



NEWS RELEASE

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Joslyn Art Museum Adds Two Works by Sheila Hicks to Contemporary Collection

(Omaha, NE) – Joslyn Art Museum has acquired a monumental new work by internationally renowned fiber artist Sheila Hicks for its permanent collection of contemporary art. The work, titled *Mandan Shrine* (2016; pictured left), consists of “ponytails” or “cords,” a recurring element in Hicks’s work that she creates by bundling long strands of linen and then tightly binding them at intervals with brightly colored threads.



The work is on view now at Joslyn as part of *Sheila Hicks: Material Voices* (through September 4); Hicks conceived *Mandan Shrine* specifically for the exhibition. While reflecting on her Nebraska heritage, she became interested in the work of Swiss artist Karl Bodmer. Joslyn’s collection includes nearly 400 watercolors and drawings by Bodmer, who journeyed up the Missouri River between 1832 and 1834 to portray the landscapes of the high plains and its native inhabitants. The nearly ten-foot-tall wall hanging *Mandan Shrine* shares its title with a Bodmer watercolor depicting a ceremonial structure related to Mandan beliefs about the afterlife.

Special thanks to the Joslyn Art Group for making this acquisition possible: Rae and Bill Dyer (lead gift), Henry Davis, Diny and Jim Landen, Joe Moglia, Connie Ryan, Stacy and Bruce Simon, Martha and David Slosburg, and Annette and Paul Smith.

At the Joslyn Art Museum Association Gala preview of the exhibition on Friday, June 3, a raise-the-paddle auction raised funds for the purchase of a second work by Hicks – *Emerging with Grace* (2016). Also on view now in the *Material Voices* exhibition, *Emerging with Grace* is an example of Hicks’s miniature weavings she calls *minimes*. Using a loom she constructed in the late-1950s, Hicks turns to the *minimes* to reflect on her rich life experiences and world travels. With its wandering lines and inclusion of a



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Joslyn Art Museum Sheila Hicks Acquisitions

shell — a non-fiber material — *Emerging with Grace* exemplifies the experimental nature of the intimate *minimes*. Hicks created this weaving, along with several others, in the months leading up to the opening of *Material Voices*, and has explained that she was reflecting on the colors of the Nebraska landscape.

Pictured page 1 (top to bottom): *Mandan Shrine*, 2016, linen, cotton, synthetic fibers, 118 1/2 x 53 1/2 in., Museum purchase with funds from the Joslyn Art Group, 2016.11 (Photo: Colin Conces); *Emerging with Grace*, 2016, linen, cotton, silk, shell, 7 7/8 x 11 in., Museum purchase with funds from the Joslyn Art Museum Association Gala 2016, 2016.12 (Photo: Cristobal Zanartu); both © Sheila Hicks

About the Exhibition

Sheila Hicks: Material Voices (through September 4) at Joslyn Art Museum honors Hicks's unique vision, examining how her visual language has been shaped by memory, place, and space. Drawing on global weaving traditions, the history of painting and sculpture, graphic design, and architecture, among her many sources, she has redefined the role of fiber and thread in art. From monumental architectural interventions to her miniature weavings known as *minimes*, Hicks's compositions combine an aptitude for color, line, and texture with her inimitable understanding of architectural space. Organized by Joslyn, *Sheila Hicks: Material Voices* is one of the most significant recent exhibitions of Hicks's work and the first-ever of this breadth and depth in her home state of Nebraska. *Sheila Hicks: Material Voices* is on view through September 4. Tickets: \$10 general public adults; free for Joslyn members, youth ages 17 and younger, and college students with ID. Special \$5 adult general public ticket on Thursday, 4–8 pm.

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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.

Joslyn Art Museum showcases art from ancient times to the present. 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 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, shop, and Art Works, an interactive space for art exploration.

General Museum Admission: Free (additional charge for general public adult tickets to *Material Voices*; see above).

Regular Museum Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am–4 pm; late 'til 8 pm on Thursday; closed Monday and major holidays.

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