

ARTS & CULTURE

1940

Art Library to Lend Pix to Students

September 24, 1940

A lending library of pictures is being started at Oberlin this year. At a price of 50 cents per semester, any student may secure one of the 68 pictures available, by applying to Miss Ellen Johnson at the Art Library. The pictures will be circulated on October 1.

Comprising reproductions of numerous well known paintings and drawings, the collection includes both classic pictures and some which a football star would not be ashamed to hang in his room. They are well framed and range in size from 10 to 15 inches.

Important information as to title, artist, medium, and size of the original is given on the back of each picture.

As all reproductions are now on exhibition at the Art Museum in Gallery 2, students will be able to make a choice well in advance. When registering, students should state whether their rooms have picture molding, since on request, standard material for hanging will be provided.



Photo courtesy of the Oberlin College Archives

hooks on Love Ethics

Chelsey Johnson
News Editor
November 18, 1994

Before 1960, said former Associate Professor of English Gloria Watkins, few African-American women and men had written more than one book. Now, only one African-American woman has ever written more than her 10 non-fiction books. "It's 1994," said Watkins, who is more commonly known by her pen name bell hooks. "It's an indication of how we're still struggling for voice."

hooks' voice rang out loud and clear during her talk Monday afternoon at the Co-op Bookstore, where over 100 students squeezed onto the top floor and stairway to hear her speak.

The message she delivered was one of struggle based on love.

She opened by reading from her new book, *Outlaw Culture*, detailing her fear of becoming too caught up in academia. Other passages she read included a critique of Black men's neglect of feminism within race issues, and white women's neglect of racism in sexism issues. hooks also urged people to fight racism with a "love ethic" like that of Martin Luther King, Jr.

ART RENTAL FALL 2008: Where Good Art Meets Good Times

Jackworth Smith
September 19, 2008

"Are you here for the art or the party?" asked an enthusiastic student in the courtyard of the Allen Art building last Wednesday. The wonderful thing about the art rental program is you do not have to choose between the art or the party; if you get there early enough on the night before the rental, you get both. Now in its 136th semester, the Allen Memorial Art Museum's art rental program allows Oberlin students and townsfolk access to over 400 original pieces of art for only \$5 apiece.

It's as simple as using your library card, but instead of walking home with a book, you walk home with a Dali and a Jasper Johns (or perhaps you're a Matisse and a Warhol kind of kid, but unfortunately the Warhol paintings were already taken so you settled for a Keith Haring). Regardless of your preference, the fact that students are encouraged to lease priceless pieces of art from the Allen Memorial Art Museum is magnificently unbelievable. And we have proven our responsibility by evidence of our track record — zero injuries or losses of the art in

the past 68 years and in the hands of roughly 20,400 participants.

The eve of the actual rental is reserved for the students who are willing to forego the elements on the stone ground of the art building's courtyard in exchange for a good number in line. Some came prepared with sleeping bags and pillows, while one brave, well-prepared soul ventured into the event sporting a fleece onesie. Others arrived with only the hope of getting that particular piece by Goya and a thin blanket to keep them warm — but most of these people made the trek home to a warm bed before night's end.

As the evening progressed into night, circles of friends formed, iPod speakers buzzed, festivities ensued and laughter echoed. One particular coterie formed and unintentionally overtook someone's spot. This person graciously told the group, "It is fine, just remember that I'm number 23 in the morning, bitches." It's true that all of these people gathered on this night in the name of patronage of art, a testament to the beauty of humanity — and yet there was a rather obvious undertone of competition and bitterness.

One group of students de-

2008

scribes themselves as, "a group of happy people who are pissed because they ain't getting no Dalis." When students compared their numbers in line, jealousy exuded from the less fortunate. Another woman solemnly revealed, "I'm number 80 in line and I know I'm not going to want any of the 80 art." At times, the scene stirred up visions of mothers desperately waiting outside of the mall at 4 a.m. the morning after Thanksgiving, awaiting the Black Friday sale extravaganza — hyperventilating and pleading as if it would change the fate of their situation: "All I want is a Lichtenstein, that's it, that's all I want."

To others, though, the art was secondary. "The art is in the room to remember the party!"

The ambiance was intoxicating as the night grew later. At 11 p.m. someone shouted, "Ten more hours!" to which voices returned the cheer. Inhibitions broke, as they always will when so many people are confined to such a small space, and the conversation turned from homework and numbers in line to light-hearted things like Sarah Palin, Bing Crosby, the loss of collegiate virginity and the glory of past art rentals.

The party atmosphere set with

the moon, and the following morning turned into lines of impatient students standing in the bright sun, some showing the toll of pulling an all-nighter. By number 40, all of the prized pieces had been taken from the museum. They were being hauled down East Lorain by students often half the size of the pieces they had chosen. But the lack of famous names did not stop people from utilizing the rental program, and all of the pieces available were eventually rented. Even one individual who seemed to be a staunch advocate of the late party as opposed to the art itself, changed his mind after the novelty of the night had worn off: "The night is fun," he noted, holding a priceless painting, "but the night is temporary."

The art rental program is about more than just getting your hands on famous art — it's about spending a late night in the beautiful setting of the Allen Art building's courtyard with friends. In the end, there are few more satisfying feelings than walking back to your room with a Picasso under your arm, hanging it lovingly above your bed — and then immediately dropping off to a well-deserved sleep.



Photo by Jackworth Smith

1994

1938

Apollo Theatre Will Celebrate Tenth Anniversary Next Week

February 25, 1938

Jerry Steel is celebrating his tenth year as the head of the Apollo Theatre this next week. In the years preceding 1928, Mr. Steel was a Motion Picture distributor selling pictures to Oberlin College so the students might see the better pictures of the year in Finney Chapel.

After buying the town's one small theater and bringing the better pictures here, the College discontinued showing their own pictures because it was no longer necessary. In those years the capacity of the theater was only 300 and students frequently left their dessert to get a good seat. If they didn't arrive early it meant standing for the better part of the evening.

In 1940 the theater was enlarged to a capacity of 550. The wooden seats were replaced with those of a more comfortable variety, drapes and lobby decorations were added. The first ushers made their appearance.

Last spring, 1937, the Apollo underwent another face lifting. Today, with a capacity of 1,000 people, plush seats, modernistic decorations, ushers, air condi-

tioning and modern projecting equipment, it is considered one of the best theaters in any town comparable in size to Oberlin, in the country.

Mr. Steel cooperates with Oberlin College in bringing pictures that are of special interest to any department. During the anniversary week he is bringing Charles Boyer's picture "Mayerling" in cooperation with the French Department and Cercle Francais.

Sunday, contrary to custom, there will be a double feature: Myrna Loy, Rosalind Russell, and Franchot Tone in "Man-Proof" and "Thoroughbreds Don't Cry" with Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney and Sophie Tucker. The matrons will be asked to cooperate in order that women students can see both pictures.

Many pictures have been returned here by the request of the student body, and Jerry Steel is glad to receive their requests for special pictures that they would like to see on a return engagement. He also has expressed his thanks for the support of the student body in attending the big pictures he has brought to them throughout the years.

(See HOOKS, page 11)