There is some semblance of normalcy throughout this issue of LRMA News as we expand our programming, classes, and events for the summer after more than a year of uncertainty. I must say that it is refreshing and exciting to showcase the good work of the Museum and its educational mission via this newsletter.

What is not normal is the overwhelming amount of tourists visiting our town! Thanks to the hit television show “Home Town” on HGTV, thousands of visitors a week are flocking to downtown Laurel and most visit the historic district. We were pleased to be featured again this past season in an episode of the show that included local Choctaw weaver Pearlie Thomas who has provided weaving demonstrations here at the Museum for almost 20 years.

Our summer studio classes and camps are somewhat back to normal but with limited capacity. One of our more popular programs, Free Family Art, returns on Wednesdays in the month of June from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. This make-and-take art activity also includes a partnership with the Laurel-Jones County Library who will provide a children’s book reading at 2:30 on those afternoons.

One of our most important outreach activities is our collaboration with the summer feeding program of the Laurel Housing Authority. As we did last year, we will supply more than 100 to-go art kits for children twice a week during lunch at their sites.

A new part of our normalcy is the ability to include technology in our programs. Our website contains a listing of free digital resources which include artists’ interviews and talks by guest curators. We plan to continue and expand our virtual offerings as we find new ways to reach our audiences.

Local Choctaw weaver Pearlie Thomas with Mallorie Rasberry and Erin Napier on the LRMA front lawn during season five of HGTV’s Home Town weeks. Four of those boxes will be painted by students and youth in our area under the guidance of the Museum while 12 will be painted by local artists.

The LRMA Guild of Docents and Volunteers is anxious to return to normal scheduling and involvement with the Museum. In May, Guild members began to assist on a limited basis with greeting visitors and assisting in the gift shop. Recently, the Guild recognized 2019-20 service winners. Congratulations to Docent of the Year Mary Anne Sumrall and Volunteer of the Year Donna Husbands. The Guild will have their annual membership coffee in August; if you are interested in joining this amazing group, please let us know.

We are at the beginning of our 2021 membership campaign, and I must recognize the incredible support from our 2020-21 members who are listed in a special insert of this issue of the newsletter. As a free admission museum, membership support is critical to our success and operations, and I cannot thank our members enough for their assistance.

A major milestone in the life of this institution will be marked this summer. Lauren Eastman Rogers tragically passed away 100 years ago in July at the age of 23. His death sent shockwaves throughout his family and our community but also set in motion the establishment of the Eastman Memorial Foundation by his grandparents. At the time, the sole mission of the foundation was to build, maintain and operate the Lauren Rogers Library and Museum of Art. We are proud to be the stewards of Lauren’s legacy and are eager to celebrate the centennial of the Museum in 2023.

– George Bassi
As the once-isolated nation of Japan entered the 20th century and began to assimilate a new, Westernized culture, demand for certain traditional handicrafts fell off significantly. Among them were the iconic woodblock prints known in the West as ukiyo-e. Yet what seemed at first to be the death knell of a unique art form turned out to be the dawning of another, as the path was cleared for a new kind of print: shin hanga. The exhibition Seven Masters: 20th-Century Japanese Woodblock Prints focuses on seven artists who played a significant role in the development of the “new print,” and whose works boldly exemplify this new movement. Drawing from the superb collection at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the exhibition features the spectacular beauty portraits of the artists Hashiguchi Goyo (1880–1921), Ito Shinsui (1898–1972), Yamakawa Shuhō (1898–1944), and Torii Kotondo (1900–1976); striking images of kabuki actors by Yamamura Koka (Toyonari) (1886–1942) and Natori Shunsen (1886–1960); as well as the evocative landscapes of Kawase Hasui (1883–1957). The exhibition looks at these artists’ unrivaled work in print design, and includes pencil drawings and rare printing proofs to offer insight into the exacting process of woodblock printing.

