



For Immediate Release
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***Grant Funds Scholarship and Lectures in Design
Cranbrook Academy of Art Receives a \$100,000 Grant from Knoll Inc.***

Bloomfield Hills, MI - Cranbrook Academy of Art has received a \$100,000 grant from Knoll Inc. to establish a scholarship program that will support graduate students in design and support an annual lectureship program to present prominent designers in a public forum. The Florence Knoll Design Scholarship and the Knoll Lectureship will create a permanent legacy in the Knoll name that embraces the company's value and supports the creation of art and design at Cranbrook Academy of Art.

"This gift from Knoll enhances opportunities for graduate students in the second year of their MFA studies. It also provides support for the creation of a public forum for the community of Southeast Michigan to hear some of the world's most distinguished designers speak about their work," says Gerhardt Knodel, Director of Cranbrook Academy of Art and vice president of Cranbrook Educational Community."

The relationship of Knoll Inc. and Cranbrook Academy of Art dates back to the early 1940s. It was at this time that Florence Schust, who was a student at the Academy, first met her husband, Hans Knoll, who founded Knoll Inc. in 1938. Once she joined Knoll, her innovative approach and pioneering interiors paved the way for a new era in design. The influence of Florence Knoll Bassett's great career in interior and furniture design has long been attributed to the influence of Eliel Saarinen's teaching and example at Cranbrook.

"The impact of teachers and alumni from Cranbrook on younger designers still active both in the US and abroad remains great," says Knodel. "Just as Florence and Hans Knoll searched out and nurtured talented designers as their company grew, so too does Cranbrook provide a tradition of achievement and challenge in educating tomorrow's design leaders."

"Knoll today continues the tradition of inspiring and supporting design talent," says Andrew Cogan, Co-CEO, Knoll Inc. "This grant to Cranbrook in honor of Florence Knoll is inseparable from our commitment to work with the world's preeminent designers, developing products that inspire and endure."

It is difficult to imagine the story of design in America without Cranbrook Academy of Art. This community of artists and students has encompassed world-famous architects, sculptors, wearvers, designers, metalworkers, ceramists, and painters. These include prominent architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen and Daniel Libeskind; furniture designers Charles and Ray Eames; metalworker Harry Bertoia, among others. In design, there is hardly an area that has not been influenced directly or indirectly by Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Founded in 1932, the Cranbrook Academy of Art is acknowledged world wide as a preeminent graduate level school of art, design and architecture. This independent degree-granting institution offering an intense studio-based experience where artists-in-residence mentor students in art, architecture and design to creatively influence contemporary culture. Master's of Fine Arts degrees are offered in nine disciplines including 2D Design, 3D Design, Ceramics, Fiber, Metal, Painting, Photography, Printmaking and Sculpture and a Master's of Architecture degree. Cranbrook is an internationally renowned educational community dedicated to excellence in the arts, education and science. Cranbrook is located at 39221 Woodward Avenue in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and comprises its Academy of Art, Art Museum, Institute of Science, Schools and other affiliated cultural and educational programs. Cranbrook's Academy of Art, located in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, grants Master of Fine Arts degrees in nine disciplines and Master of Architecture degrees. For more information, call (248) 645-3300 or visit the web site at www.cranbrook.edu.

Knoll operates locations around the world including a manufacturing site in Grand Rapids and Muskegon, MI. The Knoll Inc. headquarters is located in East Greenville, Pennsylvania.