Happy New Year and Happy 90th Anniversary to YOUR Art Museum! In 1928, our founder Deborah Weisel and the members of her Art Study Club officially incorporated as the Springfield Art Museum. These extremely dedicated and civically minded women pioneered the legacy we are celebrating throughout 2018.

I often note the foresight of Weisel, who wrote about the importance of advocating for a strong arts community to develop the local economy in her 1929 thesis for Columbia University. Indeed, the recent Arts & Economic Prosperity Study 5 showed that the total economic impact of the arts and culture sector in Springfield was a whopping $26.9 Million and supported 1,065 full-time equivalent jobs. Prescient financial forecasting aside, these women defied social expectations of women at the time and their perceived social roles by serving as the primary organizers, administrators, and fundraisers for the organization for the first 19 years of its existence, before deeding the Museum to the City of Springfield in 1947.

I look forward to this spring's focus exhibition on another woman who defied the social constraints of her era. Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O’Neill traces the prolific career of artist, illustrator, author, poet, and inventor Rose O’Neill. This exhibit will feature 150 pieces in all media from public and private collections across the country, and represents over four years of research. A fully illustrated catalogue with several guest essays will bring new scholarship to the topic. In the fall, we will present Decades: 90 Years of Collecting, highlighting objects and trends from the Museum’s entire history of art collecting.

With 90 years to reflect on, we are careful not to indulge only in nostalgia and introspection. The Museum has launched a Master Planning process to re-envision the building and grounds for the next 90 years of service to our community. As we move through this process, I hope to hear from you about how the Museum can best continue and expand our growing impact and legacy. We hope you will picture yourself at the Springfield Art Museum in 2018 and help us conceive the museum of future generations.

MISSION Founded in 1928, the Springfield Art Museum invites you to connect with the world, your community, and yourself through active engagement with art objects.
**CREATING AN AMERICAN IDENTITY**

Only a small fraction of our collection is on view at one time. In addition to hosting special exhibitions pulled from our collection, our curatorial staff rotates works in Creating an American Identity quarterly to help ensure that the public gets to enjoy more of what we have acquired over the years.

New works by Thomas Hart Benton, Alison Saar, Walasse Ting, Neal Ambrose-Smith, R.B. Kitaj, Michael Mazur, Jacqueline Bishop, and Artus Van Briggle have rotated into the semi-permanent exhibition of our permanent collection, Creating an American Identity.

*Taint* by Alison Saar, among other works featured in Creating an American Identity, helps bring recognition to the celebration of National African American History Month in February. Saar’s work explores themes of the African cultural diaspora and spirituality. Patrons who love interconnectedness will note that Jacqueline Bishop’s *Sonatina* was printed by Neal Ambrose-Smith and Karsten Creightney – also in our collection – at Hand Graphics in Santa Fe. Hand Graphics is the most comprehensive, privately owned printmaking atelier in the Southwest. Michael Mazur’s mixed media collage *Untitled #31* provides a nice counterpoint to his *Climbing Among Mountains*, already on view in Creating an American Identity. Both pieces were inspired by Mazur’s trips to China.

The Museum has been collecting works of art for 90 years and we have 10,000 items in our collection. As such, only a small fraction of our collection is on view at one time. In addition to hosting special exhibitions pulled from our collection, our curatorial staff rotates works in Creating an American Identity quarterly to help ensure that the public gets to enjoy more of what we have acquired over the years. Rotating works of art on and off display not only helps preserve the art, particularly works on paper, it also helps keep our collection of American art from the 18th century onward, fresh and relevant to our patrons.

As part of our continuing practice, fresh rotations feature new exhibit labels with larger font text and portraits of the artists. Additionally, as new works rotate into the galleries, their digital records are added to our online collection. We now have over 500 entries available for perusal and research on our website. Missing a favorite piece that has gone off view? Visit sfgmuseum.org/129/browse-the-collection.

**ART IN OUR CITY**

On March 24, new work will rotate into Avant Art, our flexible social gallery that combines exhibitions, retail, and limited beverage and snack service. The Art In Our City special exhibition highlights local artists and the character of Springfield's unique neighborhoods. The second six-month rotation of this exhibit features nine artists from four neighborhoods located in City Council Zone 2.

