

## News Release

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UNIVERSITY *of*  
DENVER

### **University of Denver Receives Madden Art Collection Valued at \$10M** *1870 Bierstadt Painting among 120 Objects Added to University Art Collection*

DENVER—Mar 10, 2016—In January 2016, Mr. John Madden, developer of the Fiddler’s Green campus in Greenwood Village, CO., donated a collection of 120 artworks valued at \$10 million to the University of Denver.

The new “Madden Collection at the University of Denver” includes artworks by artists ranging from pioneering Western painters Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran to American masters Thomas Hart Benton and Robert Rauschenberg to contemporary Chinese-born American painter Hung Liu.

Reflecting the personal collecting interests of Mr. Madden and his late wife Marjorie, the collection is also rich in outstanding works by Italian painters of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. European works include Italian Impressionists, such as Francesco Gioli and Federico Zandomenighi, and British master J.M.W. Turner.

The collection doubles the monetary value of the University Art Collection’s existing art assets, which now number more than 3,400 artworks. Through this transformational gift, the University expands its role as a regional leader in a new model for the museum profession—accessible collections.

The University is committed to increasing the display of its collections while using them as an active educational resource for all DU students. Many of the newly donated works are currently on view at the MADDEN Museum of Art in Greenwood Village, CO., a free, public museum Mr. Madden established in 2008. Exhibiting DU-owned works in Greenwood Village plays a role in expanding the University’s community presence as expressed in DU’s recently published strategic plan, [DU Impact 2025](#).

“The impact of this gift and our relationship with Mr. Madden is enormous,” said University Chancellor Rebecca Chopp. “He has assembled an important and broad-ranging collection, and we’re particularly honored that he has entrusted us with the care of a legacy that benefits our students and the wider community.”

The Madden Collection at the University of Denver creates new opportunities for students studying in art history, museum studies, studio art and many other fields. Using the full University Art Collections, which have been transformed into a hands-on teaching laboratory for research and study of visual art objects, DU students have behind-the-scenes access to original

artworks for research, curatorial projects and professional training opportunities in museum studies.

A notable work from the Madden Collection that students will handle is an Alpine landscape of 1870 by Albert Bierstadt. It is a counterpart to his “Weeping Oaks, Clear Creek, California,” painted in 1880 and donated to the University by the artist himself in 1890.

“For a decade, we’ve worked hard to organize our collections. Mr. Madden’s gift perfectly complements some of our existing holdings, particularly in European and American landscape painting,” said Dan Jacobs, University Art Collections curator. “Gifts of pieces by Grandma Moses, Robert Rauschenberg and Viola Frey take us into whole new areas with works of truly significant quality. It even features a stunning collection of work by local painter Daniel Sprick, adding yet another dimension. It’s a transformational gift, and I’m really looking forward to sharing it with colleagues, students and our expanding audience.”

Mr. Madden and the Madden Family Foundation have also provided support for students studying in the School of Art and Art History as well as underwriting the Madden Challenge, an undergraduate case competition in which first-year business students build a mobile app and present a plan to bring it to market. This \$10 million transformational gift is the first major gift DU has received since announcing *DU Impact 2025*.

“Since my teenage years, I’ve been pretty passionate about art, and I really think that access to the arts is crucial for young people,” said Madden. “I’ve tried to include fine art and artful design in my commercial real estate projects. Our Fiddler’s Green campus was the original home of the Museum of Outdoor Art, and it’s now the home of the MADDEN Museum of Art. I always look to how these projects can benefit young people and students, and I’m convinced that the University of Denver can carry these interests forward on multiple fronts.”

*The University of Denver Art Collections: Although the University of Denver's earliest surviving art acquisition was an 1890 gift from Albert Bierstadt, the program for care and use of DU's art holdings launched formally in 2005, with the appointment of DU's first curator for the University Art Collections, Dan Jacobs. Since then, over 3,400 art objects have been catalogued; those not on view on campus have been rehoused in a new, professionally managed off-campus facility. Access for students, faculty and researchers is a major priority, leading to the creation of a fully searchable online database in 2010. The Madden Collection at the University of Denver becomes the latest and highest-profile addition to this growing resource.*

*Exhibitions at DU's main art exhibition space, [the Vicki Myhren Gallery at the School of Art & Art History](#), often feature works from the collections. The Vicki Myhren Gallery, DU's primary art exhibition venue, is free to the public and open Tuesday through Sunday noon to five, with extended hours until 7:00 pm on Thursdays.*

*The MADDEN Museum: The MADDEN Museum exists to inspire and make art accessible to the Denver Tech Center and the Greenwood Village community through exhibitions, education, and enjoyment. The MADDEN, founded with an emphasis on the Madden family collection, offers*

*changing exhibitions as well as educational programming. The MADDEN Museum of Art is dedicated to advancing knowledge of and passion for art by preserving, exhibiting and interpreting art of enduring attribute.*

*The University of Denver: Founded in 1864, the University of Denver is committed to engaging with students in advancing scholarly inquiry, cultivating critical and creative thought, and generating knowledge. The University strives to educate the 21<sup>st</sup>-century citizens and leaders needed in its organizations and communities. For additional information, visit the University's Media Relations [website](#), or follow the University on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

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