Seven Masters: 20th-Century Japanese Woodblock Prints was organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Art and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, DC

On the Cover: Early Summer Rain, Arakawa River, June 1932
Kawase Hasui; Publisher: Doi Sadaichi; Carver: Katsumura Shōzō; Printer: Matsushita Shigeru
Woodblock print; ink and color on paper
The Margaret McMillan Webber Estate, 51.40.6
Photo: Minneapolis Institute of Art

Irides, 1930s, Kawase Hasui; Publisher: Kawaguchi Jirō, Woodblock print; ink and color on paper. Gift of Ellen and Fred Wells, 2002.161.134. Photo: Minneapolis Institute of Art
Kawase Hasui, Benten Pond at Shiba, August 1929, woodblock print, ink and color on paper. Published by Kawaguchi Jirō. Carved by Maeda Kentarō. Printed by Komatsu Wasankichi. Minneapolis Institute of Art, Gift of Paul Schweitzer, P.77.28.15. Photo: Minneapolis Institute of Art. 1}

Lecture and Exhibition Reception

Thursday, June 10, 2021
4:00 p.m. Lecture  5:00 p.m. Reception

Katherine Anne Paul will present “Connecting the Centuries—Continuation and Innovation in Japanese Prints.” This illustrated lecture will connect the print collections of Lauren Rogers Museum of Art and the Birmingham Museum of Art with the special exhibition Seven Masters: 20th-Century Japanese Woodblock Prints from the collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Join this visual journey from present-day back through time to learn more about the dynamic and continuing evolution of Japanese print culture.

Dr. Paul is the Virginia and William M. Spencer III Curator of Asian Art at the Birmingham Museum of Art in Alabama. A Fulbright scholar, she lectures and publishes widely and has curated numerous exhibitions—showcasing both classic and contemporary art originating from Asia. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Reed College and master of arts and doctoral degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Natori Shunsen, The Actor Ichikawa Chūsha VII as Takechi Mitsuhide (from the series Creative Prints: Collected Portraits by Shunsen), 1926, woodblock print, ink and color on paper with mica and embossing. Published by Watanabe Shōzaburō. Minneapolis Institute of Art, Gift of Ellen and Fred Wells, 2002.161.60. Photo: Minneapolis Institute of Art.
The Way Home: Photographs by Chad Edwards, Micah Green, Chuck Hemard, Jessica Ingram and Alexis McGrigg

JULY 27 – OCTOBER 31, 2021 SANDERSON AND CHRISTIAN GALLERIES

Exhibition generously sponsored by

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The Way Home celebrates the range of work being produced by five Southern photographers. Each artist is showcased by a thematic body of work, covering topics such as a celebration of industry and an examination of its effects on our region’s landscape, the struggles and triumphs of life in the South, and place and identity as they relate to the concept of home.

Chad Edwards, a native of Laurel, developed an interest in photography when, as a young man, he snuck cameras into concerts. He continued to take photographs after he became a professional tour manager. Although he spends much of his time on the road, Edwards’ work on display in The Way Home features a day in the life of Laurel Machine and Foundry, a company in his hometown.

Born in Texas and having lived in Mississippi, Georgia and now South Carolina, Micah Green began taking photographs while working at a short-staffed newspaper and has since become an accomplished photojournalist. The photographs chosen for display in The Way Home focus on the hands of the people he has met through his work as they work and worship, play and protest.

A lifelong resident of the South, Chuck Hemard is an associate professor at Auburn University in the department of art and art history. Using large format film cameras, Hemard produces photographs of quintessentially rural Southern landscapes that show how modern industry is impacting our sense of the place we call home.

A native of Nashville, Jessica Ingram is on the faculty in the department of art at Florida State University in Tallahassee. On display in this exhibition are works from Road Through Midnight: A Civil Rights Memorial, a series that brings attention to sites of tragedy and struggle and memorializes the lives lost on the continuing journey to racial and social justice in the South.

continued on page 6

Micah Green, Pre-game Grab by a Seminole, 2019, digital print

Chad Edwards, Worker and a Pulley, 2020, digital print
Utica, Mississippi native Alexis McGrigg utilizes the mediums of painting, drawing, photography, transmedia, and installation in her work. She finds the concept of Blackness in three forms: figurative abstraction, the notion of spirituality and its relationship to being, and celestial and metaphysical space. Her experimental photographs on display in this exhibition are visual examinations of the mode of travel through that space, as Black people go to and from a larger theoretical plane that they call “home.”

**PANEL DISCUSSION AND EXHIBITION RECEPTION**

**Thursday, August 5, 2021**

5:30 p.m. Panel Discussion
6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Reception

Please join the artists of *The Way Home* as they discuss how their work relates to the concept of home and their life in the South. A reception will follow the panel discussion.