Congratulations to Vivian Boswell, Nancy Doman, Nadine Ellman, Liz Ford-Coates, Catherine Long, Josh Mitchell, Rae Ann Rockwell, Kimberly Salsman, and Evan Wright who live or create in the Bingham, Delaware, Oak Grove, and Rountree neighborhoods. These artists’ works range from painting, to low-relief mixed media sculpture, to textiles, and highlight the adage that “Creativity Lives Here.” Their work will show through October 14, when the exhibit will rotate to feature seven new artists from four different neighborhoods in City Council Zone 3.

Stay tuned for the announcement of those artist’s names and their artful locations. When you visit Avant Art, make sure to try the Springfield Art Museum blend of brewed coffee from Copper Canyon, enjoy a sweet treat from Anita’s Biscotti, and pick up some Museum merchandise, including Chihuly notecards, totes, and umbrellas.
Every March, in celebration of Youth Art Month, the Museum invites student artists from across our community, in Kindergarten through twelfth grades, to exhibit outstanding artwork in the All School Exhibition. This highly anticipated show has been a staple of our exhibition schedule for decades. In fact, we recently found mention of the show in an archived annual report from 1952, making this show the Museum’s longest ongoing exhibition initiative, outdating even Watercolor USA.

Divided into three sections representing Elementary, Middle School, and High School, the exhibit is one of the Museum’s most popular shows of the year. In 2017, the exhibit brought over 14,000 patrons to the Museum to view over 400 works of local art. Following the All School Exhibition, MFA candidates from Missouri State University take over the Weisel and Kelly Galleries to present their MFA Student Showcase (May 4 – 20). These two shows present a unique snapshot of the continuum of work being produced in educational settings throughout Springfield – from Kindergarten to Higher Education.

As the art teachers who work with these students know, art is a powerful educational tool. In addition to creativity and self-expression, the arts teach problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and collaboration. Artwork created by children and teenagers is often relegated to education wings or hallways when it is displayed in museums. By showcasing student work in one of our primary gallery spaces, the Museum seeks to highlight the importance of arts education and honor the accomplishments of young artists.

The All School Exhibition also reflects the work of the incredibly talented teachers in our community, many of whom are practicing artists themselves. Faculty members from public, private, and parochial schools select artwork for exhibition, and a dedicated team of teachers and students from Springfield Public Schools installs the art in the galleries. Enjoy this year’s exhibit March 3 through April 29.

**PUBLIC EVENTS**

Middle/High School Opening Reception:
March 2, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Elementary School Opening Reception:
March 4, 2 – 4 PM

FREE Family Day: April 7, 10 AM – Noon
Imagine that you are in charge of a child’s first visit to an art museum. You have a little more than an hour for the visit. What is the best use of that time? What experiences do you want that child to walk away with?

These questions loom large as we plan tours for school groups, since many students are coming to the Museum for the first time. Our docents and teaching artists do not work from a script or a tour plan. Rather, they consider their own strategies for making meaning out of art, and then they share these personal strategies—along with the particular works of art that inspire them—with visiting students.

During a typical tour, students spend time rotating between 3 or 4 educators, interacting with multiple works of art and experiencing different ways of seeing. Below, three educators share their approaches to working with students in the galleries. We hope that students leave with museum understanding that there are many ways to enjoy art... and anxious to make a return trip!

“The students and I wanted to figure out new ways to experience and interact with paintings since sometimes people may not know exactly how to engage with a work of art. After all, we get a map, and not instructions, when we enter a museum. The first thing we did was to stop thinking about the painting as an object on a wall. It was now a window that looked out into another world. We could climb out that window and actually stand there and experience what it would be like to exist in that world. What sensations would you feel? Would the painting continue on forever? What happens when that river turns the corner? What I love about working these tours is how much we can give to the students, and how much they can give back to us. A child’s eyes are open in a different way than those of adults, and every day I get a chance to see the art in the museum through so many different and pure eyes. The students leave with a new way to look at the art, and so do I. And I love that it makes both of us smile.”

— Will Knauer

“I would ask students if they felt that fashion, cooking, or storytelling were forms of creativity. Students were asked to confront the purpose and function of art by deciding if a vase was a sculpture, or if an assemblage had a function. No matter what was said, I asked the students to justify their thoughts. I tried to show students that art is a form of communication, with each individual’s experience providing a unique outlook.”

— Brian Fickett

“The museum is one of my happy places; a place of quiet solitude, of carnival-style excitement, of wonder, of awe, of travel to strange and exotic places, of anger, of righteous indignation, of joy, of laughter, of tears, of puzzlement, of fire-breathing dragons, and of circus clowns, of anything and anywhere my imagination takes me on a given day. Every visit to the Museum is the beginning of a different adventure. Each piece of art, whether it is a painting, a sculpture, a ceramic, or any of the other myriad art forms, takes me someplace new, provokes an emotion, asks a probing or difficult question, or challenges me with different perspectives and novel ideas. I want the students to be so excited about the Museum that they can’t help but come back.”

