Institute of Fine Arts Receives Modern and Contemporary Art Library of Emily and Jerry Spiegel

The Institute of Fine Arts library has received a generous gift of more than 2,000 books on modern and contemporary art from Pamela Sanders and Lise Spiegel Wilks in memory of their parents, the eminent collectors and philanthropists Emily and Jerry Spiegel.

The Spiegels, who began building their modern and contemporary art collection in the 1950s, assembled an extensive group of works, including paintings, sculptures, and vintage photographs. “My parents’ vision, aesthetic focus and generosity to artists and institutions alike have served as powerful examples of both the importance of connoisseurship and the need for collectors to give back to the art world,” said Pamela Sanders. During the decades of their collecting, the Spiegels also built a library of modern and contemporary art books, many of which they received as gifts from artists they collected, both in the United States and abroad.

Jerry and Emily Spiegel were active philanthropists. Emily served on the Board of the Museum of Modern Art, and they were both involved with numerous charitable, community and educational arts-related projects. At the IFA, in addition to their support of the Connoisseurs Circle, the Spiegels underwrote the 2004 symposium in memory of Kirk Varnedoe and the subsequent publication. “Kirk was one of the most influential people in my parents’ lives. They spent a great amount of time together discussing and looking at art. My mother attended his lectures at the Institute, and later on other activities and events, which she valued greatly for adding a contextual relevance to her collecting passion for post-modern art,” added Ms. Sanders.

Amy Lucker, Director of the IFA’s Library, said, “This important gift measurably augments our holdings, particularly in modern and contemporary American art. Because the IFA has recently added to its faculty and course offerings in this field, we are especially thrilled with how the gift complements and enhances our collections. We are very grateful to Pamela Sanders and Lise Spiegel Wilks for their generosity.”