By now, many of you have seen the compelling cover of the June 2018 issue of National Geographic, a digital illustration by Mexican artist Jorge Gamboa titled Iceberg Plástico. The image shows a plastic bag that resembles an iceberg partially submerged in the ocean with just the tip breaking the surface. It serves as a metaphor (and dire warning) for our lack of awareness about the impact of plastic on our environment.

Artists are drawing worldwide attention to far reaching problems like this through “social practice.” According to ArtNews, social practice is “art that tends to display a strong sociological and political bent, often in an effort to draw attention to social ills and conditions… meant to incite empowerment or change in a community.” I know that activism is a word that has been shaded, even vilified, with negative connotations in our current social and political discourse; however, I feel strongly that artists and Museums (through the exhibition of art) have a duty to clearly, directly, vividly, and imaginatively express what has happened and what is happening in our world. Gamboa’s magazine cover does it, and so does each artist featured in our upcoming Four by Four: 2018 Midwest Invitational Exhibition. Each of the invited artists are investigating landscape, including personifications of the Earth and the effects of localized climate change, among other topics. I am proud that YOUR Art Museum continues to provide a platform for emerging artists to share their social practice through this exceptional biennial exhibit, which helped secure an Association of Midwest Museums Promising Leader Award for our Curator of Art, Sarah Buhr. Indeed, providing a platform to address relevant issues is nothing new to our Museum. For generations we have worked diligently to expand the consciousness of our community whether it be advocating for responsible city planning as Museum founder Deborah Weisel did, or through a commitment to developing a collection of diverse artists.

Continue to celebrate the Museum’s 90 years of service to our community by attending Decades: 90 Years of Collecting, our upcoming exhibition showcasing the breadth and depth of our incredible permanent collection. We will close out the year with even more art with social relevance, Contemporary Cuban Printmaking, a travelling exhibition from the Racela Educational & Charitable Foundation.

Enjoy our summer crowd-pleaser, Watercolor USA, through the end of August. A special thank you to the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates and the Watercolor USA Honor Society for their dedicated, ongoing support of this classic.
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NEXT
4X4: 2018 MIDWEST INVITATIONAL EXHIBITION
August 25 – November 18, 2018
Eldredge, Spratlen, Armstrong Galleries
Opening Reception: August 24, 5:30 PM

DECADES: 90 YEARS OF COLLECTING
Sept. 15, 2018 – Feb. 17, 2019
Weisel and Kelly Galleries
Opening Reception: Sept. 14, 5:30 PM
The 57th exhibition of Watercolor USA was juried by Kelly Kane, Editor-In-Chief of PleinAir Magazine and a leader in the art publishing world for more than 20 years, including a 13-year run as Editor-In-Chief of Watercolor Artist magazine. Kane’s selections are characterized by an abundance of traditional transparent watercolor and large-scale works; however, abstract works, portraiture, and even some unusual mounts are also included – it’s all on view in Watercolor USA 2018.

New York artist Kathleen S. Giles took home the top prize, the Kenneth M. Shuck Memorial $3,000 Award for her photorealistic entry Queen of Hearts. Giles is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, a member of the Watercolor USA Honor Society, the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society, and the Niagara Frontier Watercolor Society. She is a watercolor instructor at the Kenan Center in Lockport, New York and co-hosts a weekly cable

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Artist Talk – John Fitzgibbon
July 26, 5:30 PM
Weisel and Kelly Galleries

Artist Talk – Alicia Farris
August 16, 5:30 PM
Weisel and Kelly Galleries

Above: Melanie Norris Dulaney, Willesden, 2017, watercolor, gouache, and oil on canvas.
Left, top: Kathleen S. Giles, Queen of Hearts, 2017, Watercolor on paper.
Left, bottom: Susan Weintraub, MacDonald Avenue, 2017, watercolor and gouache on paper.
“I can’t say if large-format watercolors are a trend or if the number in this show is a coincidence, but they certainly make an impact. And, together with the quality of the work I saw entered for this year’s exhibition, they make me excited for the future of watermedia.” – Kelly Kane
saw entered for this year’s exhibition, they make me excited for the future of watermedia.”

