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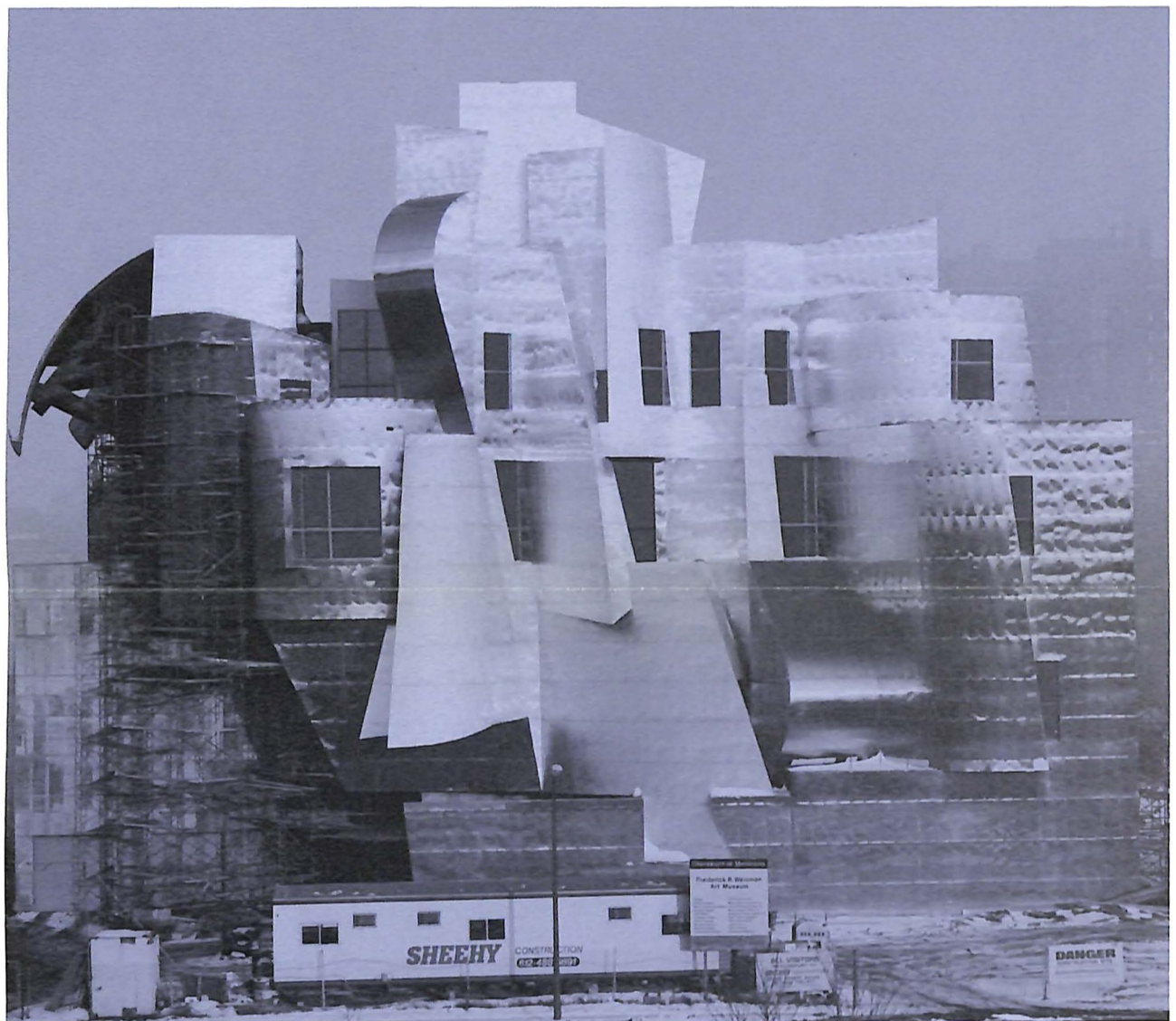
New museum nears completion

Construction of the new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota continues on schedule and on budget. Substantial completion of the building is scheduled for June 29.

The new museum, at 333 East River Road, on the bluffs of the Mississippi River between Coffman Union and the Washington Avenue Bridge, is unmistakable. The scaffolding on the west facade of the building has been completely removed to reveal the stainless steel skin of the building, gleaming in the sunlight. At night, the sculptured facade reflects the lights of the bridge, city and river, giving the building a magical glow.