Chuck Hemard, #3 Okaloosa County, Florida, 2012, pigment print

Jessica Ingram, Memorial for Vernon Dahmer Sr. erected by his wife, Ellie, at the site of his store and home, Kelly Settlement, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, 2009, archival inkjet print

Alexis McGrigg, Journeying 2, 2021, digital print
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CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES & CLASSES

Free Family Art:
STORYBOOK SUMMER!

Wednesdays · June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. · Museum Annex
Join us each week for unique hands-on art activities inspired by our favorite children’s books. No reservations are needed for this free make-and-take art program for families!

ART AROUND the WORLD:
Summer Art Camp
Monday – Thursday · July 12 – 15 (Session 1)
- or -
Monday – Thursday · July 19 – 22 (Session 2)
9:30 a.m. – noon · Museum Annex
Ages: entering 1st through 6th grade
Members $55 / Non-members $70
Is your art-loving child ready for a change of scenery? Let their imagination travel from Japan to Mexico to Italy and beyond with unique art and craft projects from around the world. In this fun camp, kids will discover a treasure trove of creativity with crafts inspired by cultural traditions from across the globe. Class size is limited to 12.

CLAY CREATIONS:
Children’s Pottery Camp
Monday – Thursday, June 21 – 24
9:30 a.m. – noon · Carriage House Studio
Ages: entering 1st grade – 6th grade
$55 Members / $70 Non-Members
Instructor: Jeremy Brooke of Bullfrog Pottery
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.

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

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Powerful Prints!
Thursday, June 10
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Museum Annex
Cost: $30 (CEU credit available for additional $15 at workshop)
Using the exhibition Seven Masters: Japanese Woodblock Prints as inspiration, educators will explore the history and process of the ancient art of printmaking. This interactive professional development workshop will include a gallery tour and exhibition discussion as well as a presentation of cross-curricular activities with LRMA curators. After lunch, educators will step into the studio with Anthony DiFatta, director of education at the Walter Anderson Museum of Art, to design and cut their own blocks and produce unique print editions. Class size is limited to 15.

TALK and BOOK-SIGNING

Thursday, June 17
1:30 p.m. featuring author Curtis Wilkie and his new book, “When Evil Lived In Laurel”
ADULT PROGRAMS AND CLASSES

**Introduction to Still Life Painting**
Saturday, June 26
9:00 a.m. – noon · Museum Annex
Cost: Members $40 / Non-Members $50
This introductory painting class will be relaxed and fun for beginners and experienced artists alike. LRMA Education Outreach Coordinator Kelly Rosa will instruct participants on composition, color-mixing, and basic still life painting techniques. All supplies included. Class size is limited to 10.

**Introduction to Watercolor Painting: Demonstration & Class**
Saturday, August 14
9:00 a.m. – noon · Museum Annex
Cost: Members $40 / Non-Members $50
Join Hattiesburg artist Bobby Walters to learn the basic tools and techniques of painting in watercolor. Each student’s individual creativity will be encouraged as they learn to see – as well as paint – with an “artist’s eye.” Supplies included and all skill levels welcome. Registration required. Class size is limited to 10.

**Adult Pottery: Throwing on the Wheel**
Mondays · August 16, 23, 30 and September 6, 13
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. · Carriage House Studio
Cost: Members $100 / Non-Members $120
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.

**LRMA Blues Bash**
FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2021 6:30 - 10:00 p.m. · LRMA FRONT LAWN
featuring the Johnny Rawls Blues Band

Tickets in advance are $25 ($10 for children 12 and under) with a limited number available for $30 at the event. Tickets include a BBQ dinner by Hog Heaven and beverages by Southern Beverage and Coca-Cola Bottling Company United. Tickets may be purchased at the Museum front desk, by contacting 601.649.6374 or info@LRMA.org, or by paying online at www.LRMA.org.

Blues Bash is generously sponsored by:
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LRMA Education Programs are supported in part by The Essmueller Company Education Endowment Fund.
The Museum’s latest three acquisitions span the last 70 years and reflect the diversity of the art in our country.

We are pleased to add the work of Dorothy Dehner to our collection in memory of Lessley Hynson by her husband Robert G. Hynson. Dehner studied theater for a year at the University of California, Los Angeles. During a trip to Europe, she saw the latest developments in visual art, music, and dance. Afterward, she moved to New York to study painting, and eventually became known for her sculptures in bronze, carved wood, and steel. They use abstract and geometric shapes to communicate her own private, but at the same time universal, emotions. Dehner produced the Museum’s new acquisition in 1958 and was inspired by literature, *Gulliver’s Travels* by Jonathan Swift.