— Todd Robitsch
We are pleased to announce the acquisition of three decorative arts objects to the Museum’s permanent collection, Dragonfly Vase by Artus Van Briggle, Compote by Johann Loetz, and Vase by Leon Appelbaum. These acquisitions are part of a larger group of gifts of art to the Museum by an anonymous longtime supporter and art collector. We are deeply grateful for these generous donations that expand our collection of extensive ceramics and further contextualize our small collection of studio glass works, which currently includes works by Dale Chihuly, James Sheldon Carey, and James Byron; as well as our small collection of Art Nouveau decorative arts, which currently includes representative work by Louis Comfort Tiffany and Lalique. These works add new compositional forms, provide additional historical details, and expand our narrative abilities. You can view Van Briggle’s Dragonfly Vase in our Creating an American Identity exhibition.

Sonatina depicts the multifaceted relationships that exist between flora, fauna, and humans. Various black renderings of birds, barren trees, butterflies, and mice, among other creatures, are overlaid on a collage of paper clippings. Nineteenth-century fashion plates, stamps, and musical scores are interwoven with articles culled from Brazilian newspapers. The title of the work implies a possible interpretation—that the artist equates our complex relationship with the earth with the varied complexity of a sonatina. A sonatina is defined as a short musical composition. However, the term is versatile and has been applied to both simple, as well as complex musical compositions.

Of Sonatina, Bishop says that the work, “presents the idea that culture comes from the landscape evolving from natural and manmade alterations. The watercolors on collage are made with Mississippi River water, literally using the landscape to address landscape issues.”

Bishop was born in Long Beach, California but grew up in Kansas City. She received her BA in painting from the University of New Orleans and an MFA in painting from Tulane University. She has lived in New Orleans for the last twenty years and has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. This work will be on view in Creating an American Identity through May 2018.

Jacqueline Bishop works in a wide range of media to address climate politics, species extinctions, and the impact of overpopulation. Her research into these issues derives from two decades of first-hand explorations through the Amazon rainforest, as well as her own lived experiences surviving Hurricane Katrina and documenting the British Petroleum oil spill.

These works add new compositional forms, provide additional historical details, and expand our narrative abilities.
Did you know that the Museum offers guided tours free of charge? In 2017, we hosted almost 7,000 patrons on educational or private social tours. Tours are available for groups of all kinds and all ages. Tours generally last 45 minutes to an hour and can be customized to fit the needs and interests of your group – from education to enrichment. We would love to explore the collection with you!

Our interactive tours may include observation, discussion, making connections, thinking critically, creative writing or drawing prompts, responding to art through movement or drama, collaborative group work, independent exploration of the galleries, and more. Tour experiences can be designed to support a wide range of subjects, interest levels, curricular goals, or special needs.

Our exhibition calendar for 2018 includes the following incredible offerings:

Deadline to apply: March 6, 2018

The 57th annual juried exhibition of the very best in contemporary American watermedia is scheduled for June – August 2018. This exhibition is open to artists from all 50 states and US territories and will be judged by Kelly Kane, former Editor of Watercolor Artist Magazine.

Organized in 1962, this nationally known exhibit seeks to discover what is new and what is next in the world of American watermedia. High Realism, Abstraction, Traditional Transparent Watercolor, and innovative uses of the medium are all welcomed as the exhibit continues to expand and adjust with contemporary artistic practice, including the use of nontraditional supports and mounts.

All artists (age 18+) using watermedia as critical components in their work can enter. Artists whose work pushes the boundaries of traditional aqueous media are encouraged to enter.

Approximately $20,000 in cash and Museum purchase awards are available. Support for the Watercolor USA 2018 opening is provided by SMMA with additional cash awards generously provided by the Watercolor USA Honor Society. Please visit sgfmuseum.org or call (417) 837-5700 for full information on entry rules and how to submit your work.

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In addition, you can tour our permanently installed exhibits year-round: Creating an American Identity; Selections from our Asian Art collection, Anne Lindberg: tilted sky, and Dale Chihuly’s Autumn Persian and Feather Chandelier. To ensure availability, we ask that you please schedule your tour a month in advance. Contact the Education Department at kbaird@springfieldmo.gov or (417) 874-2861 for more information, or to schedule your tour today.

