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MOSS &
THORNS
GALLERY OF ART

**Dedication of Moss-Thorns
Gallery of Art**

**OCTOBER 10, 1987
8:30 A.M.**

Presiding

Dr. Leland Bartholomew,

Dean of School of Arts and Sciences

.....

Representing Fort Hays State University

Dr. Edward H. Hammond,

President

.....

Representing the State of Kansas

The Honorable Mike Hayden,

Governor

.....

Representing the Board of Regents

Norman W. Jeter,

Regent

Responding for Dr. Joel Moss

Joel Eric Moss

Grandson

.....

Responding

John C. Thorns, Jr.,

Chairman of Department of Art

.....

Closing Comments

.....

Reception and Retrospective Following in Gallery

When I first heard that the University was planning to recognize Joel Moss and John Thorns by naming the art gallery in their honor, I began to recall their many contributions in the field of art. My memory first went back to the fall of 1946 when Joel was a new instructor and John and I were enrolling in the Art Department as freshmen. Joel was a great artist and a great teacher. His classes were charged with a dynamic atmosphere, so essential to outstanding teaching. To his students he brought an abundance of concern, warmth, patience, and encouragement, but it was through his consistent commitment to his own work and his emphasis upon the importance of their individuality as expressed through their work that Joel had his greatest impact upon his students.

Soon after Joel arrived, his leadership was felt. The Art Department would be housed in the new Applied Arts Building (later Davis Hall). Printmaking, sculpture, and graduate study were added, and the offerings in art history and other areas were greatly increased. A major accomplishment was his succeeding in gaining space for an art gallery. Joel saw the gallery as an essential means of exposing the students and the community to contemporary art. He so strongly believed in the role that art plays in the enrichment of mankind that it was impossible for him to tolerate those provincial attitudes that would assign the Art Department a lesser role.

The new gallery would make a major contribution in the development of the University. When John joined the staff in 1954, he began to plan an exhibition program that would soon excel beyond most colleges and many universities. John's insights as an art historian, his ability to organize, and his sense of design would greatly enhance the exhibitions. The Annual National Small Drawing, Painting, and Print Show is only one of many examples of his continual efforts to find ways in which the department can contribute to the culture of the State.

The development of the new facilities in Rarick Hall and the successful defense of the Master of Fine Arts Degree Program speaks of his strong leadership.

John's thorough and scholarly approach to teaching has given his students a strong intellectual basis for both their teaching and creative work. Scholar, painter, and architectural designer, John has been the true Renaissance man, loyal, and committed to the University.

The Art Department at Fort Hays State University has developed an excellent national reputation, and the two men who have been primarily responsible for developing this reputation are Joel Moss and John Thorns. They accomplished this by providing the leadership and inspiration to the excellent staff of artists they have worked with through the years. Joel, a nationally acclaimed artist himself, continued to improve the department during his tenure despite cramped, inadequate quarters and short budgets. It took a leader of courage and strong will to succeed. Joel had plenty of both.

After 20 years of successful struggles he had developed the department to such a degree of excellence that he was ready to turn it over to one of his most successful students, John Thorns, who was already on the staff. In his own quiet and persuasive manner John has provided an example and the leadership for accomplishments that seemed very remote 30 or 40 years ago. Now the Art Department has excellent facilities, a superb staff and a beautiful art gallery. No art gallery was ever named more appropriately than the Moss-Thorns Art Gallery for two gentlemen so richly deserving the honor.

John Berland,
Professor of Art,
Colorado State University

Dr. Gerald Tomanek

President Emeritus
of Fort Hays State
University

Dr. Joel C. Moss joined the FHSU faculty in 1946 as an instructor of art. He worked his way up the academic ladder to become Chairman of the Department of Art, a position he held from 1954 until 1973. He retired from the University in 1977.

Joel Moss' success story is legend with connoisseurs of the arts. He was born on June 2, 1912 in Murray, Ky. His parents died when he was a teenager so Joel became a wanderer at an early age, fascinated by trains and the great expanse of America.

Joel stepped off a freight train one day in Wallace, Kan., went for a drink of water, and when he returned his train was gone. He walked nine miles west to Sharon Springs, made some friends, found a home and finished high school.

He came to FHSU in 1934 and started his studies majoring in business. Choosing rather to draw and paint, because of the freedom involved, he changed his major to art. The rest of the story is art history.

