

# INTRODUCTION

In the early 1970s, a bright young student at Kean College, Robert Yoskowitz, majored in fine arts and graduated with a bachelor's degree in painting. He immediately went on to pursue his interests in studio, history, and philosophy of art, and over the next twenty years would earn three advanced degrees and become a college professor. All during that time, he collected works of art, sharpened his eye, and honed his passion for art. Equipped with only modest means but an extraordinary wit, Yoskowitz has collected at every stage of life. As a young boy, he accumulated coins, stamps, and military patches, and as he got older, his interests and opportunities broadened and he collected photography, American folk art, ceramics, and drawings.

The current exhibition, *Making Marks: Drawings from the Yoskowitz Family Collection*, is featured at Kean University's Karl and Helen Burger Gallery from January 28 through March 12, 2010. The fifty-one original drawings in the show were made using traditional techniques and materials, such as graphite, pen and ink, brush and ink, chalk and Conté crayon, on a variety of paper surfaces. The artists come from Western Europe and the United States, and all can be loosely associated with Modernism, the term used to describe the style and theory of art that came into its own from the late nineteenth century into the mid-twentieth century.

Modernist artists such as those in this exhibition are characterized by freely expressed creativity and a departure from literal representation. As photography became increasingly popular in the 1850s, the realistic approach to painting and sculpture was considered by many to be unnecessary and irrelevant to modern life. Progressive philosophers and artists began searching for new ways of responding to and thinking about nature and the function of art in society. They embraced the freedom of expression in the belief that art should stem from color, form, mood, and gesture rather than from an accurate rendering of the natural world. The artists in this exhibition represent this new way of depicting life ushering in the modern age.

On behalf of Kean University, I want to thank Robert and Catherine Yoskowitz for their efforts in planning and lending all the works being shown in this exhibition. For the installation, we are grateful to our graduate assistants Samantha Jackson and Kelly Murphy. Special thanks go to Kean University President Dawood Farahi, Vice President Mark Lender, and Holly Logue, Acting Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. We appreciate their support for the growing exhibition program and the opportunity to show this wonderful drawing exhibition.

Neil Tetkowski  
Director of University Galleries