The building was completely enclosed in late November and was "topped off" by an evergreen tree raised to the building's highest point, following an old tradition. The building's interior walls and flooring are now in place, and mechanical and finishing work has begun. Work is progressing on the stainless steel parts of the south and north facades, now covered by scaffolding.

The museum staff is scheduled to begin the move into the new facility in July. Opening festivities for the museum are scheduled for the week of November 15. The museum's opening exhibition is entitled *A New View: From the Collections of the University of Minnesota and Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation*. The title, *A New View*, emphasizes the stunning vistas of the Mississippi River and downtown Minneapolis seen from the museum's lobby as well as views of the building's architectural



The University of Minnesota's new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum will open the week of November 15, 1993. The building's sculptural brushed stainless steel west facade, facing the Mississippi River and West Bank campus, is one of its most striking architectural features.

Spring 1993

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A publication

for the Colleagues

and friends of the

University of Minnesota

Art Museum

surprises and the revelation of the museum's collection, long hidden in storage rooms in Northrop Auditorium.

The exhibition will showcase works of art from the museum's permanent collection and from the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation. Much of the work on display will be entirely new to even the museum's regular visitors, because the museum has never had the gallery space to show the collection on an ongoing basis. *A New View* will also show pieces that have been hidden from view ever since they entered the collection because the

museum has never before had walls large enough to display them.

The opening show will do much more than simply dust off works in storage and hang them in galleries. The museum's architect, Frank O. Gehry, is designing the installation for this inaugural exhibition. A man passionately concerned about context, lighting, and space, Gehry has designed installations for many museums over the years. In tandem with his stunning design for the new Weisman Art Museum, the public should expect the unexpected in this new Gehry installation.

From the Director

T

his is my last letter as director of the University of Minnesota Art Museum. In November, I will become the first director of the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota.

The first exhibition at the "Little Gallery," in April 1934, inaugurated the nearly 60-year history of the museum in its "temporary" quarters in Northrop Auditorium. On April Fool's Day of 1993, the museum will close its doors in Northrop Auditorium to reopen in late November as the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum.

Although all change brings stress, I can't say that I am unhappy to be the University Art Museum's last director. Our Northrop space has long been inadequate for our collections and programs. It has been frustrating to see the creativity of the museum staff inhibited by the small, cramped galleries. Also, it has been devastating to consider the potential for damage to priceless works of art from lack of modern environmental controls in galleries and storage. Thanks only to the utmost effort and constant diligence of our registrars and preparators have we been able to control the climate within acceptable parameters.

Frederick Weisman, whose donation made the new museum a reality, was a student at the University two years before the "Little Gallery" was founded. The new art museum at the University will be named to honor his generosity and his passion for art. Students, faculty, staff, and the general public will be able to drop into the museum to enjoy and learn about art. Mr. Weisman, like the museum named after him, is interested in making art accessible—in creating a new generation of art lovers. Our new building will make art physically accessible on campus. It is up to our staff to create exhibitions and programs that will promote an appreciation and understanding of art.

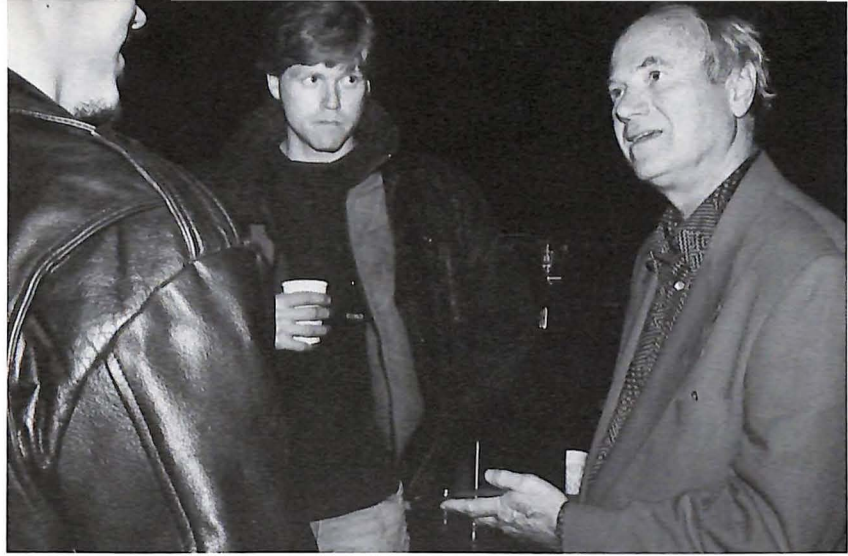
The museum's architect, Frank O. Gehry, is the 1989 winner of the "Nobel Prize of architecture," the Pritzker Prize. He is a risk taker