Moss completed his bachelor of science degree in art in 1938 and accepted a teaching position at Oberlin High School. Soon, he and his new wife Nella Mae packed their bags and headed for George Peabody College in Nashville where Joel was to complete a master of arts degree in art in 1941.

Joel taught at Parsons (Kansas) Community College for two years, was drafted into the armed services in 1943, then returned to FHSU in 1946 to begin his illustrious career as teacher, artist and administrator.

He took time off long enough to complete a doctorate degree at Columbia University in 1953.

Joel Moss relished teaching. When he became department head he often said, "My biggest complaint is that I'm not teaching as much as I used to." He enjoyed being around young people and sharing his talents with them. He stepped down from the chairmanship to return to the classroom.

Joel always found the time to pursue his talents with the brush and his work with ceramics. He exhibited far and wide, including the San Francisco Art Museum, the Denver Art Museum, the Washington Watercolor Society, the Delgado Museum in New Orleans, Wichita Art Association Galleries, and in Topeka, Kansas City, Hutchinson and dozens of other cities throughout the midwest.

His personal works are cherished collections owned by Joel's friends and admirers. Some work is on permanent display at FHSU. Moss' awards and honors received for his works are extensive.

Today, Joel and Nella Mae reside in Albuquerque. Their three sons are, Joel M. Moss, a nuclear physicist from Los Alamos, N.M., Lynn R., a carpenter/artist from Albuquerque, and Patrick L., who is in construction in Chicago.

Dr. Joel Moss will be remembered and respected by his friends and followers. His smile, his candid wit, leadership ability and artistic talents will live forever in the exhibition hall that today we affectionately and appropriately name the Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art.

John C. Thorns Jr., joined the FHSU faculty as an instructor of art in 1954. Through the years he achieved the academic ranks of assistant professor of art, associate professor, professor, and in 1973 was named Chairman of the Department of Art.

Born the son of a minister in Denver, John traveled the midwest as a youngster. He spent his boyhood days in Big Springs, Texas, but was graduated from high school in El Dorado.

John discovered the world of art and Fort Hays State University and in 1950 received a B.A. degree from FHSU. He entered Indiana University and was graduated with a master's degree in art history in 1952. He continued his studies at the University of Iowa and received a master of fine arts degree in architectural design in 1953. He has additional graduate work at the University of Iowa.

John Thorns has been extremely instrumental in expanding the Department of Art. He pushed for an extensive art curriculum and led the charge to provide the space and facilities for those studies. The Department of Art moved from cramped quarters in Davis Hall to spacious work areas and offices in new Rarick Hall in fall, 1981.

John has exhibited works in many cities and states throughout the midwest. His exhibition record and list of professional achievements dates back almost 35 years and his works can be found in private collections in both Europe and America.

Among the many cherished honors that John has received through the years is the Governor's Artist Award for 1985. The award gives special recognition to outstanding Kansas artists for their career contributions in the visual arts of Kansas.

John was the architectural consultant for the First Presbyterian Church in Hays, is an art consultant for the Hansen Foundation in Logan, and is building designer and consultant for the FHSU Department of Art and for the Hadley Regional Medical Center.

John has been extremely active with the Hays Arts Council. A member of its Board of Directors, John served the Council as its president in 1972 and 1973.

John Thorns found a long time ago what some artists spend a lifetime doing: a style of his own. John's works of art, especially his unique and stylistic acrylic-collage paintings, are readily identifiable and in demand for art shows and by the buyer.

In his spare time, John enjoys painting, reading, gardening and traveling. He is a widower with a strong religious conviction. He takes the time to spend precious moments with his mother Margaret and enjoys his daughter Karen and his brother James.

John Thorns is a popular teacher and administrator. He is a quiet leader of people with the best interests of his students and of his beloved Fort Hays State University at heart. Those then are some of the reasons that today we honor John Thorns through the naming of the Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art.

