LRMA News

WINTER 2020

MASTERY IN METAL

CONTEMPORARY CONNECTIONS

JANUARY 28 — MAY 24, 2020
LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES
We closed out 2019 with *The Copper Ball*, one of our most successful galas in our history. I want to thank Gala Chairmen Lisa and Greg Bennett for their service and time. Under their leadership, the auctions raised more than $115,000 for our education and exhibition programs. I would also like to commend Live Auction Chairmen Tammy and Jim Ford and Silent Auction Chairmen Bryn and Hoss Nasajpour, as well as all of our committees.

Of course, an event the magnitude of the gala could not happen without the support of our auction donors, and we are grateful for their assistance and generosity. A listing of our gala volunteer committees and donors can be found in this issue. I also would be remiss if I did not recognize the hard work of the Museum staff in making this annual fundraiser a success – it is truly a team effort.

Our area’s rich history in metalsmithing will be celebrated with the exhibition *Mastery in Metal* which opens at the end of January. The exhibit features some of the most unique craftsmen in the southeastern region as well as paying homage to the exquisite work of master blacksmith Samuel Yellin, whose work can be found throughout the Museum.

It is important for LRMA to keep close ties with art faculty around the state who are training the next generation of visual artists. Opening on March 17, the exhibition *Collections Interventions: Mississippi Collegiate Art Faculty Invitational* features the work of a dozen art faculty teachers from colleges and universities throughout Mississippi. Each artist has created a work inspired by an object in the Museum’s permanent collection which will be displayed alongside in the Sanderson Gallery. I hope you will join us for the opening reception on April 16 to meet the artists.

Visitors to the Museum and the Laurel Historic District are typically struck by the natural beauty of our surroundings, particularly the live oak trees. As you may know, our area was hit by a tornado in December. The Museum was spared damage but the Rogers-Green House experienced damage to its roof, gutters, eaves, and majestic live oak trees. Luckily, our annual garden lecture on February 13 features one of the South’s leading arborists, Bo Thibodeaux of Louisiana, who specializes in the care and propagation of live oak trees. We look forward to having him share his expertise with our community.

This past fall we again hosted Choctaw Days, our annual fourth grade tours program which focuses on our Catherine Marshall Gardiner Native American Basket Collection. The week-long event is held in conjunction with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and was supported in part this year with a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council. Generations of students from Laurel, Jones County, and the surrounding area have had their introduction to the Museum as part of this special tour program. It never gets old seeing young students gaze in amazement at the tiniest Pomo basket or the very large Choctaw fish trap. That wonderment and excitement enforces our educational mission and makes us realize that working at a museum may be one of the best jobs around!

– George Bassi
Artists are breathing new life into techniques and forms found in centuries-old media, and they are incorporating contemporary attitudes and approaches in their work. The Contemporary Connections series uses the strengths of our collection to make connections to contemporary art. In honor of our fine collection of Georgian silver and the handwrought iron by Samuel Yellin featured throughout our building, we present this exhibition of works by contemporary metalsmiths that shows a variety of metals and approaches. Elizabeth Brim forges feminine and domestic objects such as high-heeled shoes and pillows out of steel. Venetia Dale’s installations of styrofoam cups, key chains and plastic baskets, all cast in pewter, observe and question the common objects that aid us in the comfort of our daily lives. Blacksmith Ernie Dorrill celebrates Gothic and Renaissance motifs in his candelabra, lamps, locks, and keys. Silversmith Chloe Darke is known for her

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traditional domestic flatware, as well as expressive contemporary vessels and jewelry. Andrew Hayes combines steel with pages removed from books to create unique sculptures with their own strength and stories. The work of Myra Mimlitsch-Gray deconstructs precious silver services and humble cast iron cookware and asks viewers to imagine the domestic lives of women in earlier American households.