Overall, 11 artists from Missouri are on display in this year’s exhibition including artists from Branson, Columbia, Kansas City, Springfield, and St. Louis among many others. Other states that are well represented include Illinois, Wisconsin, California, Florida, and Texas who all have large and active watercolor societies. This year, 32% of the total entrants to Watercolor USA were new to the exhibition, with 24% of the accepted artists being new. Curator of Art Sarah Buhr notes, “The exhibit continues to attract new artists and to reflect some of the best talent in the country – those who continue to inspire with their vision and skill, successfully harnessing the challenges of the medium to produce exemplary work.”

This year’s opening reception was generously hosted by the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates and was attended by over 290 patrons. The Watercolor USA Honor Society (WHS) donated ten additional $300 cash awards, the National Watercolor Society provided a $500 reciprocal award, and three merchandise awards were all selected by WHS members Karla Breeding Trammel and Jerry Ellis.

Continuing a tradition begun last year, the Museum has named its $1,500 cash award after Bill Armstrong, the noted regional watercolorist and jazz aficionado who passed away in August of 2016. Our sincere gratitude to SMMA, WHS, the National Watercolor Society, Savoir-Faire, Escoda Artist Brushes, Daniel Smith Watercolors, and Robert Goodier’s children Winslow and Elizabeth for making this exhibition and its generous awards possible. See all the award winners and more through August 26.

The Watercolor USA catalog, a complete record of this year’s show, is available for purchase in Avant Art for $15.
The biennial *Four by Four (4x4): Midwest Invitational Exhibition* recognizes contemporary artists who reside in the four-state region of Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Kansas. 4x4 opens with a reception and award ceremony on August 24 at 5:30 PM and will run through November 18 in the Eldredge, Spratlen, and Armstrong Galleries.

This iteration of 4x4 features bodies of work from Dawn Holder (Arkansas), Meghan Roswell (Missouri), Shawn Bitters (Kansas), and Jason Cytacki (Oklahoma). These artists present four unique investigations into the character of the Midwestern/near-Western landscape, personifications of Earth’s geologic structures, and examination of the unsettling and disturbing signs of localized climate change. These interactions span media including textiles, printmaking, ceramics, and painting.

A juror of awards is selected on a rotating basis from one of the four states and is tasked with awarding a $3,000 prize to one artist for their body of work. This prize is intended to propel the artist’s studio practice by providing funds for equipment, study, travel, or other needs. The 2018 juror is Jennifer Scanlan, the Curatorial and Exhibitions Director at Oklahoma Contemporary in Oklahoma City.

Approximately 8,250 patrons visited 4x4 in 2014, in 2016 that number grew to 13,000 patrons. The Museum has acquired work from both shows to our permanent collection. 4x4 celebrates the artists’ handiwork and talent, but also attempts to place their work within the larger context of contemporary art. This exhibit contends that there is value in considering our Midwestern artists, how they represent our home, explore our personal and universal concerns, and connect us to a larger world. A substantial catalog will be available for purchase in Avant Art for $15.

**PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

**Opening Reception and Award Ceremony**
August 24, 5:30 – 7 PM
Museum Lobby

**FREE Family Day**
September 15, 10 AM – Noon
Museum Galleries

**Artist Panel**
November 18, 2 PM, Community Room
Get ready to celebrate the Museum’s 90th Anniversary in a big way with an in-depth focus exhibit on one of our most important teaching tools, our permanent collection. Decades: 90 Years of Collecting opens with a birthday party reception on September 14 at 5:30 PM and will run through February 17, 2019 in the Weisel and Kelly Galleries.

This special exhibition traces the history and growth of the Museum’s collection - beginning with the initial acquisition of a landscape painting by Philadelphia artist Mary Butler in 1928. The exhibit features 90 incredibly diverse objects – ten per decade – while examining the history, shifting trends, priorities, and variety of our permanent collection. A wide range of objects will be exhibited including paintings, prints, photography, ceramics, textiles, jewelry/metalwork, furniture, historical objects, and many others.