The Museum has also acquired two paintings, both produced within the last few years, with powerful messages for our world today. *Elements of the Game* by Arvie Smith presents an allegory of a contest. A man, wearing a Klansman’s hat, and a woman sit at the table. They are playing a game of chess for the life of her child, who stands beside her with a target on his back. Behind the Klansman’s chair stands Rastus, a caricature of a Black man who was the symbol of the Cream of Wheat company. A blonde adolescent girl makes a complex hand gesture as she nervously watches the game being played. A freight car of prison cells rolls by in the background. All of these elements are symbols of a dire situation, and the artist leaves it up to the viewer to decide what it all means. Smith has said, “Without our stories, without our ability to render ourselves through our own eyes, the culture denies essential input from Black voices and the American story lacks depth, nuance.”

Alfred Conteh is a Black contemporary visual artist who lives in Atlanta. His work, such as the Museum’s new acquisition, *Preme*, deals with the fact that although the city is known as a “Black Mecca,” great income disparity and the negative effects of materialism are found there. Says Conteh, “The way I look at my work is they’re not just paintings, they’re reminders. They should be reminders to everyone who looks at them, that this is the reality of Black folks in this country right now.” He uses battery acid, rust, and metal dust to give the surfaces of his paintings a quality similar to that of the decaying and neglected buildings that fill the neighborhoods of Atlanta’s West End. Over those surfaces he paints portraits of the Black people who live there, showing their outward appearances and inner psychological experiences.
**Opportunities for Supporting YOUR Museum**

Our donors are our greatest asset and many offer support to the Museum in multiple areas. If you are looking for ways to support LRMA, allow us to offer the following opportunities.

Our **Membership Campaign** for 2021-22 begins at the end of May so be on the lookout for your renewal letter and please give generously! Encourage someone to join for the first time or purchase a gift membership for someone. Membership is a key part of our fund-raising efforts as it makes up approximately 20% of our annual operating budget.

**Corporate partnerships** range from sponsorships for events including Blues Bash and Heritage Arts Festival and underwriting for traveling exhibitions. There is a wide range of options, with varying price tags. **Planned gifts** can represent a way to continue support and create a legacy of generosity for the future. There exists a variety of ways to accomplish such a gift – a will, a charitable remainder trust, charitable lead trust, or life insurance. Ideas about a planned gift should be discussed with your accountant or attorney who can advise you about the tax advantages of a planned gift in your particular situation.

The **Museum's black-tie Gala** is held the first Saturday in December and is our single largest fund-raiser. You must be an LRMA member at the **Sponsor ($100) level or higher** to receive an invitation and purchase tickets. Additionally, there are opportunities to underwrite an Auction item, and of course, spirited bidding is encouraged!

**Gifts to one of the Museum's endowment funds** are welcomed and include the Education Outreach Endowment, Special Exhibition Endowment, and Collections Enhancement Fund. Naming **opportunities** exist, as well, for large gifts for the Stairwell Gallery and Lower Level Galleries. **Tribute or Memorial Gifts** are also graciously accepted and appreciated.

I would be happy to speak with you about any of these opportunities or answer any questions you might have about ways you can support the Museum. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 601.649.6374 or hgreen@LRMA.org.

— Holly Green, Director of Development

**Create a Legacy With a Planned Gift**

Remembering the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art through a planned gift is a thoughtful way to create a legacy for the generations to come. By including LRMA in your will or estate plan, you ensure that the Museum will continue to lead the way in providing arts experiences for our community, state, and region. For more information about this opportunity, please call Holly Green, Director of Development, at 601.649.6374.

