C. W. Cook) Township and sections 3 through 6 of Richland Township in Sac County. C. W. Cook, a resident of Chicago, purchased the land on April 15, 1873 at $5.00 per acre for a total of $38,400 from the Iowa Railway Land Company. He divided it into half-section farms with a complete set of farm buildings for the tenants, and identified them as Farms 1 through 23. He built his own home in the southeast corner of Section 33, Cook Township. It burned in the early 1990s and was replaced with a smaller but fully modern home. C. W. Cook imported his foundation herd of Hereford cattle (306 head, including 290 heifers) from England in 1883. The herd cost about $200,000. Later he was to import another 200. The animals were selected by the best cattle judge available, transported to Liverpool by a special train of 30 cars and a passenger coach, loaded on the chartered steamer Quebec of the Dominion Line, and remained in Canada for several months before arriving at the Cook Ranch. Hundreds of progeny were sold at the Farm before Albert E. Cook held the final dispersal sale on April 16 and 17, 1914. (Brookmont Farm History, AS TIME GOES BY, ibid.)

Charles Willard Cook was born in Haddam, Connecticut to Willard and Abigail (Brainerd) Cook on July 13, 1832, both descendents of two prominent colonial immigrant English families, and died on August 11, 1900. (In another source by Lewis Publishing the birth and death years are each two years later.) He lived in Connecticut 12 years until his father, who had granite quarry interests in New England, became interested in the West, so he moved the family to a farm in Lake County, Illinois, quarried in Joliet, and moved into Chicago in 1854. In 1869 C. W. went into the wholesale coal business in downtown Chicago and rapidly expanded into additional pursuits. He and the first of three wives, Sarah E. Cooley, had three children, one of whom was Albert E. Cook. In failing health by age 32 and the absence of a business partner forced him to give up and sell his wide-spread interests to become an investor after three years recuperation travel with his family in Europe. One of these investments was the Brookmont Farm that he created in Sac County, Iowa. There were four school houses on the Farm and a church at each end in addition to the 23 half-section tenant farms. (CRAWFORD, IDA AND SAC COUNTIES, Lewis Publishing Co., 1893.) Later he also had land holdings in Monona County, Iowa, a ranch in Montana and a plantation in Louisiana.

The employment at the Cook Ranch part of Brookmont Farm reached about 50 men by 1885 in addition to the tenants living on the 23 farms. It is not clear how the cattle herd and the tenant farms were organized, but the herd had reached 640 by 1885, and was reputed to be the largest herd of purebred Hereford cattle in the world. The purebred Hereford cattle regularly were sold to stockmen and farmers, far and near, as cattle ranching continued to replace the decimated bison herds of the plains. Albert E. began to sell off small parcels of Brookmont Farm in about 1908, and then seriously started to liquidate larger farm units until the last land sales including the Cook homestead and the last tenant farm completed the exit from Brookmont in about 1918, some two years after the dispersal sale of the Hereford herd. The improved land was sold at about $200.00 per acre. Meanwhile, A. E. Cook had moved to Kankakee, Illinois where he and Mrs. Cook passed away.

The Corn Trophy
The Trophy was promised by A.E. Cook of Odebolt (personal comm. Bradley Kuennen, University Special Collections) in the midst of a period of unrest of our farming clientele with the direction in which the agricultural part of the “Peoples College” was taking. The curriculum was viewed as getting farther away from practical agriculture, in spite of the fact that the State Act of 1858 establishing the Agricultural College and Model Farm had been brought into conformity with the Federal Morrill Act of 1862, in 1884 after discussions starting in 1871. The results were the reorganization of this institution after changing its name to Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts and establishing divisions, including a Division of Agriculture led by Dean C. F. Curtiss in 1902 and departments, one of which was the Department of Agronomy led by P.G. Holden known for corn breeding. There seemed to be a new sense of “getting together” and setting the course for the future in Agriculture which by this time also had a Division for Research, the Agricultural and Home Economics Experiment Station resulting from the passage of the Hatch Act by Congress (E.D. Ross, HISTORY OF IOWA STATE COLLEGE, 1942). Many other trophies coincided with and followed the Cook Trophy, all having to do with corn improvement.
An image and description of The Cook Trophy was presented in the Iowa Agriculturalist for November 1903, pp. 16-17 (personal communication, Bradley Kuennen, 2012.) The digitized caption by Google follows:

“This magnificent trophy has been given by Albert E. Cook of Odebolt, Iowa, to encourage work in the improvement of corn. It will be awarded to the person exhibiting the champion ear of corn at the short course held at the Iowa State College, Jan.4-16, and will be competed for yearly.

“The trophy is of bronze and glass, thirty-six inches in height. It was designed and manufactured by the Gorham Mfg. Co., New York, and will have cost Mr. Cook $1500.00 when delivered to the college Jan. 1st, 1904. The glass cylinders are of such a size to contain the actual ears of corn which carry off chief honors each year.

“On one side of the glass cylinders stands a bronze statue of an Indian chief, dressed in full war regalia. He represents the original conditions in the corn breeding belt. On the other side of the glass cylinder[s] stands a bronze statue of Charles Willard Cook, who purchased the Brookmont Farms when Iowa was but wild prairie, roamed over by Indians. The statue of Mr. Cook represents the energy, skill and patience of the modern corn breeder.

“Capping the trophy is a bronze globe supported by bronze American eagles. The globe shows a map of the world, with the state of Iowa in relief, emphasizing the work of Iowa in the development of this new work. The position of the globe is indicative of the position King Corn holds in the world's prosperity.”

A plaque on the lower left side of the trophy states: “The Cook Trophy Presented to Iowa State Agricultural College By A.E. Cook, Odebolt, Iowa, for Excellence in Corn Judging: to be Awarded In State Or National Contests As the College My Direct – The Cylinders To Hold Sweepstake Ears.”