Visitors to our semi-permanent rotating installation of our permanent collection, Creating An American Identity, know that our collection numbers close to 10,000 items, with an emphasis on American art from the 18th century onward. Decades provides an opportune spotlight for those items that don’t always fit within that overarching narrative. As such, viewers will see objects from the cultures of Burma, China, Egypt, India, Japan, Mexico, the Near East, Papua New Guinea; and from the Kuna, Mapuche, Makah Tribe, and Zuni peoples.

COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT
TOM BARNETT, A JUNE DAY

From Sarah Buhr, Curator of Art

Many of our visitors are aware that the first work acquired by the Museum was Mary Butler’s painting, *The King, Isterdalen, Norway*. In fact, the first two Museum accessions are paintings by Butler, but few know that these two works were acquired almost simultaneously with a third painting by St. Louis-based artist Tom Barnett.

Barnett’s painting, *A June Day*, was included in a February 1928 exhibition mounted by the newly formed Springfield Art Museum in rooms at the Wilhoit Building. The exhibit featured work by members of the St. Louis Artists’ Guild. Shortly after the exhibit opened, local patron Everett Coffelt published a plea in the newspaper pledging $5 towards purchase of the work so that it could stay in Springfield. He noted that he wasn’t “highbrow – but simply a fellow who had rather fallen in love with an appealing picture.” This launched a concerted marketing effort by Museum founder Deborah Weisel seeking public support for the purchase.

At the close of the exhibit, the Museum had received over 30 pledges ranging from $1 to $25, and with a deduction in cost offered by the artist himself, the Museum was able to purchase the work. The *Springfield News & Leader* noted that the painting was appealing “not only for its artistic excellence, but because it so vividly portrays a scene both familiar and dear to all small boys – and small boys grown up.”

The purchase of this painting, by popular subscription, was touted as the Museum’s first acquisition towards the building of a permanent collection. The painting was exhibited in public schools throughout Springfield so that Springfield’s youth could view an original work of art. It is no surprise that this painting captured the hearts of the people of the Ozarks in 1928, as it likely still will today, as it speaks quite clearly to this region’s deep and abiding love of the outdoors. *A June Day* will be featured in *Decades: 90 Years of Collecting.*
We are pleased to announce the acquisition of Emily Wood’s watercolor on textile, *Reason: Pepper* to the Museum’s permanent collection. This moving work is currently on display in *Watercolor USA 2018*. The piece is part of a series Wood titled, *Working*, that explores how, why, and for what, or whom people work.

The artist asks individuals for used work shirts and why they work. In this case, it is for the individual’s daughter, Pepper. Wood notes, “I love the way the watercolor responds to the various fabrics and the challenge of figuring out how to make it work... while also embracing the accidents and imperfections.”

*Reason: Pepper* integrates two focus areas of the Museum’s Collection Plan: Contemporary American Watermedia, especially those works that showcase innovative use of the medium or unexpected mounts, and Art of the Midwest. Museum patrons may recognize Wood as the artist who represented Arkansas in the *4x4: 2014 Midwest Invitational Exhibition*. This acquisition marks the third 4x4 artist to be added to the Museum’s permanent collection.

This piece also bridges the Museum’s watermedia collection with its sizable collection of textiles, selections from which were most recently on display in the 2016 special exhibition, *String Theory: Textiles from the Permanent Collection*. Thank you to the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates for making this purchase possible with funds from their sponsorship of *Watercolor USA 2018*.

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*The artist asks individuals for used work shirts and why they work. In this case, it is for the individual’s daughter, Pepper.*

Emily Wood, *Reason: Pepper*, 2018, watercolor and pencil on cotton dress shirt. Museum Purchase Award from *Watercolor USA 2018* with funds provided by the Southwest Missouri Museum Associates © Emily Wood
Public art belongs to everyone. It contributes in small but significant ways to the life of a community, particularly when community members participate in its creation.
Each of these projects is a one-of-a-kind collaboration. A multi-layered image of the Statue of Liberty greets West Plains High School students on their way to class. The poems of 140 Buffalo 7th graders weave in and out of an undulating wave-like structure lining the hallway above their lockers. A giant agamograph mural at Willard Middle School contains 425 positive messages and affirmations to encourage students they move through their day. Each time Humansville Elementary students enter their cafeteria, they’ll pass beneath a tree-shaped mural that they helped construct. Every student at Highlandville Elementary contributed a ceramic piece to an outdoor mosaic which is that community’s first piece of public art.

