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REVIEW: ART

Burchfield Center expands its collection, plus new sculpture exhibit.

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News Critic

The Burchfield Center presents its annual evidence of growth through Sept. 20 with seven new studies by Charles Burchfield, additional Burchfield archival materials and 23 exciting new and historic regional works by 17 artists.

Called "Annuals and Perennials II," the exhibit also creates constellations from works already in its collection which relate to the new works, acquired by donation or purchase in the last year.

Thus a new Reginald Marsh drawing, a dynamicaly sketched full-body view of a woman, parallels works by Edwin Dickinson and Marsden Hartley already in the collection and a painting by Milton Avery on extended loan. All four were contemporaries of the center's patron saint Burchfield and point to a new direction in the center's collecting policy.

A lovely, delicate watercolor portrait by turn-of-the-century Buffalo artist Rose Clark dated 1891, and an undated oil view of early area industry perceived "from the Chippewa shore" by Claire Shuttleworth make important contributions to the center's commitment to preserving and making known this area's early wealth in art.

Shuttleworth, for instance, was a turn-of-the-century salon painter who exhibited internationally, frequently in the annual expositions, and was educated at the Beaux Arts in Paris in 1887. Rose Clark, acclaimed as a photographer, exhibited her cameraworks in the circle of Alfred Stieglitz and maintained studios in New York and Buffalo for portrait and still-life painting commissions priced in the vicinity of \$1,000.

A travel view by Carl F. Nordell, also Paris educated at the turn of the century, also is included.

The center's contemporary acquisitions include works by noted Buffalo artists Adele Cohen, Amy Hamouda, Gail McCarthy, Phillip Elliott, Virginia Cuthbert, Gloria Banning and the late Sally Potenza, works by former Buffalo artists George O'Connell, Charles Clough, Peter Slatin, Allan D'Arcangelo, Ed Miller and Susan Rothenberg complete the show.

The Burchfield drawings were done in preparation for his "Golden Dream," a painting owned by the Whitney Museum of American Art.

The Burchfield Center is located in Rockwell Hall on the campus of Buffalo State University Campus.

Meantime, in nearby Butler Library, also on the campus, new works by a new sculptor, Dona Wolfson, are on view. While scattered in its focus — from elegant talisman objects reminiscent of a primitive culture to assemblies from the detritus of our own — the work displays a character and confidence a cut above most work seen in this setting.

Most successful when most simplified, Wolfson's works combine surprisingly disparate objects, from bones to nails, in often surprisingly successful relationships.

Her sculpture, she declared in a statement, "exists as a revolt against social standards and as a metaphor to this industrial society." And while that can be seen, it also exists independent of any contemporary reference.