This summer saw a variety of community programs, some new ones and some old favorites. Free Family Art was back in-person with an option for to-go kits. Those who chose to participate at the Museum were also treated to a new partnership with the Laurel-Jones County Public Library and the Nurture Our Future organization. Each week, a children’s book was read by volunteers from the library while donations of new and lightly used books were accepted as part of Nurture Our Future’s mission to place free books in the hands of young children throughout Jones County.

The City of Laurel was fortunate to receive a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission at the beginning of the summer to paint 16 traffic signal boxes around our town. In partnership with the Laurel Arts League, Curator of Education Hillary Steinwinder facilitated the Curbside Canvas Project for the city. Twelve of the boxes were painted by individual artists while four of the boxes were designed by Outreach Education Coordinator Kelly Rosa and painted by school children and youth from our community (see page 8).

Along with Gala Chairmen Missy and Bill Sanderson, we are making plans for our annual gala on Saturday, December 4. The Silver Ball should be an exquisite evening at the Museum and will include an online auction. I look forward with excitement to your support!

The summer marked a change in two of our board positions. Scotty Sumrall rotated off after 10 years of service, the last several years ably leading our Property Committee as chair. Our bylaws mandate that one board seat be occupied by a local financial institution. As Magnolia State Bank rotated off the Board, Community Bank was elected to fill that position. We look forward to working with Bo Bounds who will be representing Community Bank. For more than 45 years, with the exception of rotating off a few times, Bobby Hynson has been a member of the Board. He retired from the Board in June, and Peyton Green was elected to fill the remaining two years of Bobby’s term. As a descendent of one of the founding families, Bobby has a vested interest in the success of the Museum and a unique historical perspective. I dare say that few Board members have had Bobby’s passion for the Museum or his care and oversight of the financial well-being of the Eastman Memorial Foundation.

– George Bassi
Visitors to the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art are greeted in a lobby richly decorated with golden oak paneling and cork floors. They may not notice that the ornamentation continues above, with a ceiling featuring the plaster work of sculptor Leon Hérmant. The design, suggested by Charles J. Watson of the Chicago interior decorating firm Watson and Walton, features low relief depictions of flora, fauna, and celestial bodies. In honor of this enchanting adornment and in a continuation of a series of exhibitions that celebrate how artists are breathing new life into techniques and forms found in centuries-old art and design, the Museum presents an exhibition of works in plaster by contemporary artists Amy Kann, Jedediah Morfit, and Mark Webber. Their works show the effectiveness of utilizing the medium in traditional, conceptual, and abstract forms.

Plaster is made by mixing powdered stone, such as lime or gypsum, with water to form a paste that can be applied to walls, cast into three-dimensional forms, or cut and carved when dry. Relief decorations in plaster have been used in interior and exterior architectural design since antiquity. Figurative plaster sculpture was pioneered by the ancient Egyptians, who used plaster to make head and face casts of the deceased. Romans made plaster reproductions of Greek sculpture, and these continued to be made and collected during the Renaissance and Neoclassical eras. In the nineteenth century, students at art academies learned art history and anatomy by studying plaster casts of classical sculptures. Artists have also used plaster as a means of working out sculptural ideas that would then be realized in a more durable material like marble or bronze. Therefore, plaster was perceived as a secondary material, a means to some other end.

continued on page 4

**EXHIBITIONS**

**PASTE AND CUT**

Contemporary Sculpture in Plaster

LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES THROUGH NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Amy Kann, Transition, Forton

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continued on page 4

**Thursday, September 16, 2021**

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The artists of *Paste and Cut* will appear virtually to discuss how they use the medium of plaster in different ways in their work. Audience members in attendance at the Museum will be able to ask questions of the artists. A reception will follow.
In the 20th century, however, artists who had a feeling for the instability of the modern world began to value the inexpensive and fragile material of plaster for its own sake. Sculptors use it as a primary material, either as a finished piece cast from a design produced in another material, or sculpted directly in both additive and subtractive approaches. They can cut it apart or carve into it, just as they would with stone. Contemporary artists can also take advantage of technological advances that increased the materials from which plaster is produced. Kann uses Forton, which is made of Hydro-Stone, fiberglass, and resin. Morfit reinforces his plaster with fiberglass. Webber combines gypsum-based Hydrocal with other materials that include copper wire, stone, wood, and steel.