The trophy was ready for the January 1904 Corn Short Course in Ames and presumed to include the winning ears of corn shown. Apparently it became a traveling trophy before the Chicago International Live Stock Show that fall, where teams from colleges competed in corn judging an activity in which the Iowa State Team usually prevailed. The first time this Trophy was at stake, however, the Kansas State Team surprised all by winning it in 1904 and presumably the Cook Trophy left Iowa. But the Iowa State Team returned to its winning ways the next three shows, and retired the trophy to Iowa State College after the 1907 Live Stock Show (The 23rd Biennial Report of the Iowa State College, 1906-1908). Apparently it was properly displayed in Curtiss Hall (Second Agricultural Hall) since then but notes to that effect were not found. It resurfaced when the rotunda and its display cases were remodeled in the mid-1980s while preparing for the Brenton Center. When it was found, hidden from view by some earlier construction, Lynette Pohlman was called to view and identify it and to decide on its display (personal communication, Lynette Pohlman, Director of University Museums, 2012). It was displayed in Agronomy Hall since then but at the request of Dean Wintersteen in 2012 it has been repaired and refreshed, and is displayed in The Dean’s Gallery of Agriculture and Life Sciences in Curtiss Hall.

I acknowledge with thanks and deep appreciation the help in understanding and suggestions given by Bradley Kuennen, Brian Myers, Lynette Pohlman, Judith Willemsen, Dean Morton, Russell Mullen and Kendall Lamkey in the preparation of this report.
Youssef Asar, 77, an artist from Cairo, Egypt died on June 27, 2012. He is survived by his wife Ankie Asar, his son Salim Asar, several family members in Cairo, and many extended family and friends from around the world and at Iowa State University.

By invitation from Dr. David Topel, then dean of the College of Agriculture, Youssef Asar, an award-winning painter, arrived early in September for the 1998-99 academic year to become Iowa State University’s George Washington Carver Artist-in-Residence. He remained at ISU through 2000 and taught painting classes in the College of Design, as well as conducted painting seminars, lectures and assisted in other art and design courses during his ISU residency. His artist-in-residence studio was located in Curtiss Hall and quickly became a destination for the ISU campus community and visitors. Asar’s appointment was sponsored by the College of Agriculture, College of Design, ISU Extension and the ISU Office of External Affairs. In 1999, Mark Engelbrecht, then dean of the College of Design, wrote, “We have been doubly fortunate that our visiting artist, Youssef Asar, is a man rooted in the ancient civilization of Egypt. His art communicates across centuries and addresses our present reality with a voice that is at once ancient and freshly contemporary.”

At the time of Asar’s arrival Iowa State was celebrating the legacy of its first African American student and faculty member, George Washington Carver (1864-1943). Renowned for his accomplishments as a scientist, Carver also was an accomplished artist. To commemorate Carver’s international stature, Asar painted a major triptych mural Determination, Homage to Carver, and Eternal, which is permanently installed in the Food Sciences Building. Also in the Art on Campus Collection are twenty-seven paintings by Asar depicting Iowa and Iowa State landscapes, and portraits of Iowa State alumni, faculty and administrators which can be viewed in other campus locations including Kildee Hall and the Parks Library. “Like George Washington Carver’s paintings, Youssef Asar’s artistic works of art celebrate his love of the earth and environment,” said David Topel, former dean of the College of Agriculture. “We were honored to have Asar at ISU as our Carver Artist-in-Residence. He was an important component of our Carver celebration and contributed to the diversity and internationalization of our university.” The Carver mural triptych was prominently featured at the 2000 dedication of the United State Department of Agriculture building named for Carver in Beltsville, Maryland.

Born in 1935, Asar spent most of his life in Egypt, as well as many years in Australia. He received his B.A. in Applied Arts and Diploma of Education, Cairo, Egypt in 1962; M.A. in Islamic Art and Philosophy, Sydney University, Australia in 1977; and Ph.D. in Indian Art and Philosophy, M.S. University, Baroda, Gujarat, India in 1981. Asar’s art was exhibited throughout Europe, Egypt and Australia, and is on permanent exhibit in museums throughout Egypt, Australia, Europe and the United States. His art won numerous awards in Egypt and Australia. Asar taught art and art history since 1962 in Egypt, Germany, Australia, India, the Netherlands and the United States. In 1968 Asar migrated to Australia and established a fine arts department at what is now the University of the Northern Territory in Australia in 1973. Remarking on the emerging career of a young Asar in 1968, Abdel Kader Rizk, then Director General of Fine Arts and Museums, Ministry of Culture, Cairo, stated, “Youssef Asar is an original person, a brilliantly talented painter: sensitive anxious, revolutionary and non-conforming. He is a genuine and responsive to his surroundings. He gives an air of authenticity to what he embarks on in his domain as a born artist.”

At Iowa State Youssef will be remembered for his fine artistic contributions to the campus, and his friendly artist’s studio in Curtiss Hall enticing with fragrant smells of oil paint, mixed with cloves, nutmeg and cardamom—the, three ingredients mixed in his strong coffee served to all who visited to view his art and discuss international affairs.

Youssef Asar was buried in the family grave on Thursday, June 28, 2012 in Qalioub, Egypt.
The Iowa State University Museums exhibit art from around the world dating from ancient times to the present, historic Iowa State material culture, and modern and contemporary sculpture. In addition to its permanent collection, the University Museums offer changing exhibitions, accompanied by related educational programs and publications.

UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
Anderson Sculpture Garden - Art on Campus Collection - Brunnier Art Museum - Christian Petersen Art Museum - Farm House Museum

290 Scheman Building
Ames, Iowa 50011-1110
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www.museums.iastate.edu

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