whose buildings are acclaimed internationally. The sculptor of the giant glass fish in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden, Frank Gehry has designed buildings for Yale University, Loyola University in Los Angeles, and the University of Iowa, as well as the American Center in Paris and the Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. But the museum at the University of Minnesota was his first art museum from scratch. A January 1993 *Time* magazine, in citing him for best designs of the year, said, "There has been no comparable American designer since the days of (Charles) Eames and (Frank Lloyd) Wright."

The museum, situated high on the bluffs above the Mississippi River, is gray stainless steel and orange terra-cotta colored brick. Its context is not only the brick buildings of the University of Minnesota campus, but also the Mississippi River, whose banks are dominated from Minneapolis to New Orleans by industrial structures of gray or orange-rusted metal. The museum will be a beacon on the river; its glittering sculptural west facade overlooking the Mississippi will project light and draw students and the public alike to its doors. Not everyone will appreciate what *Time* refers to as the "confidently exuberant and sincerely odd" architecture of Frank Gehry. Frank dares to risk new ideas in his architecture and everyone who sees the Weisman Art Museum will know it stands for the questioning of old ideas—a quality not incompatible with the mission of the best universities.

As we say farewell to Northrop Auditorium, we will remember not only the frustrations but also the efforts and successes of our first and second directors, Hudson Walker and Ruth Lawrence, and all the museum staff members who passed through Northrop's halls during the past 58 years. It was all of our work, combined with the generosity of Frederick Weisman and over four hundred other donors, and the creativity of our architect, Frank Gehry, that has brought us to our first permanent home, and the bright new possibilities of fulfilling the goals that our founder, President Lotus Coffman, set for us in 1934: to instill in students the values the arts give and to create a place on campus where the life enhancing joys of the arts can be felt.

—Lyndel King
University Art Museum Director



Internationally acclaimed artist James Rosenquist talked with University students, faculty, and staff in an informal session, sponsored by the University Art Museum on March 8. Rosenquist, a University of Minnesota alumnus, was in the Twin Cities for the opening of a Walker Art Center exhibition entitled James Rosenquist: Time Dust, The Complete Graphics 1962-1992. The afternoon session gave the audience an opportunity to hear Rosenquist speak about his life and work, as well as answer questions from the audience.

William Lampe

Founders' Day 1993 to honor William G. (Jerry) Shepherd

Former vice president of Academic Affairs and regents' professor William G. (Jerry) Shepherd will be honored at the University Art Museum's second annual Founders' Day celebration on Friday, April 30, 1993, in the Great Hall of Coffman Memorial Union.

Founders' Day was created to recognize and honor individuals whose generosity and hard work have nurtured and successfully guided the museum throughout its almost-60-year history, from a small gallery in 1934 to the new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, opening in November 1993.

Friends and colleagues of Professor Shepherd, members of the University community, and museum supporters are invited to join in the evening's festivities which will begin at 7 p.m. with a wine and cheese reception in the Great Hall of Coffman Memorial Union, followed by a dinner and award program.

For further information or a reservation form for the event, please call (612) 624-9876.

MAD Magazine's Alfred E. Neuman closes the University Art Museum's fifty-eight year history

The University Art Museum, housed for 58 years in its "temporary" location on the third and fourth floors of Northrop Auditorium, is presenting *Humor in a Jugular Vein: The Art, Artists, and Artifacts of MAD Magazine*, as its closing exhibition running through April 1, 1993. In November 1993, the University's new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum will open its doors and begin a schedule of exhibitions.

Throughout its unconventional history, *MAD Magazine* has entertained a number of generations of adolescents (and adults) with its biting satire and social parodies—sparing no personality or social institution—in the relentless pursuit of humor.

The *MAD* exhibition is taken from the collection of Mark J. Cohen, a Santa Rosa, California realtor and cartoon art collector. Cohen owns the world's largest private collection of original paintings and drawings from *MAD*. The exhibition is vintage *MAD*, containing works by all of the early artists of the publication.