Elizabeth Brim, Excess, 2008, steel (alloy), Collection of the Metal Museum, Memphis, TN, Gift of John and Robyn Horn, 2009.8.1

Myra Mimlitsch-Gray, Modified Corn Pone Pan, 2007, cast iron, courtesy of the artist

Ernie Dorrill, Gothic Coffer, 2008, mild steel, courtesy of the artist
The latest installation in the Collections Interventions series, which places “guest” objects in our permanent collection galleries, features art professors at colleges and universities across the state of Mississippi. The artists have created new works in response to objects in the Museum’s collection that interest them in terms of the formal qualities, compositional techniques, and subject matter, or to which they share some personal connection. For example, Marcus Michels (University of Southern Mississippi) focused on the color relationships and gestural features of John Henry Twachtman’s Hemlock Pool to create his painting, K. Critz Campbell (Mississippi State University) has produced Vardaman Bundren in response to Bo Bartlett’s painting Self Portrait as Asher Lev, as both pieces are inspired by literary characters and rely on geometry and composition to portray metaphor and memory. Inspired by John Alexander’s Eye of the Storm, Lauren Cardenas (The University of Mississippi) produced Green Curtain, an abstract rendering of kudzu that incorporates the political and naturalistic qualities of Alexander’s work. Virginia Rougon Chavis (The University of Mississippi) was drawn to Rosabel Sylestine’s Lidded Sewing Basket because it reminds her of a similar basket that belonged to her grandmother, and her Attentive Repetition speaks to familial and cyclical patterns. Janet Gorzegno (University of Southern Mississippi) honors Blue Sun, Red Moon, a work by her valued mentor, Gabor F. Peterdi, in her paintings Magician and Madonna that similarly involve layering, found textures, and bold shapes. Cetin Oguz (Delta State University) produced Red, Homage to Rauschenberg to capture the fond memory of meeting the artist and to honor how Robert Rauschenberg’s work, such as the Museum’s Untitled print, has continued to influence his creative process.

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Additional artists in the exhibition include: Philip R. Jackson (The University of Mississippi), Sue Carrie Drummond (Millsaps College), Mark Rigsby (University of Southern Mississippi), Phoenix Savage (Tougaloo College), and Chatham Kemp (William Carey University). Each of the artworks created for this exhibition will be hung next to the inspiration piece and will shed new light on the works from our collection. The Museum is thrilled to provide a forum for the creativity of these artists and to showcase the diversity of art being produced by art faculty in Mississippi today.
The Guild organized a wonderful Preview Party for the Gala.

Docent Pam Oglesby leads a school tour in October.

Volunteers (l-r) Nancy Keith, Faye Rogers, Jayne Cooper, and Charlotte James helped during Choctaw Days.

Guild members worked the Preview Party under the leadership of Bette Green, Preview Party Chair.

NEW GUILD MEMBERS

New Guild members for 2019-20 are back row (l-r): Rosalind Jones, Elizabeth Schaffenburg, Jan B. Smith, Olivia Samter, Barbara Woodward; middle row: Jean Hall, Robbie Troyka, Darlene Montgomery, Lana Trest; front row: Karen Rasberry, Carol Rowell, Dinah Mahaffey; not pictured: Holly Gibbs, Pegg Glaser.
CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES & CLASSES

Home School Art
4th Tuesdays, January 28, February 25, March 24 and April 28
1:00 - 4:00 p.m., Museum Annex
Join other home school families for an afternoon of drop-in art adventures in the Annex. From toddlers to teenagers, everyone will enjoy the hands-on art experience. Activities change monthly and no registration is required.

Clay Creations: Children’s Pottery
Tuesdays, February 4, 11, 18, 25
3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Grades 1 - 6
Carriage House Studio
Students will discover the basics of hand-building and throwing on the wheel. From learning the fundamentals to exploring underglazes and textures – participants will do it all! No prior experience is necessary and all supplies are included. Class size is limited to 10. Cost: Members $50; Non-members $60

Spring Break Festival
Tuesday, March 17
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
This FREE family event features hands-on activities, live demonstrations, interactive art experiences and more!
Sponsored by:
Tim Lawrence and Kellon Lawrence of Morgan Stanley Wealth Management in Jackson

Adult Pottery: Throwing Pottery
Mondays, March 23, 30 and April 6, 13, 20
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Carriage House Studio
Join us as local artist Byron Myrick leads a five-session class focusing on the art and technique of throwing on the wheel. Supplies are included and ceramic enthusiasts of all experience levels are welcome. Space is limited and registration is required. Class size is limited to six. Cost: Members $100; Non-members $120

Call 601.649.6374 or visit LRMA.org to enroll in education programs that require registration.

