



NEWS RELEASE

2200 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102 Phone: 402-342-3300 Fax: 402-342-2376 www.joslyn.org

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Contact: Amy Rummel, Director of Marketing & Public Relations
(402) 661-3822 or arummel@joslyn.org

New Space Dedicated to Contemporary Art Opening at Joslyn Art Museum in 2014

Omaha, NE – Today, Joslyn Art Museum announced plans for a new exhibition space dedicated to contemporary art. The space will be called The Karen and Doug Riley Contemporary Artists Project (CAP) Gallery in honor of a generous gift from Karen and Doug Riley, who are funding the development and launch of this exciting space. Remodeling and new construction are set to begin in June, with opening slated for February 2014.

The Riley CAP Gallery will be located adjacent to the temporary exhibition and modern and contemporary permanent collection galleries on the west end of the Scott Pavilion in a space presently used for storage. Once converted, the gallery area will exceed 500-square-feet with approximately 15-foot-high ceilings. It will be outfitted with technology capable of showcasing pieces by artists working in new media/video installation. The Riley CAP Gallery will be dedicated to presenting the most compelling and thought-provoking art of the twenty-first century. Exhibitions will include work by nationally- and internationally-recognized mid-career artists, as well as emerging talents selected by Joslyn curators. A rotating schedule of about three small, focused exhibitions annually will offer a broader perspective on contemporary art with featured media to include painting, photography, works on paper, sculpture, video, and multimedia installations. These exhibitions will examine how living artists are responding to the issues that challenge them currently and provide Joslyn's visitors with a window into the creative process.

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The Karen and Doug Riley Contemporary Artists Project Gallery at Joslyn Art Museum

Jack Becker, Joslyn Art Museum executive director and CEO, noted, "We are thrilled to bring this project to fruition, rethinking a presently under-used space and transforming it into a gallery that will give our institution and the community a larger perspective on the art of our time. Bringing established and emerging living artists from other parts of the country and world to Omaha, the Riley CAP Gallery will provide the opportunity for meaningful exchanges among Museum staff, audiences, and artists. The incredible generosity of Karen and Doug Riley opens exciting new doors for Joslyn and contemporary art in Omaha."

Project galleries have become significant aspects of programming at art museums throughout the United States and abroad. The spaces, complementing museums' permanent collections and large-scale temporary shows, continuously expose visitors to new artwork in a forum that expands and diversifies the conversation about contemporary art.

John Nelson, former Joslyn board chairman and current member of Joslyn's board of governors and foundation board, commented on the new space and its donors. "Karen and Doug are a dynamic couple. Karen has committed to over 25 years of service to the Museum in various capacities including the board of governors, fundraising, and art education. Meanwhile, Doug exemplifies success and lifelong commitment to business and investing. Together as a couple, Doug and Karen's philanthropic efforts show their commitment to programs in education and the arts. Joslyn's Riley CAP Gallery will bring attention to artists in the midst of, or just beginning, their life's body of creative work, celebrating and promoting their approaches and ideas, while introducing a broader array of major working artists to Omaha. I cannot think of a more fitting way to honor Doug, Karen, her extensive involvement with Joslyn, and their gift."

An opening schedule for exhibitions in the new space will be announced later this year. All Riley CAP Gallery exhibitions will be included in Joslyn's free general Museum admission.

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The Karen and Doug Riley Contemporary Artists Project Gallery at Joslyn Art Museum

About Doug and Karen Riley

Karen and Doug Riley are long-time supporters of Joslyn Art Museum. Karen's connection with the Museum began over 25 years ago when she trained as a docent. In 1988 she served as co-chair, with her friend Marianne Hawkins, of the annual Joslyn Art Museum Association (JAMA) gala. Her role with JAMA, a fund-raising support arm of the Museum, expanded when she joined its Board in the late 1980s and culminated with her service as president of the group in 1997-98. Karen has been a member of the Museum's board of governors since 1997 and is currently the chairman of Joslyn's acquisitions committee.

Doug Riley's history in Omaha business and investing includes the founding of Lancer Label, part ownership in Packers National Bank (now part of Wells Fargo), and significant investments in Berkshire Hathaway stock. Today, Doug owns DRG Technologies in Safford, Arizona. He and Karen, with their sons, have private equity investments in investments in many real estate projects in the US and India.

The Doug Riley Family Foundation has been in existence since 1986 and has made donations and pledges to approximately 215 organization and projects. The foundation focuses on projects that foster development of the mind, most notably education and art. The Rileys have supported a number of projects at the Museum, including the Riley Family Education Gallery in the Museum's Criss Center for Education. The space showcases a rotating selection of artwork by students in Joslyn's classes.

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Our Mission – Joslyn Art Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the visual arts of the highest quality, fostering appreciation and enjoyment of art for the benefit of a diverse audience.
Our Vision – To be cherished and respected as a premier art museum.

The Museum was a gift to the people of Omaha from Sarah Joslyn in memory of her husband, George, who made his fortune as president of the Western Newspaper Union. The Museum's original 1931 building is one of the finest examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation, with 38 types of marble from seven countries. The Walter and Suzanne Scott Pavilion, a 58,000-square-foot addition built in 1994, was designed by renowned British architect Norman Foster, Baron Foster of Thames Bank, as his first U.S. commission. The Museum features galleries, a 1,000-seat concert hall, fountain court, education technology gallery, lecture hall, classrooms, sculpture garden, café, and shop.

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