Teaching artist Lillian Fitzpatrick says, “I want people to know that we can work with whatever is available and figure out a project for just about any space or schedule.” Rural schools interested in activating a space in their building or community by creating a mural (or other public art) can apply for a 2018-19 teaching artist residency, at no cost to their district, on our website: sgfmuseum.org.
Over 1,600 patrons visited the Museum on April 27, 28, and 29 for the Museum’s first annual Art In Bloom. This special event featured 31 arrangements created by local floral designers inspired by works on view throughout our galleries. Our opening night Preview Party was attended by over 300 guests who were treated to fantastic food and drink from Queen City Wine Dive and Table 21. Patrons also enjoyed live music from ALBERTI and a bespoke floral fashion show created by Jennifer Vaughn and Joseph Pyatt of the Fashion Designers Society and Wenonah Marlin, AIFD.

Our sold-out Floral Arranging Workshop was led by Kim Hardin of Mears Floral Products, who generously donated all the supplies that participants needed to create paige-style arrangements inspired by Monet’s Water Lilies. The well attended Mixed Media Workshop was led by Teaching Artist Cory Leick. Participants created their own heavily layered works of art with scrapbook botanical papers, sheet music, paint, and more.

Proceeds from Art In Bloom’s Preview Party and Floral Arranging and Mixed Media Workshops benefit the Museum’s Art Acquisition Fund. This first-year event raised over $21,000. Congratulations to the Art In Bloom Prize Winners: Audry McMannis, Schaffitzel’s Flowers - $1,000 Best In Show; Ron Johnson, The Thicket - $500 Best Traditional Arrangement; Pat Phillips AIFD, The Flower Merchant LTD - $500 Best Creative Arrangement. Prizes were juried by Sarah Buhr, Curator of Art – Springfield Art Museum; Lisa Bakerink, Executive Director – Friends of the Garden; and Heather Kane, Creative Director – 417 Magazine.

Thank you to all the participating floral designers, sponsors, planning committee members, and volunteers, particularly those from Art Mosaic One, that helped make this inaugural event a great success. Mark your calendars for April 25 – 28 for Art In Bloom 2019!
Proceeds from Art In Bloom’s Preview Party and Floral Arranging and Mixed Media Workshops benefit the Museum’s Art Acquisition Fund. This first-year event raised over $21,000.

Above: Ron Johnson, The Thicket. Inspired by Asher Durand’s Autumn Landscape.
Right: Audry McMannis, Schafftzl’s Flowers. Inspired by Alison Saar’s Black Bottom Blues.

Over 1,600 patrons visited the Museum on April 27, 28, and 29 for the Museum’s first Art In Bloom.
Summer greetings! A very productive year has concluded with many success stories. Our Fall Fashion Show 2017 raised over $12,000 and other fundraising efforts exceeded our expectations! Many thanks to our art groups and enthusiastic members who work hard all year long to tirelessly support SMMA. This year was a first-time effort for a new fundraiser, Thomas Hart Benton’s Birthday Bash. Thanks to Gary Ellison, Missouri’s Official Ragtime Piano Player, who provided entertainment and a look back at Benton’s artwork and the music that influenced his paintings. Hors d’oeuvres, wine, birthday cake, and a whiskey toast to Thomas Hart Benton completed the evening. Generous sponsors and ticket sales raised $16,000. Stay tuned for next April’s birthday bash: Saturday Night at Tom Benton’s!

Due to the generosity of SMMA members and the community, our endowment fund has grown by over $17,000 this year, bringing the total to over $100,000. This is the halfway point of our goal for this fund to provide transportation in perpetuity for all area 5th graders to take a trip to the museum yearly. As the founders of the Museum, we have been providing this transportation for 70 years.