LRMA staff had an “out-of-this-world” time at Very Special Arts Festival in November.

LRMA Education Programs are supported in part by The Essmueller Company Education Endowment Fund.
**SCULPTURAL CERAMICS**

Mondays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 and March 2
5:30 - 7:00 p.m., Carriage House Studio
Cost: Members $100; Non-Members $120

Join instructor Byron Myrick to learn the basics of hand-building with clay. Emphasis will be placed on construction procedure, surface enrichment, and glazing techniques. Class size is limited to six.

**ARTful Yoga**

Wednesdays, February and March
9:00 a.m.
Donations accepted

Does your yoga practice need a little artistic inspiration? Or does your museum-going need a little yoga? Either way, join us for a yoga class surrounded by works of art and engage in a practice that focuses on balance, focus and strength. Ann Barrow, a certified yoga instructor, will lead each drop-in class. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing and bring their own yoga mat. Beginners are encouraged and no registration required!

**GLASSBLOWING DEMONSTRATION**

Led by Mohawk Steel and Glass
Friday, April 3 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Carriage House Studio

FREE for Demonstration
$30 (members)/$40 (non-members) to create glass ornament*

Have you ever wondered how the Museum’s Chihuly Chandelier transformed from molten glass into a beautiful work of art? Observe the magic of glassblowing first-hand with the artists from Mohawk Steel and Glass as they demonstrate the process from start to finish.

*The first 20 participants to register with payment will work alongside the glassblowers to create a unique glass ornament of their own. Call 601-649-6374 to register.

**NEWSTAGE THEATRE**

presents

*Who Are You Calling Ugly?*
*A Modern Duck Tale*

Saturday, February 22
10:30 a.m.
Sanderson Gallery

Join us for a morning of family fun as New Stage Theater presents a contemporary adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson’s *The Ugly Duckling*. This updated, fast-paced version follows the story of Una, a young duckling struggling to find her way in the 21st century. Children are invited to interact with the cast as they follow Una along her journey of self-discovery; meeting a host of colorful characters and acquiring new vocabulary and problem-solving skills in this 50-minute story.
**Garden Lecture**

Arborist Robert Thibodeaux

Thursday, February 13
10:30 a.m. Sanderson Gallery
Tickets: $30; Lunch included

Robert “Bob” Thibodeaux is the President of Bob’s Tree Preservation and Farm located in Church Point, Louisiana. He is a nationally known expert in the care of live oak trees and has more than 40 years of experience in arboriculture, the cultivation of trees and shrubs. He is an ISA-certified arborist, a member of the American Society of Consulting Arborists, founder and former president of Louisiana Arborist Association, and a leader in tree preservation issues specializing in the preservation of urban and historical trees. Many of the live oak trees planted at Bob’s Tree Arboretum come from the seeds of some very recognized oaks. Bob has collected acorns from historical oaks such as the Jim Bowie oak, Tree of Seven Sisters, Evangeline oak, The Spider oak, St. John Cathedral oak, Alamo oaks, Majestic oak and the Angel oak (which is estimated to be approximately 1,400 years old).

**POETRY OUT LOUD**

Friday, February 7
Noon Sanderson Gallery
Free and open to the public

Lauren Rogers Museum of Art will partner with the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Mississippi Arts Commission to host the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest for the south region of Mississippi. Poetry Out Loud is a program that encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Participating high school students have the chance to be one of three finalists who advance to the state finals in March, where one winner will be selected to attend the national finals in Washington, D.C.

