

For Immediate Release: September 12, 2002

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WEXNER CENTER PRESENTS COLLECTION OF 20TH-CENTURY MASTERWORKS DOWNTOWN

***FROM POP TO NOW FEATURES NEARLY 70 WORKS BY SUCH
ARTISTS AS ANDY WARHOL, ROY LICHTENSTEIN, AND JEFF KOONS***

Columbus (Ohio)—For the the first time in its 13-year history, the Wexner Center for the Arts presents an exhibition downtown: ***From Pop to Now: Selections from the Sonnabend Collection***, featuring some of the most celebrated artists of the second half of the 20th century. Presented in the loft-like spaces of the historic Belmont Building **November 3, 2002–February 2, 2003**, the acclaimed exhibition showcases works from the private collection of gallery owners Ileana and Michael Sonnabend, including such artists as Jasper Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, Gilbert & George, Rona Pondick, Bruce Nauman, Anselm Kiefer, Jeff Koons, Elger Esser, and Christian Boltanski. Nearly 70 works—painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed-media installation—by about 50 artists will be on view. Together, this selection sheds light on the intersections of pop, conceptualism, minimalism, postmodernism, and other major experimental art movements of the last century, in a show that is “brimming with important pieces” (*The New York Times*, June 30, 2002).

See the attached document for information on gallery talks, a short course, family activities, and other public programs related to the exhibition.

From Pop to Now was organized by the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY. The presentation in Columbus coincides with the Wexner Center’s gallery renovations. All exhibitions in the upcoming season will be presented off-site, with three presented in downtown Columbus. For more information on the renovations, visit www.wexarts.org/ctr/resources/db/RenovationFAQ.pdf.

THE SONNABEND COLLECTION

Ileana Sonnabend—who became known in the '60s as “The Mom of Pop Art”—has been a seminal force in the contemporary art world for 40 years, identifying young, emerging artists and introducing their work to wide audiences in both Europe and the United States. Her enthusiasm for collecting began in the 1950s during her brief marriage to art dealer Leo Castelli, and continued with her marriage to Michael Sonnabend, with whom she ran galleries in Paris and New York. The Sonnabends introduced new American artists—such as Robert Rauschenberg and Dan Flavin—to Europe, and brought European artists to the attention of New York audiences (e.g., Ileana was the first to bring the new German art to New York in the early 1980s). The vast Sonnabend Collection includes contemporary paintings, sculptures, drawings, prints, and works in new and nontraditional media, collected over the decades.

From Pop to Now is the most comprehensive survey to date of the Sonnabends' legacy. The exhibition includes key works originally shown at their galleries, along with rarely seen pieces from their private collection. “I’m particularly interested in works that are by now ‘classical’ and still keep their provocation,” Ileana Sonnabend told *The New York Times* earlier this year. Recently widowed, Sonnabend continues to actively collect.

From Pop to Now premiered at the Tang in June; the Wexner Center marks its first stop on a national tour, and additional venues will be announced. The exhibition’s illustrated catalogue will be available at the Wexner Center Bookshop and the Wexner Center Artshop at Easton, on the online Bookshop (www.wexarts.org/bks), and at The Belmont Building (the exhibition site).

THE ART

The exhibition features a range of works reflecting the Sonnabends' taste over the years, including early pop art by then-emerging artists, contemporary photography, and multimedia sculptural works. Major art movements include pop, minimalism, conceptualism, arte povera, and abstract expressionism. The earliest work in the show is from 1956 (a Cy Twombly); the most recent is from 2002 (a chromogenic print by Andrea Robbins and Max Becher).

Among the highlights from the exhibition: Roy Lichtenstein’s *Aloha* (oil on canvas, 1962), plus three other Lichtensteins; Andy Warhol’s *White Brillo Boxes* (1964), plus five other Warhols; Jasper Johns’s *Figure 8* (1959); Jeff Koons’s stainless steel

EXHIBITION SUPPORT

From Pop to Now: Selections from the Sonnabend Collection was organized by the **Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College** in Saratoga Springs, New York.

The exhibition is presented by the Wexner Center with support from **Joyce and Charles Shenk, Nancy and David Gill**, and the **Corporate Annual Fund of the Wexner Center Foundation**.

Special thanks to **The Wittmann Company** for providing The Belmont Building space.

The exhibition has been made possible with the support of **Mr. and Mrs. Edgar J. Wachenheim III, Beverly Beatson Grossman (Skidmore class of 1958)** and **Felix T. Grossman**, the **Edward J. Noble Foundation, AT&T, Times Union**, and the **Friends of the Tang**.

Promotional support is provided by **WBNS 10TV**.

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service. The Wexner Center galleries are undergoing renovations; check the web site at www.wexarts.org for updates on programs and locations.

THE TANG MUSEUM

The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, designed by architect Antoine Predock, opened in October 2000 at Skidmore College, an independent liberal arts college located in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Designed to complement the college's interdisciplinary approach to education, the Tang offers a range of innovative exhibitions and programs that explore cross-disciplinary communication among all areas of study through the visual arts.

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