Schneider Museum of Art

The Schneider Museum of Art (SMA) at Southern Oregon University (SOU) in Ashland opened its doors to the public in the fall of 1986. The establishment of a museum was a community/university effort made possible by a gift by Ashland residents, Bill and Florence Schneider. The museum is named in honor of Bill's parents, Samuel and May Schneider.

The museum was designed by Portland architect, Will Martin. Using elements of color and shape, he captured the essence of other campus buildings and the surrounding landscape. Tragically, the SMA was Martin's last project. Soon after the groundbreaking, he and his son died in a plane crash over the Grand Canyon.

In 2000, SOU completed construction of new art department facilities, adjacent to the museum, providing students and faculty with easy access to exhibitions and the collection.

The museum's permanent collection is primarily focused on works on paper from the twentieth century and beyond, and includes artists Mark Tobey, David Siqueiros, Jack McLarty, George Inness, and Alexander Calder. Other works in the collection: lithographs by William Hogarth, Pre-Columbian ceramics from Costa Rica, Native American baskets, and woven artifacts from New Guinea.

The museum is open year-round, and features a rotating slate of exhibitions focused on historical perspectives of art and progressive contemporary work by regional and nationally-recognized artists.

Written by Mary Gardiner

Further Reading:

Schneider Museum of Art. http://www.sou.edu/sma/about/history.html

Sherry O'Sullivan. "Will Martin: A Renaissance Man." *KSOR Guide (*February 1985): 12-15.

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