Kann specializes in realistic, figurative sculpture in bas-relief, a technique where the sculpted elements remain attached to a solid background of the same material, similar to Hérmant’s decoration of the Museum’s ceiling. She produces profiles of friends and relatives, as well as symbolic narratives, such as a self-portrait showing a woman surrounded by trees in a wooded landscape. Morfit’s contemporary vision takes advantage of both traditional bas-relief techniques and cutting-edge digital technology to produce his plaster bas-reliefs and mixed media busts. His sculpture mixes humor, fantasy, violence, and the surreal. Webber has been a cabinetmaker for many years and has used materials from the construction trades in that work and in his fine art pieces because he sees in honesty in them. He feels that combining wood, plaster, and metal is the aesthetic equivalent to solving an equation. Although they are heirs to an ancient medium, these artists take plaster in new directions for our contemporary world to enjoy.
EXHIBITIONS

The Way Home: Photographs by Alexis McGrigg, Chad Edwards, Chuck Hemard, Jessica Ingram, and Micah Green

THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2021 SANDERSON AND CHRISTIAN GALLERIES

Exhibition generously sponsored by

First State
BANK

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.

continued on page 6
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.

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.”

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*Chad Edwards, Daily Equations, 2020, digital print*

*Alexis McGrigg, Journeying 5, 2021, digital print*

*Micah Green, Amara and Elbows on Set, 2018, digital print*
Join us for an artful yoga class and engage in a practice that focuses on relaxation, balance, 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 welcome and no experience or registration is required!
RECENT ACQUISITION

Andrew Newell Wyeth, one of the best-known American artists of the 20th century, was a realist painter. He often said, "I paint my life." His favorite subjects were the land and people around him, both in his hometown of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, and at his summer home in Cushing, Maine. Spruce Timber was painted at Broad Cove Farm in Cushing. The figure on the right is his friend Forrest Wall, and the figure on the left is his brother-in-law, John Sawyer. Here they chop down the wood that would be used to build Wyeth’s house there.

The concept, graphic, information, and language used for describing and promoting our virtual exhibition Seeing 2020 last year was copied without permission from the Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland, Florida, which hosted its Hindsight 2020 exhibition last year. We apologize and thank the Polk Museum of Art for permitting us to continue to use that material on our website and across our social media platforms.

In partnership with the Mississippi Arts Commission, the City of Laurel, and the Laurel Arts League, the Museum recently facilitated the painting of 16 traffic signal boxes around Laurel including these four boxes painted by school children and youth from our community.
LRMA GALA 2021

The Eastman Memorial Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Missy and Bill Sanderson will chair The Silver Ball: LRMA Gala MMXXI to be held Saturday evening, December 4. The Sandersons have tapped Tammy and Jim Ford as Premier Auction chairmen and Ginger and Fred Walters as Auction Committee chairs. Dianne Mullins will head up decorations and Jan and Gene Harlow will provide leadership for Food and Beverage. Becky Turlington will chair the Gala Preview Party on Thursday evening, December 2.

The Gala committee is hard at work securing items that will be appealing to bidders. Fabulous art, exciting trips, and unique jewelry will highlight the auctions along with dinners and travel opportunities, gifts for ladies and gents, artwork, and lovely items for the home and garden.

The LRMA Gala remains the single largest fundraiser for LRMA with proceeds benefiting programs and exhibitions and the full and vigorous support of our donors is needed this year, as always before, to accomplish our mission.

Invitations will be mailed to LRMA members at the Sponsor ($100) level and above. Ticket information, along with other details for the event, will be included in the invitation. For information regarding the 2021 Gala or how to become an LRMA member, visit LRMA.org or contact Holly Green, Director of Development, at 601.649.6374 or hgreen@LRMA.org.

GALA MMXXI AUCTION COMMITTEE
Ginger and Fred Walters, Auction Committee Chairmen

Entertaining
* Karen and Peter Biglane
  Andrea and John Milham
  Mary and Andrew Ousley

Travel
* Elizabeth and Brad Kent
  Lauren and Casey Butts
  Rebekah Staples

Home and Garden
* Stephanie and Chad Harris
  Lee and Moe Caver

Art
* Dorothy and Patrick Nassar
  Amy and Ben Morgan
  Jade and Lew Yoder

Ladies and Gentlemen
* Lindsey and Brian Schmoekel
  Matt Owens

* Category Chairmen

MUSEUM SHOP
Holiday Open House
November 18, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Storewide discounts
Refreshments * Free Gift Wrapping

Trunk Show by Tisch Jewelry Werks
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
New Memberships  
(1/16/2021 through 8/15/2021)  

