Springfield ART Museum

Newsletter
April May June 2017

Revamp the Amp
May 9 #GetAmped
A recent opinion piece by Karen Stohr in The New York Times lamented the dangerous growth of a dehumanizing “culture of contempt,” exemplified by the recent 2016 election cycle. While contemptuous political rhetoric is not new, she notes “What is new is the extent to which contempt has managed to slither into our daily experience.” Fueled by social media outlets, reductive internet memes, and confrontational signs, flags, and clothing, emerging widespread public contempt threatens to pull apart the foundation for basic relationships and civic communities – the idea that every human being has a right to be treated with respect. As a father to a young child, I have become acquainted with a number of superheroes recently. I was shocked to discover ‘empathy’ listed among many heroes’ fantastical powers. When did the ability to understand and share the emotions of others become a trait relegated to the super men and wonder women of the world? Our Museum Educator, Kate Baird and our corps of Teaching Artists have been grappling with how museums can engage visitors in conversations about all the things we are having such a hard time talking about — race, class, history, identity, values, and loss. On the Museum Questions blog, retweeted by both the National Endowment for the Arts and the Center for the Future of Museums, Kate points out that an examination of Roger Shimomura’s Kansas Samurai can elicit responses from a group like “evil,” “angry,” and “bad guy.” However, after sharing some context (Shimomura’s Japanese descent; his family’s imprisonment in the Minidoka internment camp during WWII), words like “unfair,” “injustice,” “sorrow,” “trapped,” and “abandoned” arise. With some direction, a conversation about a portrait can become a conversation about how we treat one another, and how to make sense of the past. By discussing our experiences, ideas, opinions, and feelings in relation to art, and considering the experiences, ideas, opinions, and feelings of others more generously, more openly, and less defensively, we can all cultivate more empathy and combat rising levels of contempt in our society – how superheroic!
We are pleased to announce the acquisition of a sculpture by renowned glass artist Dale Chihuly titled *Autumn Persian and Feather Chandelier*, which will be on permanent display in our Lobby. This acquisition was made possible by the estate of Elizabeth Burgess. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Burgess family for their generosity. This impressive piece will be the first work of art that visitors will encounter upon entering the Museum, and we hope it will serve to further elevate the cultural and artistic profile of our community, serve as a point of public pride, and most importantly serve as a fitting tribute to Elizabeth Burgess’ memory and her legacy of philanthropy. Before the chandelier can be unveiled, the Lobby will undergo renovation and structural reinforcement to accommodate the piece. Renovations to the Lobby are made possible in part through Hotel/Motel Tax reallocation funds. Anticipate the installation of this exquisite work of art in fall of 2017.

Dale Chihuly, *Autumn Persian and Feather Chandelier* © Copyright Chihuly Studio, 2017. All rights reserved.
In December of 2016, the Jeanette L. Musgrave Foundation awarded the Museum a $1,000 grant to provide free exploratory, open studio art-making sessions designed for kids ages 3 to 5 and their caregivers. Running in 4 week sessions, kids and adults gather at the Museum on Friday mornings at 10:30 AM to experiment with a variety of media, materials, tools, and techniques.

Pre-K art classes like these help support school readiness in our youngest artists by encouraging sensory exploration, discovery, fine-motor skill development, and by building creativity and art-making skills. According to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), process-focused art experiences are critical in assisting Pre-K level children build social and emotional awareness, grasp language and literacy concepts, cognitive abilities, and physical skills needed to be successful in a school environment. Through working in the arts, children express emotions, explain choices, compare and contrast images, and utilize fine-motor skills. Arts experiences also help build confidence because the experiences are based on the process of creating art, not the product, so there are no “wrong” choices.

Due to the generosity of the Musgrave Foundation, these sessions are free to attend, but space is limited so pre-registration is required. The final sessions of Pre-K Make Your Mark! will be held on April 7, 14 and May 5, 12, 19 and 26. Register today at sgfmuseum.org!

“Arts experiences also help build confidence because the experiences are based on the process of creating art, not the product, so there are no ‘wrong’ choices.”
In May, the Museum, in collaboration with Missouri State University (MSU), will present a two week showcase exhibit of current work produced by MSU’s Master of Fine Arts students. This exhibit, tentatively titled MFA Showcase, opens on May 5 at 5:30 PM and runs through May 21. Featuring the program’s eleven graduate students, the exhibit will present work in all media, curated by the students themselves. The MFA in Visual Studies is specifically designed to be flexible with the students’ individual interests and encourages interdisciplinary and cross-media approaches. The Museum’s Curatorial Staff will provide guidance throughout the coordination and installation of the work as a further learning opportunity for the students. This exhibit will be located in the Weisel and Kelly Galleries, one of the Museum’s largest exhibition spaces. The Weisel Gallery is named for Museum Founder, Deborah Weisel who was the Head of the Fine Art Department of State Teachers College, as MSU was known in the 1920s when she took up the post. We are so excited to be collaborating with MSU’s Graduate Program to provide this showcase, but also, as a natural extension of the Museum’s long-standing All School Exhibition, to continue to promote and exhibit the incredible student talent in this region. Combined, these two exhibitions now provide a visual look at student work from kindergarten through graduate school. We look forward to making this collaboration an annual event!
Due to the incredible generosity of donors to the Museum’s 2016 Give Ozarks project #SaveTheFrenchFries, our community raised over $17,000 to benefit the restoration of John Henry’s iconic Sun Target II, as well as several other sculptures on the Museum’s grounds by St. Louis sculptor Ernest Trova. The Museum experienced an outpouring of public support and goodwill for this initiative, which placed us in the top 20 organizations in terms of dollars raised, and number of individual donors out of the 220 organizations that participated. We also won the top prize for Best Marketing Campaign and have been invited to serve as a model organization to train newcomers to the event in 2017.