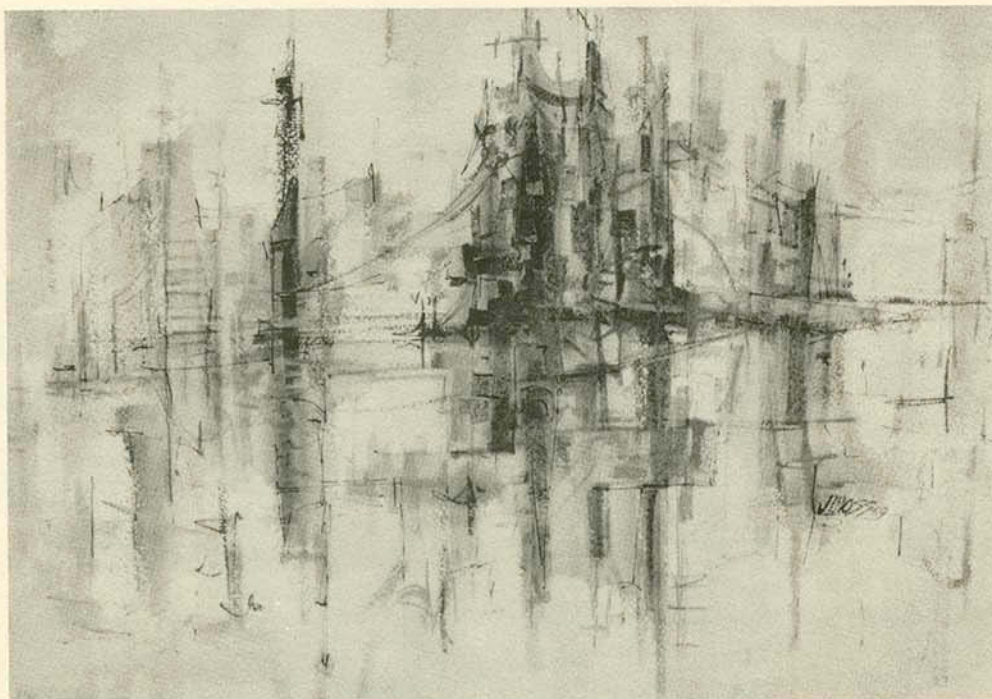
Bob Lowen Director University Relations



Joel C. Moss
"Autumn Landscape"
Collection of
Department of Art, FHSU



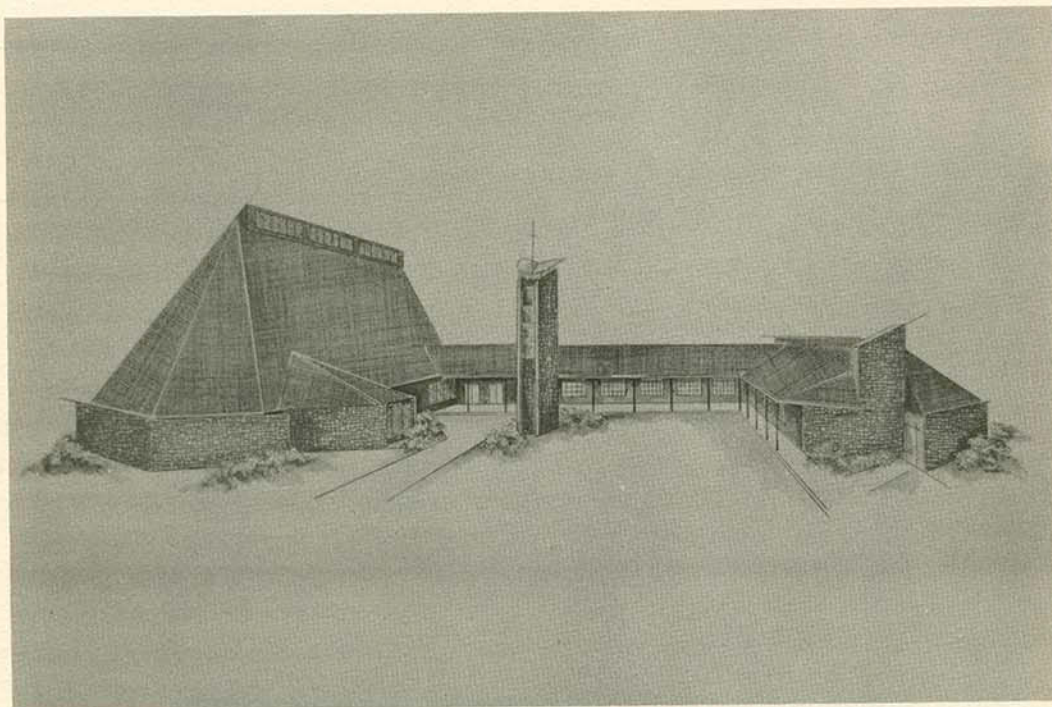
Joel C. Moss
"Cityscape"
Collection of
Mr. John C. Thorns, Jr.



