

The Eppleman Collection: A Triano Family Gift

April 28th - June 22nd, 2023

Exhibition Sponsor: David Volkman

Written by: Rachel O'Connor, Curator

The Art Association of Harrisburg is pleased to announce *The Eppleman Collection: A Triano Family Gift* featuring selected works of art from the late I. William Eppleman collection on view from April 28 - June 22, 2023 with a reception on Friday, May 19 from 5-8pm. This exhibition would not be possible without the generosity of the late Dr. and Mrs. Gene Triano, and their daughters Diane Cerminara, Joan Triano, and Karen Golin.

“A former Columbia man...was owner of [an] art collection termed as one of [the] most outstanding ever uncovered in the area,” begins I. William Eppleman’s obituary published in *The Columbia News* on March 24, 1975. Eppleman was born in Columbia, PA, in 1904 and attended Carnegie Tech, now Carnegie-Mellon University, for architecture. He is known for having designed four homes in the greater Harrisburg area, one being the Triano family home in New Cumberland and the family home of AAH Secretary Dr. Mary Simmonds, also in New Cumberland. Before moving to Harrisburg Eppleman practiced architecture with major firms in Philadelphia, Miami, Washington D.C., and New York City where he was associated with architect Edward Durrell Stone in designing the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). Eppleman was a devout lover and connoisseur of art, collecting in an array of media including literature, music and visual art as well as mid-century modern furniture. Some of his collected works were by well-known artists Käthe Kollwitz, Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso, and the original 7 Lively Artist members.

In 1975, Eppleman’s close friends Dr. and Mrs. Gene Triano generously gifted a portion of Eppleman’s art collection to the Art Association of Harrisburg’s permanent collection. Diane Cerminara has kindly been in contact with me over the last year, sending photographs, stories, and resources to help me piece together the importance of Eppleman’s overall collection to the history of art, modern art especially. For an art historian like myself, this alone has been a treat. I would like to personally thank the Triano family for their past and present generosity toward the AAH.