As an intriguing accompaniment to the *MAD* exhibition, a small show entitled *Soviet Humor: Krokodil* offers visitors a peek at the light side of Soviet life through the pages of its most famous and irreverent magazine *Krokodil*. The exhibition is guest-curated by Willard B. Moore.

Humor in a Jugular Vein: The Art, Artists, and Artifacts of MAD Magazine is the last exhibition in the University Art Museum. On April 1, the museum will close its doors after almost 60 years in its "temporary" location in Northrop Auditorium. Putting together hundreds of exhibitions in very cramped space for almost six decades has been a "MADdening" experience at times, so April Fool's Day and Alfred E. Neuman form an appropriate and entertaining closure for the museum's first era.



Twin Cities

MARCH

Humor in a Jugular Vein: The Art, Artists, and Artifacts of MAD Magazine.

Through April 1, 1993
Galleries 305-7, 309

MAD Magazine made its debut in magazine format in 1955. Issues 1 through 23 were comic books. Few people realized what an impact this magazine of satire, caricature, and parody would have on our society. This exhibit, taken from the private collection of California collector Mark J. Cohen, displays, for the first time, original paintings and drawings from the very early days to the present.

Soviet Humor: Krokodil

Through April 1, 1993
Third Floor Corridor

An intriguing accompaniment to the MAD exhibition, this small exhibition offers viewers a peek at the light side of Soviet life through the pages of its most famous and irreverent magazine *Krokodil*. The exhibit is guest-curated by Willard B. Moore.

APRIL

1993 Founders' Day Celebration

Friday, April 30, 1993
7:00 p.m.

Great Hall, Coffman Memorial Union

The University Art Museum salutes Dr. William G. (Jerry) Shepherd as its 1993 Founders' Day honoree. Reception followed by dinner and program. For tickets or further information, call (612) 624-9876.

APRIL-OCTOBER

The University Art Museum will close its doors to prepare for the opening of the new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum in November 1993.

NOVEMBER

The Opening of the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum: Campus Celebration and Formal Dedication

Friday, November 19, 1993
12 noon

A noontime celebration and dedication of the new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum. The campus celebration begins at noon with music and entertainment, a short dedication program, and tours of the new facility for students, faculty and staff throughout the afternoon.

The Opening of the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum: Opening Gala

Saturday, November 20, 1993
6:30 p.m.

The Colleagues of the Weisman Art Museum present the opening gala celebrating the Twin Cities' newest architectural landmark. The evening begins with a director's reception at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner in the museum. At 9:30 p.m., the celebration kicks into high gear with champagne, desserts and dancing into the night. Tickets for the event are priced from \$35 to \$125. For ticket information, call (612) 624-9876.

The Opening of the Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum: Public Open House

Sunday, November 21, 1993
11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The public is invited to tour the Twin Cities' newest museum. Tours and informational programs will be available throughout the day. There is no admission to this event and the public is encouraged to attend. For further information, call (612) 624-9876.

Alfred E. Neuman used with permission from MAD Magazine. © Copyright 1993, E.C. Publications, Inc.

Touring Exhibitions Program

Associate professor of music, Ron McCurdy, and the University of Minnesota Faculty Jazz Quintet treated 150 people at Moorhead State University to a performance of jazz from the Black Renaissance years of the 1920s. The January 6 performance and accompanying lecture on the beginnings of jazz were part of opening events at MSU for the touring exhibition, *A Stronger Soul Within A Finer Frame: Portraying African-Americans in the Black Renaissance*. Earlier that day, John S. Wright, associate professor of Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota, offered a lecture on the Black Renaissance to an audience of 250 people.

"The exhibition and programs add enormously to the intellectual and cultural life of Moorhead State and this community. This is something that we could not have put together ourselves," commented Phyllis May-Machunda, chief coordinator of the program at MSU and a faculty member in the Humanities and Multicultural Studies Department. Her remarks were echoed by MSU President Roland Dille and Dean Robert Badal at the evening's opening reception, cosponsored by the Moorhead chapter of the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, whose members were invited to the events.

The statewide tour of *A Stronger Soul* is supported by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibition is currently on view at the Whipple Gallery at Southwest State University, Marshall, through March 19.

It then moves to the Humanities and Fine Arts Center, University of Minnesota-Morris and in May to the Rochester Center in Rochester. The exhibition has been seen by over 34,000 Minnesotans on its tour thus far.

