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## Gift Creates Endowment

### Gallery at Herron School of Art and Design Named in Honor of Art Aficionados Dorit and Gerald Paul



Dorit and Gerald Paul



Hoosier philanthropists and art collectors Dorit and Gerald Paul have made a significant gift to Herron School of Art and Design, creating a permanent fund to support gallery programming. The Dorit and Gerald Paul Gallery has been named in their honor.

The gift is comprised of a current, multi-year pledge and an estate provision. A substantial chunk—16 pieces—from the Pauls' lovingly-acquired art collection eventually will come to Herron, including works by Willem de Kooning, Betty Woodman, Frank Stella and Jackson Pollock.

Art in general and Herron in particular are important to the Pauls because, as Dorit put it, "I feel the arts are a window outside ourselves. The arts are vital to the development of one's personality."

The Pauls view their giving as a moral obligation, she said, quoting one of her favorite characters from musical theater, Dolly Levi: 'Money, pardon the expression, is like manure. It's not worth a thing unless it's spread around, encouraging young things to grow.'

Gerald Paul, retired co-founder of women's clothing stores Paul Harris, said "doing some good in the community and instilling that sense in our children and maybe even our grandchildren makes us feel good inside."

The Pauls' gifts over the years—to Herron, and to many other arts, higher education and charitable organizations—have been too numerous to count. "Our biggest expense is charity. We're very fortunate that we can say we can give," said Dorit. "I get satisfaction to make a little mark in the world."

The Pauls have been fans of Herron Gallery shows for decades and say the quality of Herron's gallery programming stands up to anything they have seen in their world travels. The Pauls hope their newly-established endowment, the first to create a permanent resource for the Herron Galleries, helps assure that Herron can continue bringing the highest quality exhibitions to students and the larger community.

"It's the financial wherewithal that any institution needs," Gerald said. "It should make the school more competitive in attracting the best gallery shows. We want to make sure there's always a place for contemporary art."

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In celebration of the Pauls' magnificent gift, an exhibition of works from their collection will open in the space newly named in their honor on June 17.

Their advice to novice collectors is buy what you like. "The most recent purchase tends to be my favorite," said Dorit. "It varies. I really can't say I have a favorite piece."

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