Wonder Rooms: Ozark Collections through February 11
All School Exhibition March 3 – April 29
Art In Our City – Zone 1 through March 18
Art in Our City – Zone 2 March 24 – October 14
The Structured Landscape through March 25
Grant Wood: Lithographs through March 25
Richard Tuttle: Lines and Edges through March 25
Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O’Neill April 14 – August 5
MFA Student Showcase May 4 – May 20
Watercolor USA 2018 June 2 – August 26
4x4: 2018 Midwest Invitational August 25 – November 18
Decades: 90 Years of Collecting September 15 – February 17, 2019
Art In Our City – Zone 3 October 20 – March 17, 2019
Contemporary Cuban Printmaking December 8 – March 17, 2019
On September 30, 2017 over 430 guests joined us for the third 99 Times Party, our signature fundraising event blending spirits, music, fashion, food, and frivolity. This year’s event took its inspiration from noted Luminist painter John Frederick Kensett’s Shore Landscape, Newport, in the Museum’s collection since 1949. 99x: Gilded Coast Glamour raised over $21,000 for our Collection Preservation & Conservation Fund. The Museum is deeply indebted to the 99x Planning Committee, chaired by Jennifer Kennally and Justin Petersburg, for putting together this unique event featuring 10 living art tableaus and 10 seascape murals inspired by the historic interiors and facades of Newport’s Gilded Age mansions.

Thank you to our 12 event stylists, 10 muralists, 62 sponsors, two entertainers, five catering/beverage providers, and all those who attended. The creativity and originality in the installations, artwork, and cocktail attire truly have created a new “gold” standard for special events in Springfield. A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor Esterly, Schneider & Associates, Inc for their leadership and generosity. For a full list of sponsors and participants, please visit the event website sgfmuseum.org/206/99x-Gilded-Coast-Glamour.

Anticipate Kensett’s restored painting to rotate into our Creating an American Identity exhibition when it returns from conservators. Make sure to look for the five works conserved with funds from 99x: Bohemian Belle – the 2016 99 Times Party – on view beginning in April in Frolic of the Mind: The Illustrious Life of Rose O’Neill and save the date for the next 99 Times Party, Sept. 29, 2018.

In December 2017, the Springfield Regional Arts Council awarded the Museum a $1,500 Arts and Culture Category 2 Grant through the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. These competitive grants are intended to support the goals of the Springfield Cultural Plan and the issues identified in the Community Focus Report for Springfield-Greene County, such as audience development, sustainable funding, and capacity building. The Museum was one of 15 grantees in the current grant cycle. Our sincere thanks to the SRAC, CFO, Arts and Culture fund donors, and the grant selection committee for making this opportunity possible.

The funding will be used to launch a chamber music concert series, including four performances over the course of the year. Karen Burmood, a member of Museum support group Art Mosaic One and the musical talent recruiter for our 2017 Give Ozarks “Get Amped!” Concert, brought the idea for the chamber music series to the Museum based on her love of similar concerts at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. The series will be produced with input from Burmood, and in collaboration with chamber musicians Michael Murray from Missouri State University and Allison Steiner from Drury University.

Due to this generous grant funding, concerts will be free and open to the public. Stay tuned for the announcement of concert dates and themes, which will be developed in conjunction with the art on view in our galleries throughout our 90th Anniversary year.

Our sincere thanks to the SRAC, CFO, Arts and Culture fund donors, and the grant selection committee for making this opportunity possible.
Welcome 2018! Reflecting on 2017, SMMA can be proud of its many successes. Mums and pecan sales exceeded expectations, and the Fall Fashion Show was spectacular! Many thanks to Sonya Wise, Bucky Bowman, Mike Carlie, Linda Conrad, Judy Everett, Jan Harris, Betty Shelton, Brenda Stiles, and Kirk Elmquist who worked tirelessly for 5 years, bringing in over $60,000. Also, thanks to Annie and Ernie Pierce who have so generously donated their Perdido Beach condo for the raffle. The large number of volunteers making this a success is too long to list.

As we look ahead to 2018, the geranium sale will be kicking off in February and March with delivery in April. Geraniums are the official goodbye to winter and hello to spring!

