

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Minneapolis Institute of Art to show promised gift of 200 realist works by French and Belgian artists**

*The Weisberg Collection, known for its depictions of the daily lives of rural folk, laborers, and the disaffected, is the culmination of 50 years of meticulous research*

**Minneapolis Institute of Art**  
2400 Third Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55404  
artsmia.org



Charles Milcendeau (French, 1872-1919), *Women and Children at Ouessant (Femmes et enfants à Ouessant)*, 1898, graphite, black pencil, charcoal, and stumping with red chalk highlights. Gabriel P. and Yvonne M.L. Weisberg, L2022.35.57

**MINNEAPOLIS—April 13, 2022**—This spring, the [Minneapolis Institute of Art \(Mia\)](#) will present an exhibition featuring the promised gift of more than 200 artworks from the collection of University of Minnesota professor Gabriel P. Weisberg, PhD, and his wife, Yvonne M.L. Weisberg. The Weisbergs are Minneapolis-based art historians who devoted themselves to 19th-century European art beyond the most famous names and movements; they spent more than 50 years combing flea markets, attics, and art dealers' back rooms for drawings of Realist and Naturalist work by French and Belgian artists.

The result of their dedication is "Reflections on Reality: Drawings and Paintings from the Weisberg Collection," a two-part exhibition that opens at Mia on May 14, 2022. Works from 1830 to 1900 will be on view through February 19, 2023; works from 1900 to 1930 will go on display March 4, 2023.

"The Weisberg Collection is the fruit of a lifetime interest in art and the pursuit of passion," said Katie Luber, PhD, Nivin and Duncan MacMillan Director and President of Mia. "We are grateful for the longstanding support and generosity of the Weisbergs and look forward to showcasing their collection of drawings depicting everyday people and everyday life."

Works in the Weisberg Collection focus on the artistic movements of Realism and Naturalism, born at a time when artists turned their attention to workers, rural life, and local customs. In a departure from the broader artistic practice of the time, which often focused on beauty, grandeur, and upper-class subjects, the works in the Weisberg Collection present a frequently overlooked perspective, featuring scenes from daily life of the lower classes.

These works, like François Bonvin's dignified *Ragpicker* (1853), depicting a person Bonvin undoubtedly found on the street and invited into his studio, and Aristide Delannoy's drawing *Barge Haulers* (1903), feature rural folk and laborers—people most vulnerable to the whims of the powerful in 19th-century Europe. Other notable works include Geroges d'Espagnat's likeness of Yvette Guilbert, the most famous cabaret singer in 1890s France; Jeanne Simon's watercolor of her son Paul; landscapes by Adolphe

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Appian and Maxime Lalanne; and Charles Milcendeau's *Women and Children at Ouessant* (1898), a drawing of families anxiously waiting for their men's fishing boats to return to port before a storm.

"One of the reasons we selected to collect these artists is they have been largely neglected, sometimes even forgotten," said Gabriel P. Weisberg. "Very few of them worked as abstractionists. Rather, these artists remained rooted in the life of the everyday, and their works show a compassion for humanity. We felt this would make a good collection for us and are very pleased that this work will find a home at Mia."

Accompanying the exhibition will be a digital catalogue documenting the collection with essays, zoomable images, and background details on each artwork.

For more information on "Reflections on Reality: Drawings and Paintings from the Weisberg Collection," visit [artsmia.org](http://artsmia.org).

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## About the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest art collections in the country—from all corners of the globe, and from ancient to contemporary—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

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## Museum Hours

Tuesday-Wednesday	10am–5pm
Thursday	10am–9pm
Friday-Sunday	10am–5pm
Monday	Closed

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit [artsmia.org](http://artsmia.org)

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