A centennial celebration comes along just once in our history, and we made sure that it was memorable! I hope you were able to take part in our activities April 29 – May 6 as we celebrated and remembered the founding of the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art. My thanks to all who played a part in our celebration. This newsletter includes several pages of photos highlighting the week which included a concert by Charlie Mars, a family festival, the recreation of the Museum’s 1923 dedication, the release of our centennial catalogue along with a lecture, a community performance by the Mississippi Mass Choir, and a soiree in 1920s style.

We will continue to mark our centennial milestone throughout 2023 with a special exhibition of Laurel artists this summer, a hands-on family exhibit of Van Gogh in the fall, a spectacular evening of music and light on Saturday, October 21, and our annual gala, The Platinum Ball, on Saturday, December 2.

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary this year, it is easy for all of us associated with the Museum to be nostalgic as we reflect on the founders of this institution. Their hope was to create a “center for the advancement of learning, the broadening of culture, the lifting of life to higher levels for the betterment of all people.” They believed that this and more would have been done by Lauren Rogers had he lived to play his part in the world of work and achievement in Laurel.

The Museum’s success for the past 100 years is due to the dedication of numerous people. Of course, one must recognize the founding families of Mr. and Mrs. Lauren Chase Eastman and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Brown Rogers who not only gave of their financial resources and broad art holdings but also of themselves to this cause. Also, we are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. George S. Gardiner whose donation of extensive and rare Native American baskets comprised our first official gift in 1923.

People like Miss Ella Bradley and Miss Nell Davis, the first two librarians and directors whose combined consecutive service spanned the first 54 years of the Museum, provided unwavering staff leadership. Integral to carrying out the founding family’s vision are caring benefactors and trustees over the years including Harriet and Thomas Gibbons, Robert C. Hynson, Jean Chisholm Lindsey, and Stewart Gilchrist.

A Museum cannot function without volunteers and community involvement, and through the years LRMA has been blessed with board members, docents, volunteers, advisory council members, donors, and members whose support and service ensure our founding mission—education and the advancement of learning through a greater understanding of art and culture.

Today, we are able to carry out our mission through strong collections, temporary exhibitions, lectures, programs, workshops, studio classes, children’s camps, concerts, tours, and numerous outreach activities. Our challenge for the next 100 years is to make sure that current and future generations from our community and region understand the value of the visual arts and continue the legacy of Lauren Rogers.

– George Bassi
VAN GOGH for All
AUGUST 15 – NOVEMBER 5 LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES

Exhibition generously sponsored by

The LRMA Centennial Fund

Van Gogh for All is a modern, interactive approach to art history and will be on view in the LRMA Lower Level Galleries beginning August 15. This experientially rich exhibit explores the late work of Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh. Developed by the Dolores Kohl Education Foundation, Van Gogh for All engages curious learners of all ages using interactive technology and participatory learning to engage new audiences in Van Gogh’s genius, his personal struggles, and his creative process.

Visitors will be immersed in Van Gogh’s life and creative process. They will view and touch large, 3D reproductions of Van Gogh’s work, practice still life and self-portrait skills, and step into Van Gogh’s world-famous painting Starry Night as it is projected in life-sized detail. They will also discover the unusual perspective of Van Gogh’s bedroom or look behind the shutters of his yellow house.

This unique 3,000-square foot traveling hands-on exhibit, with a focus on the artist’s work from his time in Arles, Saint-Rémy, and Auvers sur Oise, is designed to engage curious learners as they step into 3-D representations of Van Gogh paintings including The Siesta and Café Terrace at Night.

continued on page 4
One of the most celebrated painters in Western art, Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) had a brief but prolific career. Born in the Netherlands, Van Gogh was largely self-taught as an artist. After first learning the basics of drawing figures and landscapes, he developed a bold painting style using thick brushstrokes and vivid colors. Van Gogh featured everyday subjects in his paintings, such as portraits of friends, self-portraits, floral still lifes, landscapes, and cityscapes. In his later years, van Gogh moved to France where he could engage in the experimental art scene in Paris or retreat to quiet country villages. The artist struggled with depression and had little commercial success in his lifetime, but he was driven to continue creating and representing life as he knew it—in swirling motion and vibrant color. By the time of his death, Van Gogh’s paintings had finally attracted critical attention, with one critic stating that Van Gogh “will never be fully understood except by...true artists.”