On March 4, 1993 the University Alumni Association in the New Ulm area cosponsored a dinner and lecture in conjunction with a showing of *Heartland: Visions of the American Farm* at the Brown County Historical Society. Donald Wyse, director of the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and professor of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota, presented a lecture, *Sustainability of Agriculture*. The Institute is based at the University of Minnesota's College of Agriculture and is devoted to making rural communities viable. The dinner and lecture was held at historic Turner Hall in New Ulm. The *Heartland* exhibition is supported in part by Land O' Lakes, Inc.



Lobby Card
Oscar Micheaux presents *Underworld*, 1936. From the University Art Museum's touring exhibition, *A Stronger Soul Within A Finer Frame: Portraying African-Americans in the Black Renaissance*.

Are you interested in the visual arts or architecture?

• Do you like to interact with a variety of people? • Do you want to gain a behind-the-scenes view of museum work? • Have you time and talent to share with the Twin Cities' newest art museum?

Become a museum staff volunteer or tour guide at the new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota

When the new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum opens in November 1993, a volunteer group will be needed for a variety of tasks in the new building. The museum is looking for people interested in helping with the opening festivities, staffing the museum information desk and the new sales shop, and a variety of other tasks.

While most volunteer activities will begin in fall 1993, the museum is recruiting tour guides now to become charter members of its docent force. Training in preparation for the inaugural exhibition will begin in May. Docents will learn about the new museum building, about basic art elements, and about American art and other special exhibition topics, as well as receive training in tour techniques and public speaking.

Tour guides will have to be available for a weekly class, beginning in May (with a break over the summer), and for tours, beginning in November. To find out more about volunteer opportunities, or for docent information and an application form, call Gwen Sutter at 624-6503.

Docent applications must be submitted by April 16.



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his April, the University Art Museum honors Professor Emeritus William G. Shepherd at its annual Founder's Day celebration. Jerry Shepherd is truly a founder of the University Art Museum. It was while he held the office of vice president for Academic Administration (now called provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs) in the early 1970s that the museum's mission was enlarged and redefined to become closer to its founding mission, and that the museum's administrative structure was changed to give it a separate identity and budget. These changes, recommended by a committee appointed by Jerry and

headed by professor of German Gerhard Weiss, laid the groundwork that allows the museum today to be on the verge of moving into its new home with a new identity and revitalized programs. Jerry, in a very real sense, "refounded" what was a floundering organization. He gave it direction and support that allowed it to grow.

As represented only by his resume, Jerry seems an unlikely candidate to be a founder of an art museum. He received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1933, and a Ph.D. in physics in 1937. As a researcher in the Bell Telephone Laboratory from 1937 until 1947, his research concerned nonlinear circuits and electron tubes, particularly for radar applications. He returned to the University as professor of electrical engineering, founded the University's physical electronics research laboratories,



Chris Faust

William G. Shepherd

served as departmental head of electrical engineering, and was associate dean of the Institute of Technology before becoming vice president for Academic Administration, an office he held for 10 years. He served as director of the University's space science center before his retirement in 1979.

But paper doesn't tell the story that those who have known Jerry can tell. He is universally respected as a scientist and an administrator. He is a man who values the University as an institution and a community, and who understands the importance of art to human existence. He is

honest, ethical, and fair. He gladly tolerates differences of opinion and differences in taste, but he does not easily tolerate injustice, irresponsibility, or hypocrisy. Jerry has supported the art museum since he set it on its new path and has supported the people who have struggled to help it achieve the goal of moving out of its sixty-year temporary quarters into a facility where its collections and programs can flourish—where it can finally take its place in the scheme of education at the University of Minnesota.

Jerry was a major force in the fund-raising campaign that made the new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum possible. He continues to provide support for the programs, staff, and administration of this museum, and his unwavering belief in the importance of the arts in university education has ensured the building of a wonderful new art museum for the University of Minnesota.

UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM NEWS

UARTMIN

University of Minnesota Art Museum
110 Northrop Auditorium
84 Church Street Southeast
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

The University Art Museum is located on the third and fourth floors of Northrop Auditorium at the center of the University of Minnesota east bank campus.

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday through Friday and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. The museum is closed on Saturdays and all University holidays. Parking is available in the Church Street ramp adjacent to Northrop Auditorium. The galleries are accessible to the handicapped by ramps and an elevator on the east side of the building.

All exhibitions presented by the University Art Museum are free.

A number of volunteer opportunities will be available at the new Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum.

Call (612) 624-9876 for more information.

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