

Contact: Laurie Hawkins
Telephone: 619.239.5548
Email: lhawkins@timkenmuseum.org
Website: www.timkenmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 10, 2018

**New Exhibition Opens at the Timken Museum of Art:
“The Romantic Impulse in the American Landscape Tradition”**

Exhibition runs January 26-April 29 and includes works from the Timken, University of San Diego, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego and various private collectors.

The Romantic Impulse in the American Landscape Tradition was organized by Director of Curatorial Affairs, **Derrick R. Cartwright** with the assistance of **Veronica Belloci**, the 2017-2018 Ackerman Foundation Curatorial Fellow at the Timken Museum of Art.

The Romantic Impulse in the American Landscape Tradition surveys a variety of representations from the 18th to the 21st centuries. A centerpiece is the Timken’s own painting by Thomas Moran, *Opus 24: Rome from the Campagna, Sunset*. Although Moran was born in England, and this painting recreates a scene that he first observed in Italy, *Opus 24* nonetheless epitomizes American artists’ enduring fascination with sublime subjects and their origins in European thought.

An influential movement that traces its origins to the mid-18th century, Romanticism thrived throughout most of the 19th century. Artists as varied as Caspar David Friedrich in Germany, Henry Fuseli in Switzerland, John Constable in England and Théodore Géricault in France all shared an interest in nature and emotions. There was also a growing fascination with antiquity as traces of the past were being excavated at this time. Rational thinkers of the day struggled to reconcile the reminders of lost civilizations in an era of revolution. Romanticism helped to bridge competing ideas about past glory and contemporary turmoil.

The Timken Museum of Art’s newest exhibition runs January 26-April 29, 2018 and includes works from the Timken, University of San Diego and various private collectors. *The Romantic Impulse in the American Landscape Tradition* surveys a variety of representations from the 18th to the 21st centuries.

American artists embraced the concepts and strategies of Romanticism later than their European counterparts. Painters associated with the Hudson River School—Thomas Cole first among them—began looking at the American wilderness as a source of inspiration around 1825. From that moment forward, a steady stream of artists explored the wilderness seeking new ways to represent the uniqueness of North American nature.

"This is the first time that the Timken Museum of Art has mounted an exhibition around the specific theme of Romantic art in the United States. The large painting by Thomas Moran that forms the centerpiece of *The Romantic Impulse* reminds us of the inherent strengths of the Timken's

own great permanent collection,” states Derrick Cartwright. “We are fortunate to be able to re-situate Moran's effort alongside a group of other distinguished and rarely-seen objects from our community, works that cover the long history of romantic art from the 18th century to our own time.”

Romanticism remains a discernible strain in American landscape practice. Works by later artists in this exhibition—from Arthur Wesley to April Gornik and Sadow Birk—suggest the persistence of romantic tendencies well into the 21st century. The Timken thanks the lenders to *The Romantic Impulse*, both private and institutional, for generously sharing their works with the public here in San Diego.

The art works that will comprise this visually stunning exhibition include:

- Thomas Moran, *Opus 24: Rome from the Campagna, Sunset*, 1867, oil on canvas, 63.5 X 114.6 cm. Putnam Foundation, Timken Museum of Art
- Stephen Hannock, *Vortex at Dawn*, 1990, oil on canvas, lent by the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, Museum purchase
- Ransome G. Holdredge, *Countryside, near Paris*, c. 1875 (Private Collection)
- Arthur Wesley Dow, *Bayberry Hill, Sunset*, 1907 (Timken Museum of Art)
- William Keith, *California Landscape*, c. 1880 (Kleinbub Collection)
- Albert Bierstadt, *Tyrolean Village Scene*, c. 1860 (University of San Diego)
- William Samuel Parrott, *Forest Fire*, c. 1870 (Dijkstra Collection)
- Giovanni Battista Piranesi, *View of the Temple of Bacchus*, c. 1760 (University Print Collection)
- Sadow Birk, *Scenes from the Desolation—SFMOMA in Ruins*, 2016 (Catharine Clark Gallery, SF/USD)
- April Gornik, *Edge of the Pond*, 1999 (Pace Prints/USD)

#

“The Romantic Impulse in the American Landscape Tradition”
January 26 to April 29, 2018

The Romantic Impulse in the American Landscape Tradition traces the unique responses of American painters and printmakers to changing ideas about landscape from early 19th century to the present day.

Timken Museum of Art
1500 El Prado – Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101
Tuesday-Saturday: 10am to 4:30pm
Sunday: Noon to 4:30pm

619.239.5548
www.timkenmuseum.org

Admission: Always Free

#