In conjunction with the Van Gogh for All exhibition, and in celebration of our 100th Anniversary, galleries throughout the Museum highlight connections between our collection and Van Gogh. The artist produced paintings inspired by two works found in our collection: Jean-François Millet’s pastel First Steps, copied from a reproduction of the work that would eventually be purchased by Lauren Chase Eastman and donated to the collection, and Utagawa Hiroshige’s woodblock print Sudden Shower over Shin-Hashi Bridge and Atake, copies of which are in both Van Gogh’s own collection and that of the Museum. In the Stairwell Gallery, our Millet and Hiroshige hang side-by-side with reproductions of the Van Gogh’s paintings in an installation that also includes a timeline of Van Gogh’s life and artwork. In the European Gallery, special labels describe Van Gogh’s interaction with artists whose works are included in our collection, including Anton Mauve, who was married to Van Gogh’s cousin and was a very significant early influence on his art. On view in the Japanese Print Gallery are works by artists that are also found in Van Gogh’s collection, including Hiroshige, Katsushika Hokusai, Keisai Eisen, and Utagawa Kunisada.

Collector’s Connections: Vincent Van Gogh

August 15 – November 5, 2023 Stairwell, European, and Japanese Print Galleries

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In honor of the Museum’s 100th year in Laurel, we invited artists who have a connection to our city to share their talent. By showing their artwork along with examples from our permanent collection, the exhibition celebrates Laurel’s artists past and present.

Paintings from the Museum’s permanent collection by Billy Ford, Amorita Gordon, Dale Brent Sexton, Evelyn Taylor, and Walter Watkins are on view. Other works on display include landscapes by Read Diket, Bekye Fargason, Marie Grayson, Sharon Howard, Elizabeth Ross Starr Patterson, and Lisa Moynihan; still lifes by Amy Beckum-Luker, Tommie Rodgers, and Virginia Heidelberg Wilson; figurative pieces by Joseph Cooley, Richard Cooper, and Jon Rappleye; abstract works by Shelley Bolton, Kathy Anderson Dearman, Bryce Speed, and John Whitt; and three-dimensional works by Mark Brown, Jason Kimes, and Byron Myrick.

The numerous artists whose works have also been loaned to the exhibition include Arlene Bailey, Charles Bolden, Jean Bolden, Carl Buchanan, Mandy Buchanan, Larry Bustin, Obie Clark, Amelia Crumbley, Beth Henderson, Marcia Holmes, Ellen Ellis Lee, Tina Fish Lutz Kirk, Walter Neil Jr., Gene Parkerson, Perry Ritchie, Michael Ross, Jode Sumrall, Adam Trest, Kim Whitt, and Holland Thompson Wilson.

Statements from many of the artists are on display next to the artworks, and several have described their connections to Laurel and the Museum. For instance, Shelley Bolton remembers inspiring visits to the Museum as an influencing factor in her pursuing and receiving a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mississippi. Mark Brown, who served as the curator of education at the Museum from 1998 to 2006, states, “Working for the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art was one of the most enriching artistic and professional experiences in my life. The Museum and the wonderful staff members will forever be special to me.” Joseph Cooley remarks, “I am a Mississippi artist, born and raised in Laurel. In my high school days, I studied with artist Adam Trest on a weekly basis, learning to draw and paint portraits.”

“The Lauren Rogers Museum of Art has held a special place in my heart since I was a teenager growing up in Laurel,” says Tina Fish Lutz Kirk. “The ukiyo-e prints and their corresponding wood blocks have haunted me. I never imagined the ukiyo-e prints in the LRMA collection would influence my artistic endeavors many years later.”

Laurel native and retired art instructor Byron Myrick, remembers that “like many first graders, I had my first experience with the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art on a class tour. Though many years ago, I have never forgotten that tour and the many experiences since.” Michael Ross, exhibitions director at The Studios of Key West comments, “I am happy and honored to take part in this particular exhibition because Laurel is the place where I was born and nurtured and protected by my elders and siblings. It is also true that the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art is the first art museum in which I ever set foot, as a twelve-year-old, on a field trip with my junior high school art class.”
FREE FAMILY ART

Wednesdays · May 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. · Museum Annex
2:00 p.m. · Story Time with the Laurel Public Library
Free

Join us each week for unique hands-on art activities inspired by our collection and exhibitions. No reservations are needed for this free make-and-take art program for families. And don’t miss story time with librarians from the Laurel and Jones County Public Library at 2:00 p.m.

DROP-IN DRAWING

Thursdays in June and July
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Free

Gaining inspiration from works of art in the LRMA collection, drop in and spend time sketching in the galleries. Join artist and LRMA Outreach Coordinator Kelly Rosa for a fun and informal directed drawing experience. Drawing prompts will change weekly. All supplies provided and all ages and experience levels are welcome.

