The Ringling to Display Studio Glass Collection

The museum will present an overview of a collection donated by Phillip and Nancy Kotler.

Sarasota, FL – Oct. 18, 2013 – The Ringling adds to its contemporary art offerings with the debut of the Philip and Nancy Kotler Glass Collection.

Works by some of the leading modern American and European glass artists will be on display Nov. 18, 2013-June 29, 2014 in galleries of the Ulla R. and Arthur F. Searing Wing of The Ringling Museum of Art. The collection features contemporary studio glass sculptures from a number of important artists including Nicolas Africano, Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová, Peter Hora, Karen LaMonte, Michael Glancey and many others. This exhibition will display an overview of the larger donated collection. A more comprehensive exhibition of the collection will occur in the future.

“This glimpse of the Kotler Glass Collection provides the opportunity to witness an art form never displayed before at The Ringling,” Steven High, executive director at The Ringling says. “I thank Philip and Nancy Kotler for sharing their collection with the public.”

While the addition of this collection marks the first instance of The Ringling collecting studio glass, the museum does have a legacy of collecting glass artworks. John Ringling collected 1st Century Roman glass.

“This generous donation by Philip and Nancy Kotler begins a new collecting focus for The Ringling and makes a significant contribution to our contemporary collection, allowing us to further extend and enrich our visitors’ experiences,” Matthew McLendon, curator of modern and contemporary art at The Ringling says.

Studio glass is a modern technique of an individual or a small team producing handmade glass artworks. The modern American studio glass movement traces its origin to two workshops at the Toledo Museum of Art in 1962, where small and inexpensive glass furnaces were demonstrated. The workshops spawned the development of independent glassblowing studios across the United States, which encouraged artists to experiment with glass. The Kotlers donated their collection of studio glass to The Ringling in 2012, which marked the 50th anniversary of the studio glass movement in the United States.

The Kolter Glass Collection is a part of The Ringling’s 2013-14 “Art of Our Time” season, supported in part by a grant from the Gulf Coast Community Foundation.
About The Ringling

The Ringling is the State Art Museum of Florida. Affiliated with Florida State University, it is one of the largest university arts complexes in the nation. It features the John and Mable Ringling’s winter residence, Ca’ d’Zan, as well as a Museum of Art, a Circus Museum, and an eighteenth-century Italian theater, all situated on a beautiful sixty-six acre estate on the shores of Sarasota Bay. The Museum of Art is world-renowned for its collection of Old Master paintings, which includes works by artists such as Paolo Veronese and Diego Velasquez. It has become synonymous with the Flemish master Peter Paul Rubens, whose *Triumph of the Eucharist* series is displayed in two of the most awe-inspiring galleries to be found anywhere in America. In 2011, the Ringling opened *Joseph’s Coat*, a Skyspace by created by artist James Turrell. This extraordinary installation is the cornerstone of a program known as Art of Our Time, which showcases the talents of today’s leading visual and performance artists. The Circus Museum documents the rich history of the American circus. It houses a wealth of circus artifacts, as well as the world’s largest miniature circus. The Historic Asolo Theater is an active performance space, presenting the best in theater, music, dance, and film. The Ringling estate features an extensive variety of native and exotic trees, as well as the oldest rose garden in Florida, founded by Mable Ringling.