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New Acquisition on Display at The Orlando Museum of Art

ORLANDO, FL -- The Orlando Museum of Art (OMA) has just received a notable American painting, *West Shore Terminal* by Leon Kroll (1884 - 1974). A gift from the OMA's Collecting Circle Group, Friends of American Art, *West Shore Terminal* is characteristic of the artist's best work and will greatly enhance the OMA's American Art Collection. Founded in 1993, Friends of American Art, purchases and encourages the donation of important 18th-, 19th- and early 20th-century American art for the OMA's permanent collection and provides programs to educate its members about the history of American art from the Colonial period through the early 20th century.

This work is representative of a period in American painting when artists created a new vision of modern America with paintings of the rough, unrefined aspects of New York's urban life. *West Shore Terminal* depicts a busy railway yard and ferry docks on the New Jersey side of the Hudson River. Kroll's vantage point is from a rocky outcrop looking across the river at midtown Manhattan. In the distance, the city's growing skyline is visible through the haze of smoke and steam. The scene is animated by the sense of movement in the trains and boats, the rhythmic lines of the tracks and the plumes of smoke that rise everywhere. At the beginning of the 20th century, these smoke plumes were emblematic of the hustle and bustle of industrial America.

In 1913, when Kroll was painting this work, he had become friends with George Bellows and the painters associated with the Ashcan School. These painters, who included Robert Henri, John Sloan and others, were portraying the gritty and exhilarating world of the nation's greatest metropolis. Inspired by their work during this period, Kroll created a number of paintings such as *West Shore Terminal* celebrating the vast scale and dynamism of New York City.

Kroll is an artist who has made a distinctive contribution to American art. Leon Kroll was born in New York City. He attended the Art Students League and the National Academy of Design. Kroll also studied for several years in Paris. His friendship with George Bellows and other realist painters of the period were some of the most important influences on his development as an artist. During the period 1910-1919, Kroll exhibited with these artists and traveled with them to painting locations like Monhegan Island, Maine. Kroll had a long career but his paintings in the teens are considered his best work.

"The Kroll was appealing because 1913 was such an important year of change in American art that was not represented in the collection at OMA. The painting demonstrates the influence of impressionism and the emergence of a new American style of realism," said Friends of American Art President Wayne Jones. The painting is currently on display in the Council of 101 Grand Gallery Hall at the OMA.

The OMA is located in Orlando Loch Haven Park at 2416 North Mills Ave., Orlando, FL. From I-4 take the Princeton Street exit 85. Drive east on Princeton Street, and at the corner of Princeton and Mills (US Highway 17 / 92), turn left. Go one block to east Rollins Street and turn left. The entrance is the first driveway on the left. Parking is free. For further information, call 407 896 4231 or visit www.omart.org.

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Hours: Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 4 pm, Saturday – Sunday noon – 4 pm, closed major holidays

Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Orlando Museum of Art is supported by earned income, the Council of 101, donations from individuals, corporations and foundations, and sponsored in part by United Arts of Central Florida with funds from the United Arts campaign, State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.