Joel C. Moss
"Reflections"
Collection of
Mr. John C. Thorns, Jr.



Joel C. Moss
"Village Market"
Collection of
Department of Art, FHSU



John C. Thorns, Jr.
Perspective-Church Design
Mixed Media



John C. Thorns, Jr.
Underwater Fantasy #1
Acrylic Collage



John C. Thorns, Jr.
Abbey in Yorkshire
Acrylic Collage



John C. Thorns, Jr.
Kansas: Sky Series
Acrylic Collage

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

Dr. Joel C. Moss

1. "Fullerton Street El"
2. "Trees"
- Collection of Dr. and Mrs. Leland Bartholomew
3. "Reflections on Big Creek"
4. "Flight South"
5. "The Gossip"
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Boone
6. "Seascape"
- Collection of Mrs. Lavonne Hull
7. "Marsh Grasses"
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Jeter
8. "Misty Morning"
9. "Storm Over the Wichitas"
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Dave King
10. "Inquisition"
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Meade
11. "Blanca"
12. "Rooks and Rills"
- Collection of Mr. Jim Neely
13. "Mountain Pass"
14. "Quiet Snow"
- Collection of Mrs. Frances Werth
15. "Lookout"
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Elton Schroder
16. Title Unknown
- Collection of Mr. Harold Palmer

17. "Chalk Beds"
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Frances
18. "New Mexico Landscape"
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Taylor
19. "Crucifixion"
20. "Last Rites"
- Collection of First Presbyterian Church
21. "Appollo Descending"
22. "Village Market"
23. "Autumn Landscape"
- Collection of Department of Art, FHSU
24. "The Rains Came"
- Collection of Hays Arts Council
25. "The Bath"
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Ficken
26. Title Unknown
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nichols
27. Title Unknown
- Collection of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell McGinnis
28. Title Unknown
- Collection of Ms. Kathleen Kuchar
29. "Reflections"
30. "Cityscape"
- Collection of Mr. John C. Thorns, Jr.

Dedication of Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art

John C. Thorns, Jr.

1. Fish
- Casein
2. Kansas Storehouse
- Collage
3. Spring Canvas
- Collage
4. Metropolitan
- Mixed Media
5. Skyline
- Watercolor on M&M paper
6. Saline River
- Watercolor
7. Crucifixion
- Watercolor
8. Urban Renewal
- Collage
9. Cavern
- Collage
10. Perspective-Church Design
- Mixed Media
11. Interior-Church Design
- Mixed Media
12. Canyon Mist-Mesa Verde
- Collage
13. Yorkshire Dells-Rain & Mist
- Collage
14. Southwest-Cliff Dwellers
- Collage
15. Sea Horse Underworld
- Mixed Media
16. Memories of the Forum
- Acrylic Collage
17. End of a Season
- Acrylic Collage
18. Mesa Verde-Kiva
- Acrylic Collage
19. Kansas Kaleidoscope
- Acrylic Collage
20. Yorkshire Dells Patchwork
- Acrylic Collage
21. Mountain Vista
- Acrylic Collage
22. Kansas Bluffs
- Acrylic Collage
23. That's James' Garden
- Acrylic Collage
24. Underwater Fantasy #1
- Acrylic Collage
25. Winter Silhouette
- Acrylic Collage
26. Fallen Leaves
- Acrylic Collage
27. Rolling Hills of Kansas
- Acrylic Collage
28. Canyon Edge
- Acrylic Collage
29. Kansas Kaleidoscope #2
- Acrylic Collage
30. Kansas: Sky Series
- Acrylic Collage
31. Ancient Dwellers
- Acrylic Collage
32. Hawaiian Foliage
- Acrylic Collage
33. Jennifer's Field of Glory
- Acrylic Collage
34. Progress
- Acrylic Collage
35. Diptych-Kansas Panorama
- Acrylic Collage

All works from the artist's personal collection

The Department of Art
acknowledges and thanks
those individuals who donated
to the dedication of the
Moss-Thorns Gallery of Art.