

UCHICAGO ARTS

WINTER 2016 EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS GUIDE



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Satchmo Festival
Monster Roster



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Monster Roster: Existentialist Art in Postwar Chicago

Thu, Feb 11–Sun, Jun 12, 2016
Smart Museum of Art

Spearheaded by Leon Golub, the group of postwar artists nicknamed the Monster Roster established the first unique Chicago style. United by a shared interest in the figure during a period that is typically seen as dominated by abstraction, the group created deeply psychological works that drew on classical mythology and ancient art.

This is the first major exhibition to examine the history and impact of the Monster Roster, which has been overlooked despite being one of the most important Midwestern contributions to the history of American art. It examines the complex aesthetics and personal styles of Golub and his compatriots—including Cosmo Campoli, June Leaf, Dominick Di Meo, Seymour Rosofsky, and Nancy Spero, among others—and uncovers the Monster Roster's relationships with preceding generations of Chicago artists and influences on the well-known Chicago Imagists who followed.

Monster Roster brings together approximately 60 major paintings and sculpture from the Smart Museum and other major public and private collections to provide the authoritative account of the movement, from the formation of Exhibition Momentum in 1948 to the group's dispersal in the mid-1960s. A fully illustrated catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

Curated by John Corbett and Jim Dempsey, with coordinating support from Smart Museum Curator of Contemporary Art Jessica Moss and Smart Museum Senior Curator Richard A. Born, the exhibition features work by Robert Barnes, Don Baum, Fred Berger, Cosmo Campoli, George Cohen, Dominick Di Meo, Leon Golub, Theodore Halkin, June Leaf, Irving Petlin, Seymour Rosofsky, Franz Schulze, Nancy Spero, Evelyn Statsinger, and H. C. Westermann.

RELATED EVENTS

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit smartmuseum.uchicago.edu.

Opening Reception:

Monster Roster

Wed, Feb 10, 7:30–9pm

Smart Museum of Art

Monster Launch Party

Thu, Feb 18, 5:30–7:30pm

Smart Museum of Art

Colossal Figure Drawing

Thu, Mar 3, 5:30–7:30pm

Smart Museum of Art

A Night with Filmmaker

Tom Palazzolo

Fri, Mar 11, 7pm

*Logan Center,
Screening Room*

Panel Discussion:

Monster Mash Up

Tue, Mar 22

*Logan Center,
Performance Penthouse*

Fred Berger, *Untitled*, 1958, Oil on canvas. Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago. Gift of Robert and Mary Donley, 2014, 20.



Monster Roster

Existentialist Art in Postwar Chicago



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February 11–June 12, 2016

Always free. Open to all.
smartmuseum.uchicago.edu