

Letter from: Safeco/Liberty Mutual Group

To: James P. Bender

Date: February of 2010?

Feb. 2010, Safeco Ins./ L. M. G. donated 800 pieces of artwork to Washington Art Consortium. This collection of artworks represents the Northwest's rich history and will be exhibited throughout the State of Washington. The following artwork created by James P Bender is a part of this donation.

Otter Feast Bowl, Red Cedar Wood, 58 X 81 X 36 inches, Safeco # 1988.01

Today, the Safeco Art Collection is well-known in the local art community for its strength in contemporary Northwest art. The collection represents diversity in philosophies, ideas and backgrounds.

The Washington Art Consortium (WAC) is a unique non-profit cooperative comprised of the seven major art museums located in four main urban centers and three primary universities in Washington State: the Henry Art Gallery, University of Washington, Seattle; Museum of Art, Washington State University, Pullman; Northwest Museum of Arts & Culture, Spokane; Seattle Art Museum, Seattle; Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma; Western Gallery, Western Washington University, Bellingham; and Whatcom Museum of History & Art, Bellingham. The first organization of its type in the nation, the Washington Art Consortium began in 1975 when its founder, Seattle philanthropist and modern art collector Virginia Wright, worked with five Washington State museums to apply for separate grants to the National Endowment for the Arts for funds to purchase art. The idea was novel and ambitious: an art collection that would not belong to one museum, but would be jointly held and tour continuously throughout Washington State. The donation of the Safeco Art Collection will be the Consortium's fourth collection adding to the current holdings of artworks from 1945 - 1992.

The excellent caliber and reputation of the Washington Art Consortium ensures that this artwork has found a caring and outstanding new home and can now be shared and appreciated by an even more extensive part of the community.