Officers for 2018-19 include Janet Ellison, Pres., Susan Daniel, V.P., Margie Barbato, Sec., and Carol Pyles, Treas. Serving on the Board of Trustees this coming year are Margie Barbato, Doris Bowman, Genny Cramer, Susan Daniel, Sheri Duncan, Janet Ellison, Judy Everett, Gloria Eskew, Jo Ann Krueger, Sandra Lowther, Marian Mattlage, Joan Menchetti, Ruth Penaherrera-Norton, Linda Peacock, Angela Pierce, Pat Pike, Carol Pyles, Karen Sweeney, Judy Vanderbilt, Freda Wood, and Joyce Wright. Many thanks to this dedicated group for their continued service. Be gearing up for Chrysanthemums! Pre-paid orders are due by Sept. 7 for delivery Sept. 17. Call the SMMA office to place an order or request an order form. Holiday baking won’t be complete without fresh pecans! The usual mammoth halves, pieces, milk or dark chocolate covered, caramel clusters, or cinnamon glazed will be available again this year. Orders due by Oct. 1.

Plans are underway for the Fall Fashion Show 2018! Mark your calendars for Tues., Nov. 6th at the White River Conference Center. A luncheon, entertainment, fashion show, silent auction, and raffle will be a fun afternoon!

SMMA is proud of this year’s accomplishments. Over $11,000 was donated to the Springfield Art Museum, Watercolor USA, 5th grade transportation to the Museum, Art in Bloom, and the acquisition of Emily Wood’s watercolor on a shirt titled Reason: Pepper.

If you are interested in joining an art group, forming a new group, or becoming a supporting member of SMMA, please call our office at (417) 874-2869 to find out how you can be a part of this exciting organization. Follow our link on the Museum’s website sgfmuseum.org, and like us on Facebook!

SMMA Announcements 2nd Quarter 2018

Donations & Speaker Gifts: Amateur d’Art, Art Nouveau, Artisans, Cameo, Creative Crafts, Décor Feminique, Marshfield Art Group, Masterpieces, Renaissance, Theatre Appreciation


Board of Trustees Meetings: August 22, 2018; September 26, 2018; October 24, 2018
On May 31, FOSAM and our friends at the Studio 55 Fine Arts Guild hosted an ArtTalk with Hing Wah Hatch. Despite a severe weather advisory, 45 guests attended *Applied Chinese Brush Strokes*, where Hing Wah spoke about her extensive art experience and then demonstrated her expert brush stroke techniques. This was such a popular program topic that Hing Wah hosted three follow-up technique workshops at the Museum on June 7.

FOSAM was also pleased to host Steve the Painting Pig at Fantastic Friday on June 29. Fantastic Friday was the second Watercolor USA-themed collaboration with the Springfield-Greene County Library District. Fantastic Fridays draw around 300 kids and caregivers to the Museum to interact with the artwork and activities, many of whom end up enjoying the Family Art Lab, the hands-on, free play space sponsored by FOSAM. We were happy to be a part of the fun this year, with Steve creating paintings with his talented snout on the Museum’s grounds.

Mark your calendars for the next FOSAM and Studio 55 Fine Arts Guild ArtTalk featuring Jane Troup on October 4 at 6:30 PM. Jane is a renowned local artist with international appeal whose work is included in the Museum’s permanent collection. You don’t want to miss this ArtTalk, where she will invite us into her world and the scenes she is noted for. Her work, *The Black Panther*, was recently on view in *Creating an American Identity*, and will be featured in *Decades: 90 Years of Collecting*.

Do frequent our website www.artmuseumfriends-spfd.org to see upcoming events, and we will see you at the Museum!
Please join us for the annual 99x (Times) Party as we transform YOUR Art Museum into a fantastical fairground of living art tableaux and magical performances - from the hottest local artists, tastemakers, and trendsetters - all inspired by classic American circus acts and attractions.

