

The Noyes Museum of Art of Richard Stockton College  
733 Lily Lake Road, Oceanville, NJ · (609) 652-8848 · www.noyesmuseum.org

**For Immediate Release** – May, 2010

**Contact:** (609) 652-8848 x 17, publicrelations@noyesmuseum.org

**Illusions: Abstract art from the Permanent Collection**

**Exhibition Dates:** July 9 - September 26, 2010

OCEANVILLE – In *Illusions*, colors vibrate, merge and create dimension, reviving the colorful Op art and geometric motifs of the 60's, 70's and 80's. Works from the museum's collection celebrate color theory and optical experimentation. Optical Art is a mathematically-themed form of abstract art. Repetition of simple forms and colors are used to create visual effects such as moiré patterns and an exaggerated sense of depth. Op art is always abstract, and the optical refers to optical illusion. In the 1960's, the term "Op Art" was coined to describe the work of a growing group of abstract painters. This movement was led by Victor Vasarely and Bridget Riley, and included such artists as Richard Anuszkiewicz, François Morellet and M.C. Escher. Quickly Op art became a motif in fabric design and interior design, but its popularity was limited and faded after a short time in the limelight. **Exhibiting Artists from the permanent collection include:** Burton Wasserman, Edna Andrade, Richard Anuszkiewicz, Clarence Holbrook Carter, Tom Gaughan, Louis Stone, and Tom Norton

**Edna Andrade** (1917-2008) earned her Bachelor degree in Fine Arts from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in 1937. She began as a painter of Realism and Surrealism; however, in the late 1950s, she started painting geometric shapes and abstracted landscapes. Her work became notable for its color combinations and her manipulation of shapes into patterns and optical images. An example is the painting, *Convergence*, with its alternating shapes in aqua and gold, outlined in fuchsia, which trick the eye and flash across the canvas. This sort of patterning and painting becomes even more remarkable today, considering that she painted each shape with a cool, steady hand.

**Richard Joseph Anuszkiewicz** (born in 1930), earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Cleveland Institute of Art in Ohio and then pursued a Masters degree at the Yale University School of Art and Architecture. While there, he studied with artist Josef Albers, who taught geometric abstraction and color theories. Anuszkiewicz went on to earn his Bachelor of Science in Education from Kent State University. By 1963, Anuszkiewicz was creating colorful, geometric works that had unique rhythm and color intensity. These works made him a leading force in the optical art movement and were included in Museum of Modern Art's *The Responsive Eye* exhibition, which was the most important and heralding exhibition of the "op art" movement. His work has been acquired by the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art. It has also been used in college textbooks, and *Rainbow Squared Red Ocher* was in the Noyes Museum's first exhibition in 1983.

*The Noyes Museum of Art- The Noyes Museum of Art was founded in 1983 to collect, preserve and exhibit American fine art, crafts and folk art. An emphasis is on New Jersey artists and folk art forms, reflecting the area's long history, traditions, landscape and culture. General funding is provided by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a state partner of the National Endowment for the Arts; the Mr. and Mrs. Fred Winslow Noyes Foundation; The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey; the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation; the Odessa F. and Henry D. Kahrs Charitable Trust. Please call 609-652-8848 or visit our website for more information.*

Images: Richard Anuszkiewicz, *Rainbow Squared Red Ochre*, 1981 & Edna Andrade, *Convergence*, 1968

###