CUBIST ARTWORKS ON DISPLAY AT UM

MISSOULA –

Community members can view four impressive cubist-inspired works of art in the lobby of the President’s Office at The University of Montana through Wednesday, April 14.

The four works, currently on loan to the Montana Museum of Art & Culture from a private collection, are: “L’amore del mondo” (1960), oil on canvas by Giorgio de Chirico; “Portrait du Marquis Sommi” (1925) and “Portrait de Madame M.” (1932), oil on canvas by Tamara De Lempicka; and “Baigneuse assise” (1916), cast bronze by Jacques Lipchitz.

The UM President’s Office lobby is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for holidays.

Italian born and raised partly in Greece, De Chirico (1888-1978) studied in Athens, Greece and in Munich, Germany, with 19th-century Swiss Symbolist Arnold Böcklin. His metaphysical work takes the commonplace out of its natural environment. The multiple points of perspective found in “L’amore del mondo” are not meant to represent normal space. Rather than one vanishing point, there are often several, which are a means of distortion used to disquiet the eye.

De Lempicka (1898-1980) incorporates elements of Futurism as well as Cubism into her paintings. She employs repetitive geometric shapes to reference modernist architecture. The appeal of De Lempicka’s work was in large part due to her ability to reflect contemporary attitudes. She was born Maria Gorska in Warsaw, Poland, and was a self-fashioned entrepreneur who ascended the ranks of society. In 1925, she set out for Italy to study Quattrocento painting.
By the 1930s, she was one of the most sought-after portraitists among wealthy Europeans and Americans.

Lipchitz (1891-1973) was born in Druskininkai, Lithuania, and studied engineering. In 1909 he moved to Paris, where he came into contact with Cubism and readily contributed to its development. His abstract sculptures were influenced by his figural studies. “Baigneuse assise,” he writes, “represents again an important change and development in my cubism. Here I began to abandon that rigid vertical-horizontal aspect that marked the works of the preceding years.”


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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** Digital images of the artworks are available by calling Becky Garner, MMAC coordinator of programs and publications, at 406-243-2019.

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