Since its inception in 2014, the 99x Party has raised over $42,000 in support of the Museum’s Conservation and Preservation Fund. 99x is the Museum’s signature fundraising event blending spirits, music, art, fashion, food, and frivolity. The name is funny, but the concept is simple. Hosted on an annual basis, this event helps preserve our collection for the next 100 years, so that it can continue to delight and educate audiences for generations to come. At the core of 99x, is a belief that this event is not just another fundraiser, but rather a unique experience that is intimately tied to our collection and our mission of community engagement and education through art objects.

Ben Messick, Elephants and Peanuts, ca. 1965, oil on canvas. Collection of the Springfield Art Museum. Gift of Mr. & Mrs. Ben (Velma Hay) Messick © Estate of Ben Messick

Saturday, September 29, 2018
Springfield Art Museum
6 – 7 PM Sponsor Hour
7 – 9 PM General Admission

General Tickets
$35 (on sale August 24); $45 at the door
Sponsorships begin at $100

(417) 837-2859 | sgfmuseum.org | #99xCirque

PRESENTED BY
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This year’s event raises funds to restore works in our collection by noted Regionalist Ben Messick. Originally from Strafford, Messick earned his fame in Los Angeles as a sketch artist for Disney and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, and as a painter of urban American scenes. His circus drawings, paintings, and lithographs - particularly his clown studies - became his trademark work.

Join the revelry at this three-ring ritz that you won’t want to miss! Creative cocktail attire encouraged.
1 Million Cups
Every Wednesday, 8:30-10 AM
Complimentary coffee and networking at 8:30 AM. Presentations from local entrepreneurs and innovators at 9 AM. 1mcsfg.com for more info.

Tai Chi with Dee Ogilvy
Every Friday, 9-10 AM
Learn Yang style Tai Chi in the contemplative environment of the Museum. Great for adults of any age and physical fitness level. Requires no special equipment. Beginners are welcome.

Men’s Chorus of the Ozarks: A Song For The Unsung
July 1, 2 PM
Auditorium

Enamed Pendant Workshop
July 14, 12 - 2 PM adults only; 3 -5 PM 12 years old and up
$25, all materials included
sgfmuseum.org/161/Art-Classes-Workshops for details and registration.

Watercolor USA Public Programs
Artist Talk: John Fitzgibbon
July 26, 5:30 PM
Museum Galleries

Artist Talk: Alicia Farris
August 16, 5:30 PM
Museum Galleries

Exhibition Closes
August 26, All Day

Credit Unions For Community Kids Day
July 21, 10 AM - Noon
Join the Credit Unions For Community for a FREE Family Day style event featuring fun for children and their caregivers. Please RSVP to Jason Dill at jdl@gcucommunity.com or (417) 851-1408 by July 17.

Springfield Ballet Senior Summer Intensive Showcase
Ballet, jazz, and modern dance performances. Free and open to the public.
August 3, 7 PM
Auditorium

Frolic Of The Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O’Neill Closes
August 5, All Day

Four by Four: 2018 Midwest Invitational Exhibition Public Programs
Opening Reception
August 24, 5:30 PM
Museum Lobby

FREE Family Day
September 15, 10 AM
Noon Museum Galleries

Decades: 90 Years of Collecting Opening Reception
September 14, 5:30 PM
Museum Lobby

Fall Art Classes Begin
September 18, All Day
sgfmuseum.org/161/Art-Classes-Workshops for details/to register

99x: Cirque Americana
September 29, 6 – 7 PM Sponsor Hour; 7 – 9 PM
General Admission $35 Tickets on sale August 24; Sponsorships available now (417) 874-2859 or sgfmuseum.org

FOR MORE INFO ON EVENTS, JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST OR VISIT: sgfmuseum.org
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COMING SOON

Contemporary Cuban Printmaking
December 8 – March 17, 2019

Call 417-837-5700 to schedule tours, receive information on exhibits and classes, or visit us on our website at www.sgfmuseum.org

ADMISSION IS ALWAYS FREE!

Monday: Closed
Tuesday & Wednesday: 10AM - 6PM
Thursday: 10AM - 8PM
Friday & Saturday: 10AM - 6PM
Sunday: 1PM - 5PM

We are closed on city and National Holidays

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