**LAUREN EASTMAN ROGERS SOCIETY MEMBERS**

- **Eleanor Bernheim Bass**
- Stevens D. Bateman, Jr.
- Sandra Lindsey Bateman
- *Harold Bedoukian and Janice Summers Bedoukian*
- *Morgan R. Berbett*
- *Harry H.** and Jeanne C. Bush**
- *James Wray and Shirley Bush*
- *William H. Carter*
- *John M. Christian*
- *Mrs. Robert Gaddis**

- *Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner Green, Jr.*
- *William Trimble Green*
- *Nancy Guice Page Jones Harris*
- *Mr. and Mrs.** Robert G. Hynson
- *Evelyn and Michael Jefcoat*
- *Mr. and Mrs. Clayton E. Johnson Jon and Kathryn Lewis*
- *Aubrey and Ella Lucas*
- *William and Patricia McLean*
- *Mr. William S. Mullins, III*

*Deceased*

*Betty Mulloy**
*Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Proli*
*Fay Milner Reed*
*Mrs. James E. Tant*
*Thomas and Lisa Thames*
*William L. Thames*
*Mrs. Fisk Halsted Walker*
*Marna R. Ward*
*Mrs. John D. Zartman*
*Charter Members**
GUILD OF DOCENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

Thousands of people enter the massive double doors of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art each year, but among the most frequent visitors are members of the Museum’s Guild of Docents and Volunteers. Whether it is a docent sharing their knowledge of the historic Georgian Revival structure and the permanent collections or a volunteer helping in the gift shop or with an education class, Guild members provide an invaluable service to LRMA.

The LRMA Guild of Docents and Volunteers initially began as a program for docents in 1964. The Guild was officially organized with a constitution and by-laws in 1973, and a slate of officers was elected for the first time. Initial training for the group of approximately 30 docents was provided by Marda Burton and Read Diket, who devoted much time and energy in developing a series of slide lectures. Also assisting in their training was James Bowne, the new Director of the Museum, hired in 1973.

In the early years, docents hosted a variety of functions at the Museum, from Sunday afternoon teas to meet artists to an annual Christmas reception featuring an elaborately decorated tree. Since the Guild’s inception, members have tackled a variety of jobs that are stimulating and enjoyable. Meeting interesting people of all ages is an enjoyable part of the Guild’s work, and while interacting with visitors, members try to stimulate interest and appreciation for the visual arts and the Museum’s educational mission.

After attending special education classes and becoming knowledgeable about the artwork on exhibit, docents share their knowledge with groups who tour the Museum. Some docents say they especially enjoy the Native American Basket collection tours for fourth grade classes held each October as part of Choctaw Days at the Museum. Others look forward to the senior travel clubs, church groups and garden clubs who come to see the various exhibits. Art students from nearby colleges often stop in to study the artwork, make notes and sketch. Guild members say that meeting people they might otherwise never have met is a highlight of their work.

Other interesting activities of the Guild include helping the museum education department with various studio art classes for children. Members volunteer for a variety of assignments including the Heritage Arts Festival and the Very Special Arts festival each fall. When possible, Guild members attend lectures, host opening receptions and enjoy the monthly art talks. Members assist with library and office tasks, and some volunteers are assigned to work in the Museum Shop.

The Guild holds a coffee for prospective members in August each year. This event serves as a brief introduction to the Museum and the many services the Guild provides LRMA. After a break from activities this past year due to the pandemic, the Guild will have its annual membership coffee on Tuesday, August 24 at 10:00 am in the Museum. If you are interested in learning more about the Guild or in attending the Membership Coffee, please contact Visitor Services Coordinator Angie Jolly at ajolly@LRMA.org or 601-649-6374.

Currently, the Guild has approximately 65 members who contribute hours of their time to assist the Museum in furthering its educational mission. The Museum could not effectively open its doors each day without the Guild and its commitment to serving visitors, students and staff. In a time when the number of community volunteers is dwindling around our country, the LRMA Guild proudly stands as a testament to the strength of the Museum and its community.
**AROUND THE MUSEUM**

LRMA Director George Bassi (l-r), Sidney Swartzfager, Mary Anne Sumrall, Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee, and Meacham Harlow of the Mississippi Forestry Commission at the re-dedication of the Gardiner Park arboretum at LRMA in February.

Preschoolers at Laurel Christian School created Mother’s Day handprint paintings.

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.

Fifth graders at Stringer Attendance Center participate in a Choctaw weaving activity.

LRMA led walking tours of the historic district on Friday mornings beginning in March.

**UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS**

Contemporary Connections: Sculptors of Plaster
Lower Level Galleries
August 31 – November 7, 2021

LRMA is again providing free art kits as part of the Laurel Housing Authority summer feeding program.

LRMA Director George Bassi (l-r), Sidney Swartzfager, Mary Anne Sumrall, Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee, and Meacham Harlow of the Mississippi Forestry Commission at the re-dedication of the Gardiner Park arboretum at LRMA in February.

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