December 2005

Dear Friends of the Clyfford Still Museum:

As we reach year-end, we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the many accomplishments made by the Clyfford Still Museum during its first year. We have made substantial progress toward creating this unique institution, which will be dedicated to one of the most important American painters of the twentieth century.

Among our many governance and “start-up” tasks, we have formed an 18-member Board of Directors comprised of professionals and civic leaders from both Denver and the national community. At a retreat in March, this group formulated mission and vision statements, both of which will guide us in future decision making. We have also established an international Advisory Committee of scholars and museum professionals who will lend influence and expertise to the project. In October, the members of the Board and staff traveled to the east coast to view firsthand the extraordinary body of work that is coming to Denver. While there, we were able to lay our eyes on bona fide masterworks that have been sealed away for over fifty years.

Also in October, we announced we will receive the Clyfford Still Archives (containing such items as the artist’s sketchbooks, correspondence, diaries, and personal library) and, in addition to the 2200 objects in the artist’s estate, an additional 400 art works (including the only known Still sculptures) from the estate of his late wife Patricia Still. The staff, along with key consultants, has begun to examine these collections, which continually gain importance as they come to light.

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The Board has also completed an exhaustive process for selecting a site for the museum (a formal announcement will be made early next year) and we have drafted an architectural program which identifies facility space needs and provisional budgets. We are also finalizing the principles and processes that will guide us in the exciting task of selecting an architect, an undertaking we will begin in the first half of 2006. This process will ensure a museum that compliments the growing architectural sophistication of Denver.

We have also produced marketing materials including a fifteen-minute video and a four-color project brochure. Our website clyffordstillmuseum.org garnered nearly 50,000 hits in its first month. The museum has received significant press coverage in ARTnews, Art in America, Art and Antiques, The Art Newspaper, artforum.com, and artnet.com. We have been met with considerable enthusiasm as we continue to introduce the project to dozens of stakeholders and potential funding sources both within Colorado and around the country.

We hope you share our pride in these accomplishments and our great enthusiasm for the Clyfford Still Museum. We will continue to keep you apprised of future project announcements. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Christopher W. Hunt
President, Board of Directors

Dean Sobel
Project Director

The mission of the Clyfford Still Museum is to advance the understanding and appreciation of Clyfford Still’s art and legacy through the presentation, research, interpretation, preservation, and stewardship of its unique collections.