Mark your calendars!
Thomas Hart Benton’s Birthday Bash
Friday, April 20, 2018, 6:30 - 8:30 PM
Springfield Art Museum
$40 per ticket
Heavy Hors D’oeuvre, wine, entertainment, birthday cake and a toast to Thomas Hart Benton

Join SMMA for a foot stompin’, rollickin’ good time as Missouri’s Official Ragtime Piano Player, Gary Ellison performs Thomas Hart Benton’s Greatest Hits! Hear the stories and songs that inspired many of Benton’s paintings that you will see presented on the big screen in the Museum’s auditorium.

The year 2017 has grown to an end and FOSAM had a successful year hosting several well attended ArtTalks in collaboration with our friends at the Studio 55 Fine Arts Guild. Many thanks to Sandra Letson, who organized our 2017 ArtTalks. David Bigelow taught us to “Unblock and Unleash” our creativity; Evan Wright’s “Letters in Abstract” showed us the history and future of contemporary graffiti; and United Nations Ambassador Ibiyinka Olufemi Alao showcased his “My Fireflies” story through paintings, film, music, and theatrical performance. These ArtTalks brought 300 patrons to the Museum throughout the course of the year!

SMMA’s commitment to children continues with transportation to the Museum for over 5,000 fifth graders in the Greater Springfield area. In addition, we financially support Placeworks, an outreach program to children in 30 neighboring school districts.

Join SMMA if you share this vision! Call (417) 874-2869 for details. Visit our website at artmuseumassociates.org, follow the link on the Museum’s website sgfmuseum.org, and like us on Facebook!

Donations & Speaker Gifts: Cabool, Creative Crafts, Décor Feminique, Marshfield, John & Sonya Wise, Annie & Ernie Pierce

Memorials & Honorariums: Creative Crafts in memory of Debbie Wood & Mary Lou Miller

SMMA Announcements 1st Quarter 2018

Board of Trustees Meetings: January 24, 2018; February 28, 2018; March 28, 2018 followed by the Honors and Extension Luncheon
Twin Oaks Country Club, 11:30 AM
Make reservations though the SMMA office 417-874-2869

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I think the most popular part of several of the ArtTalks was the workshop component, where participants were encouraged to create artworks of their own with materials that were provided at no charge to the attendees. We look forward to scheduling more of these ArtTalks & Workshops in 2018. We hope that the many new members that we added in 2017 will join us at these fun educational and social events.

Speaking of members, I’m pleased to report that membership dues were used to continue supporting the Museum’s Family Art Lab in 2017 with a $2,000 sponsorship from FOSAM. Museum Educator Kate Baird used those funds at her discretion to purchase new kid-friendly furniture pieces, replenish art supplies and activities, add costumes to the selfie station, and replace worn materials – including the much-loved life-sized building blocks. Kate has requested additional funds to purchase kid-sized easels for the space and classroom use, and the Board of Friends will address this request depending on the cost.

Do frequent our website www.artmuseumfriends-spfd.org to see upcoming events. We are looking forward to the New Year at FOSAM and the Museum.
The Museum and Art Mosaic One invite you to join us for our newest signature event, Art In Bloom, a celebration of fine art and fantastic floral displays. This three-day festival on April 27, 28, and 29 will feature floral designers from throughout the region who will imaginatively interpret works of art on view in the Museum’s galleries. Began at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts in 1976, Art In Bloom is an exciting event replicated in museums across the country.

Every spring, Art In Bloom transforms institutions into vibrant, verdant venues and recognizes the artistic efforts of floral designers through juried prizes and awards. Our Art In Bloom event will include prize categories for featured florists, an incredible opening night soiree — with complimentary beverages, small bites, live music, and a nature-inspired runway show — floral arranging workshops, still life painting activities, and more. Proceeds from Art in Bloom will benefit the Museum’s Art Acquisition Fund.

Recent acquisitions like Anne Lindberg’s tilted sky and Dale Chihuly’s Autumn Persian and Feather Chandelier have helped energize attention and increase patronage. These high-profile acquisitions are utilized as teaching tools for over 58,000 patrons who visit the Museum annually. None of this would be possible without a robust Art Acquisition Fund. Supporting our Museum’s ability to attract new audiences through procuring art is essential to the continued health and growth of the organization.

Visit our event website: sgfmuseum.org/229/Art-In-Bloom for a full schedule of activities and ticket prices. We hope to see you at Art in Bloom!

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COMING SOON

FROLIC OF THE MIND

THE ILLUSTRIOUS LIFE OF ROSE O’NEIL

APRIL 14–AUGUST 5, 2018

City of Springfield Art Museum
1111 East Brookside Dr.
Springfield, MO 65807-1899
return service requested

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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