

***Anni Albers: Work With Materials***

New exhibit at Syracuse University Art Museum

Opening August 25, on view through December 11

For Immediate Release

A new exhibition that traces the remarkable career of the artist, designer, writer, and teacher Anni Albers (1899-1994) will open at the museum on August 25. *Anni Albers: Work with Materials* features over 100 drawings, prints, textile samples, commercial fabrics, and rugs from the collection of the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation. With a focus primarily on the extraordinarily productive and varied second half of her long career, the exhibition illuminates her ability to move easily between her work as both an artist and as a designer of functional materials. One of Albers's looms and an interactive "triangle table" will also be featured.

*Anni Albers: Work with Materials* runs through December 11 and is curated by Fritz Horstman, education director at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation. An illustrated publication will accompany the exhibition and will be available at the museum as well as online at the museum website.

"*Anni Albers: Work with Materials* will give the Syracuse University Art Museum community a deep look into the drawings, prints, textiles, and writing of this important artist and designer," Horstman states. "Visitors of all ages will have access to her work from the German Bauhaus, Black Mountain College, and the 44 years she lived in New Haven, CT."



Taking its title from her 1937 essay of the same name, the exhibition highlights the nimbleness with which Albers moved between mediums, and her fluid transitions between creating artwork and designing more functional and commercial objects. Foregrounding the transition from weaver to printmaker that Albers made in the 1960s, the exhibition begins with *Connections*, a series of nine silkscreen prints from 1983 in which Albers recreated images from every decade of her long career. The exhibition proceeds in greater detail to show the visual and material connections that drove her evolving studio practice.

Anni Albers, *Connections* 1925/1983 -  
Study for Unexecuted Wall-hanging,  
1983. The Josef and Anni Albers  
Foundation

In weaving, designing, and printmaking, Albers's faith in the power of abstraction and her reliance on material knowledge never wavered. Throughout her widely varied, yet consistent and focused output, we see an artist who understood material not only as a vehicle to carry ideas, but more importantly for its physical and structural potential. As she put it, "if we want to get from materials the sense of directness, the adventure of being close to the stuff the world is made of, we have to go back to the material itself, to its original state, and from there on partake in its stages of change."

Museum curator Melissa Yuen states, "We are delighted to partner with Fritz and the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation to bring Anni Albers's work to Syracuse University. Her long-time interest in exploring the material possibilities of textiles and printmaking showcases an innovative spirit that will find resonance with the campus community. We hope our rich community of scholars will be able to connect with each other through the interdisciplinary conversations fostered by the artworks on view."

## **Special Events**

### **Lunchtime Lecture: New Exhibitions with museum curator Melissa Yuen**

September 7, 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

### **"Work with Materials" Curator Talk with Fritz Horstman**

Reception to follow at Syracuse University Art Museum

September 19, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

214 Slocum Hall

### **Community Day at the Museum celebrating Anni Albers**

October 2, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

### **Lunchtime Lecture: Anni Albers with curator of education Kate Holohan**

November 16, 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Check the museum's website for more public programs that will be added in the coming weeks

<https://museum.syr.edu/calendar/>

Members of the media, please contact Emily Dittman, associate director of Syracuse University Art Museum, [ekdittma@syr.edu](mailto:ekdittma@syr.edu), for more information or to schedule a tour.

## **About the Museum**

The Syracuse University Art Museum is a teaching museum located on campus that acquires and preserves important works of art and uses its extensive collection to serve as a museum-laboratory for exploration, experimentation, and discussion. The Museum strives to foster diverse and inclusive perspectives by uniting students across campus with each other and the local and global community, engaging with artwork to bring us together and examining the forces that keep us apart. It welcomes all visitors to experience its exhibitions and public programs that promote original research, creative thinking, and increased mindfulness. The Syracuse University Art Museum is always free to all. For more information and to plan your visit, go to [museum.syr.edu](https://museum.syr.edu).