ART ADVENTURES:
SUMMER ART CAMP

Monday – Thursday · July 10 – 13
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Session 1)
- or -
1:30 – 4:00 p.m. (Session 2)
Museum Annex
Entering 2nd through 6th grade
Instructor: Landon Bryant
$55 members / $70 non-members

Campers will discover a variety of new materials and create an exciting assortment of projects in this Art Adventures-themed camp. They will look to the works of notable artists for inspiration as they explore painting, drawing, ceramics and more. If your child wants to experience the wide world of arts and crafts, this is their class!

CLAY CREATIONS:
SUMMER POTTERY CAMP

Monday – Thursday, June 19 – 22
- or -
Monday – Thursday, June 26 – 29
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. · Carriage House Studio
Entering 2nd through 6th grade
Instructor: Jeremy Brooke of Bullfrog Pottery
$55 members / $70 non-members

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.
ADULT CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS
(advanced registration required)

WEEKNIGHT WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS

Thursday, June 1, Thursday, June 22
Friday, July 14, Friday, July 28
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. · Carriage House Studio
$25 members / $30 non-members

Looking for a creative night out? Join local artist Laura Jones as she guides a relaxed and fun painting experience. Everything you need to confidently create your own original work of art will be provided. No experience necessary.

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP
Past to Present:
Learning through Laurel’s History

Thursday, June 29
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Museum Annex

$30 (CEU credit available for additional $15 at workshop)

This workshop for educators will demonstrate how to creatively infuse Laurel’s dynamic local history across curriculum areas. Through guided Museum and historic district walking tours, participants will gain a better understanding of our city’s multifaceted history and founding families. Educators will also take part in hands-on lessons and interactive projects to bring this history to life in their classrooms. Participants of all skill levels are invited to learn the content and methods that make the process of teaching local history easy and fun!

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

INTRODUCTION TO STILL LIFE PAINTING

Friday, June 23
5:30 – 8:00 p.m. · Museum Annex Studio
$40 members / $50 non-members

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.

ADULT POTTERY: SLAB CONSTRUCTION

Wednesdays · July 5, 12, 18, 26 and August 9*
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. · Carriage House Studio
$100 members / $120 non-members

Join instructor Byron Myrick to learn the basics of handbuilding with clay. Emphasis will be placed on construction procedure, surface enrichment, and glazing techniques. Space is limited and registration is required.
*Class will not meet on August 2.

LRMA Education Programs are supported in part by The Essmueller Company Education Endowment Fund.
PROGRAMS & EVENTS

2023-24 Guild Officers are (l-r) Donna Husbands, Past President; Darlene Montgomery, Treasurer; Cindy Robidou, Secretary; Rosalind Jones, President; and Elizabeth Schaffenburg, Vice President

Docent of the Year Rosalind Jones and Volunteer of the Year Cindy Robidou

Annual Guild Membership Coffee

Tuesday, August 22
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Please encourage all potential members to attend and learn more about the Guild.

Contact Angie Jolly with names and addresses at 601.649.6374 or info@LRMA.org

LRMA Blues Bash

The Blue Monday Band performed at Blues Bash on June 9.

More than 400 guests enjoyed Blues Bash.

Generously sponsored by

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Centennial Week Celebration
April 29 - May 6

Charlie Mars Concert and Family Day

All centennial photos by Michael Underwood
Centennial Week Celebration
April 29 – May 6

Dedication Ceremony and Eastman-Gardiner Office Tour
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## Development

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:**
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays

**ADMISSION IS FREE:**
LRMA is supported by Memberships, Donations, The Eastern Memorial Foundation, Jones County, 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.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
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**(12/16/2022 through 4/15/2023)**

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*denotes increased memberships

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**(12/16/2022 through 4/15/2023)**

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- Mr. and Mrs. George Bassi
- Family Dental Center of Laurel
- Mr. and Mrs. Trey Hulsey
- Mr. and Mrs. Clay Johnson
- Dr. and Mrs. Peeler Lacey
- Dr. and Mrs. David Rice
- Mr. and Mrs. Steven Zugg
- Mr. and Mrs. Gene Mullow (Libby)
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- For: Mrs. Buddy Sauls (Barbara)
- From: Ms. Cindy Robidou and Claude Musicick

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- Masonite Corporation
- Roy Rogers Body Shop
- Ruth Camp Campbell Foundation
- Walley Properties
- West Quality Food Service
- Woodland Realty
- Estate of Mrs. John Zartman
Opportunities for Supporting LRMA

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 2023-24 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

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**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**

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  - *Harold Bedoukian and Janice Summers*  
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Art activities at the Spring Break Festival

Children at the Spring Break Festival

Tile Mosaic artist Carolyn Eliane of Chicago with LRMA Curator of Education Hillary Steinwinder at new community mural in Laurel

Laurel Magnet School for the Arts students seeing their Chihuly-inspired work on view in the Foil Gallery

Marva Posey and John Thomas at the Grambling State University Choir concert in March

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.