Grand Benefactor  
Mr. and Mrs. Linda Nelson and Mr. Bob Baliski  
Ms. Andrea Prestridge  
M. and Mrs. Clifford Padgett  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Price  
Sponsor  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Goddard  
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Nowicki  
Dr. and Mrs. Donald Sawyer  
Friends  
Mrs. William Auton  
Mr. Jeffrey Karter  
Memorials  
(1/16/2021 through 8/15/2021)  
For: Mr. Kenneth Biglane  
From: Mr. and Mrs. George Bassi  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boteler III  
Mr. and Mrs. William Carter  
Mr. Robert G. Hynson  
LRMA Guild  
Mr. and Mrs. Trent Mulloy  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Sauls  
Lisa and Tommy Thames  
For: Mrs. Richard Burton (Manda)  
From: Mr. and Mrs. William Burroughs  
Ms. Ann Mahorner  
Mr. David McNeel  
Mr. and Mrs. William Burton (Gwen)  
Mr. and Mrs. George Bassi  
Mr. and Mrs. William Carter  
Mr. Hunter Cole  
Mr. and Mrs. Trent Mulloy  
Mr. and Mrs. Horace Watkins III  
For: Mr. Bill Dean  
From: Mr. and Mrs. Trent Mulloy  
For: Mr. Howard Frisackerly  
From: Mr. and Mrs. Trent Mulloy  
For: Mrs. Stewart Gilchrist (Gene)  
From: Mr. David McNeel  
For: Arlene Bush Hepinstall  
From: Ms. Kay Guiles  
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Patterson  
For: Mr. Herbert Holt (Jean)  
For: Mr. and Mrs. George Bassi  
Mrs. Kenneth Biglane  
For: Mr. Robert G. Hynson (Lesley)  
From: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Anthony  
Ms. Marie Barksdale and  
Mr. Holt Montgomery  
Mrs. Kenneth Biglane  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boteler III  
Mr. William Carter Jr.  
Mr. Robert C. Hynson  
Mr. and Mrs. Trent Mulloy  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Sauls  
UAB Educational Foundation  
Mrs. Fisk Holstted Walker  
For: Mr. James King Jr.  
From: Mr. and Mrs. William Carter  
For: Mr. Jack Mayer  
From: Mr. and Mrs. William Carter  
For: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Proli  
Dr. and Mrs. Hull Montgomery  
Mrs. Kenneth Biglane  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boteler III  
Mr. William Carter Jr.  
Mr. Robert C. Hynson  
Mr. and Mrs. Trent Mulloy  
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From: Mr. and Mrs. William Carter  
For: Mr. and Mrs. Judith Mulloy  
For: Mr. and Mrs. Trent Mulloy  
For: Mr. Charles Owens  
From: Mr. Kenneth Biglane  
Ms. Janice Johnson  
Dr. and Mrs. Loyd殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷殷
MEDIEVAL TO METAL
The Art & Evolution Of The GUITAR
JANUARY 25 – APRIL 17, 2022

Medieval To Metal: The Art & Evolution Of The Guitar is a touring exhibition that celebrates the artistic development of the guitar and will be on view at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art from January 25 to April 17, 2022. Developed by The National GUITAR Museum (NGM), it features 40 objects, ranging from the intricately inlaid Moorish oud and six-foot long Renaissance theorbo on to the modern Italian design of the Eko and transparent acrylic body of California’s BC Rich guitars. Spanning centuries of design and craftsmanship, the exhibition takes visitors through the history of an object that is one of the most recognizable items on the planet.

“Over the past several years, interest in the guitar as an icon has grown significantly,” according to HP Newquist, executive director of the NGM. “The guitar has been a signature element of world culture for more than 500 years; now visitors can explore the design history and artistry that has played a major role in the guitar’s evolution.”

The guitar pervades culture beyond music. It was an integral element of the work of both Vermeer and Picasso, and today it is incorporated into advertising everything from clothes and cars to the Olympics. “It’s hard to find anyone who hasn’t been affected by the guitar, whether as players or just fans of all types of music. And while this may be apocryphal,” Newquist adds, “it’s a widely held belief that the two most recognizable man-made shapes on the planet are those of the Coca-Cola bottle and the electric guitar.”

The Medieval To Metal exhibition also includes life-size photorealistic illustrations of historically important guitar designs from noted artist Gerard Huerta, and 20 photographs of acclaimed musicians and their guitars from Neil Zlozower, one of the world’s premier concert photographers.
Around the Museum

Children enjoyed making collages during Free Family Art in June.

The Museum led art classes weekly at the L.T. Ellis Center in Laurel as part of their summer feeding program.

LRMA led a summer art class at East Marion Elementary.

Campers over the summer created pottery with instructor Jeremy Brooke.

The Museum partnered with the Laurel-Jones County Public Library to read children’s books during Free Family Art over the summer.

Art Camp participants created mosaics in July.

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

Medieval To Metal: The Art & Evolution Of The Guitar
January 25 – April 17, 2022