**PIANO CONCERT**

featuring Brenda Twynner Thordarson

Sunday, March 1, 2020
3:00 p.m.
Sanderson Gallery

Laurel native Brenda Twynner Thordarson, a graduate of the New England Conservatory with a master of music in piano, will perform a free concert for the public.
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The Lauren Rogers Museum of Art provides exposure to the visual arts through focused collections, diversified exhibitions, and educational programs; encourages awareness of the aesthetic and cultural values of the visual arts; and seeks to enhance the quality of life in Laurel and Jones County, the state of Mississippi, and the Southern region.

LRMA is a private, non-profit organization operating for the benefit of the public.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m. Closed Mondays.

ADMISSION IS FREE. LRMA is supported by Memberships, Donations, The Eastman Memorial Foundation, Laurel Arts League, Mississippi Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts. This publication is funded in part by a grant from The Mississippi Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts. LRMA CONTRIBUTIONS: HOW MUCH IS DEDUCTIBLE? If you have questions concerning the deductible limits of your Museum contributions for IRS purposes including fund-raising events (i.e. Gala), please call the Museum Office.

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Very Special Arts Festival was successful again this year thanks to the assistance of Laurel Junior Auxiliary and Laurel Arts League members.

Students at Earl Travillion Attendance Center recently created Mona Lisa inspired mixed-media collages.

Heritage Arts Festival was a huge hit in October.

Registrar Tommie Rodgers explains weaving techniques during Choctaw Days.

The hands-on education station was a great enhancement to the exhibition What Lies Beneath.

Arful yoga was enjoyed in the North Garden in October.

Junior Auxiliary member Sierra Davis painted faces at the Very Special Arts Festival in November.

Artist Bill Wilson demonstrated during Shop Holiday Open House.

Byron Myrick led adult pottery classes in November.

Laurel native and legendary SWAC football coach Archie Cooley (left) with Jerome Wyatt at Cooley’s book signing in December.

Heritage Arts Festival was a huge hit in October.
LRMA Calendar

JANUARY
16  Art Talk
22  Museum Board Meeting
28  Guild Meeting
     Home School Art
28  Mastery in Metal opens

FEBRUARY
3   Sculptural Ceramics
4   Children’s Pottery
5   Artful Yoga
7   Poetry Out Loud
10  Sculptural Ceramics
11  Children’s Pottery
12  Artful Yoga
13  Garden Lecture
17  Sculptural Ceramics
18  Children’s Pottery
19  Artful Yoga
20  Art Talk
24  Sculptural Ceramics
25  Guild Meeting
     Homeschool Art
     Children’s Pottery
26  Artful Yoga

MARCH
1   Piano concert
3   Sculptural Ceramics
4   Artful Yoga
11  Artful Yoga
12  Mastery in Metal reception
17  Spring Break Festival
        Mississippi Collegiate
        Art Faculty Invitational opens
18  Artful Yoga
19  Art Talk
23  Adult Pottery
24  Guild Meeting
     Home School Art
25  Artful Yoga
     Museum Board Meeting
     Museum Council Meeting
30  Adult Pottery

APRIL
3   Glassblowing Demonstration
6   Adult Pottery
12  Easter (Museum closed)
13  Adult Pottery
16  Art Talk

Follow LRMA on Facebook at Lauren Rogers Museum of Art and Twitter @LaurenRogersMoA.
Send your email address to info@LRMA.org if you would like to receive membership e-blasts with updates on events and art classes.

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith (American, b. 1940), Flathead War Shirt, 1993, mixed media, LRMA purchase with funds from the Estate of James E. Tant, 2007.5

The Art of Bill Scott
June 16 – November 8, 2020
Spirit Lines: Helen Hardin Etchings
September 15 – November 15, 2020

| 16 | Mississippi Collegiate Art Faculty Invitational reception |
| 20 | Adult Pottery |
| 28 | Guild Meeting |
|     | Home School Art |