

ART

The Racine Art Museum in black and white

RACINE — In the winter months of 2013, the Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St., will feature a series of exhibitions that showcase work dominated by a black and white color scheme. Artists whose works are featured in these exhibitions limit the use of numerous colors, yet create dynamic and thought provoking

compositions. Open Feb. 17 through May 12, "Shades of Gray: Black and White Graphics from RAM's Collection" features prints and artist's books dating from the early 20th century to the present day. The show includes selections from Wisconsin and New York-based artists working with the federal government's Works Progress Administration arts-based programs during the Great Depression in the 1930s.

"Shades of Gray" presents landscapes, figural studies, abstractions and stories told through both image and text. The works in this exhibition rely primarily on a palette of black and white. Narrowing the theme to these "colors," while allowing for a variety of subject matter from artists past and present, offers the opportunity



"Reclining Figure" by David Hockney

to look at both composition and content from a fresh perspective. Viewers are invited to explore formal elements as well as the symbolic and metaphoric potential of color.

RAM has the largest craft collection in the United States, yet it also has a significant number of works on

paper and artist's books. These holdings are historically important as prints and drawings from the WPA were some of the first gifts to the collection in the 1940s. Additionally, collecting and presenting work from artists who create meaningful statements in a number of media underscores RAM's intention to dispel differentiation between fine arts and craft. The collection has grown in all areas with works on paper comprising approximately half of the museum's 8,000 pieces.

The Racine Art Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for youth ages 12-18, full-time students and seniors age 63 and older. There is no charge for ages 11 and younger.

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audience members can still understand the story, he said.

"We feel like kids are smarter than they sometimes get credit for. You don't have to

Carney said. The theater company creates shows that parents and kids can enjoy equally, he said.

They also aim to bring people back to a more "human experience," which is often

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