Art Mosaic One, a Museum volunteer support group is helping plan the Museum’s 2017 project seeking $20,000 to Revamp the Amp. Our outdoor amphitheater was constructed in 1936 as a part of the Work Progress Administration (WPA). Adorned by the columns that used to flank the entrance to the Colonial Hotel on Route 66 (formerly located at Jefferson & St. Louis), this historic outdoor performance space is a treasured part of the Phelps Grove Neighborhood, and the larger Springfield community.

However, the last repair work the amphitheater received was in 1989. Now after almost 30 years of weathering, wear and tear, and public use, much of the failing
concrete needs to be replaced. In addition, the amphitheater needs greater accessibility to performers who are differently-abled, safety handrails, outdoor lighting and sound equipment, and commemorative signage. These upgrades will not only highlight and honor this landmark’s history, but will increase its usefulness to our community.

Groups like the Actors Theatre of Missouri utilize this space to produce free Shakespeare performances during the summer and the Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association uses the space for their “Phelps Helps” Concert Series. The amphitheater is also a popular wedding and photography venue, serving as the site for Steven Spencer’s “A Great Day in Springfield,” bringing together over 200 local musicians to create an homage to the historic photograph of NYC jazz musicians entitled “A Great Day in Harlem.”

With that in mind, we invite you to #GetAmped with us and plan to make a donation on Give Ozarks Day on May 9, 2017. Your gift, large or small, will help us ensure that our amphitheater continues to serve a vital arts enrichment role in our community. After all, the spaces we provide for local artists to showcase their talents is important. Help us raise awareness by snapping a selfie at the amphitheater, or sharing your photos and memories on social media with our hashtag #GetAmped. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @sgfmuseum.
American Impressionism
The Lure of the Artist’s Colony
April 8-July 2, 2017

Organized by the Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania

Free Public Programs
Slow Art Day
April 8, 4 PM
Eldredge, Spratlen, Armstrong
Galleries

Curator’s Talk: American Impressionism in the Springfield Art Museum’s Collection
Sarah Buhr, Curator of Art, Springfield Art Museum
April 20, 5:30 PM
Musgrave Wing Galleries

Free Family Day
April 22, 10 AM – Noon
Community Room and Galleries

Curator’s Talk: American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists’ Colony
Scott A. Schweigert, Curator of Art and Civilization, Reading Public Museum.
May 25, 5:30 PM
Eldredge, Spratlen, Armstrong Galleries

Financial assistance for this exhibition has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency.
“These lyrical landscapes, ranging from snow-covered hills to sun-filled harbors and seascapes, penetrating portraits, and remarkable still life paintings explore a wide range of approaches, including an abiding interest in capturing the effects of light and atmosphere in loosely brushed compositions.” - Scott Schwiegert, Reading Public Museum

American Impressionism was inspired by the tonal and stylistic effects of French Impressionism, but was uniquely linked with the changing face of America as it moved from an agrarian to an industrialized urban society at the turn of the century. Led by artists such as William Merritt Chase, Mary Cassatt, and John Singer Sargent, many of whom were expatriates or had traveled extensively throughout Europe, American Impressionism was fueled by both the excitement of the changing American landscape and a nostalgia for the past. Its growth as an art movement in America was significantly impacted by the growth and development of artist colonies spread mostly throughout the Northeastern United States.

This exhibit features 75 oil paintings and 30 works on paper dating to the golden age of American Impressionism, the 1880s through the 1940s. Arranged by those artists’ colonies that played a critical role in the development of the style, the exhibit examines work produced in Cos Cob and Old Lyme, Connecticut; Cape Cod, Cape Anne and Rockport, in Massachusetts; New Hope and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Taos, New Mexico, among others. Within these colonies, artists were able to teach, collaborate, and experiment with their work.

An accompanying catalog will be available for sale for $25.

Robert Lewis Reid, Summer Breezes, c. 1910-1920, oil on canvas, 25 x 30 inches, Museum Purchase, Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania.

Guy Carleton Wiggins, Gloucester at Twilight, 1916, oil on canvas, 12 x 16 inches, Gift, George D. Horst, Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania.

Frank Weston Benson, On Grand River, c. 1930, oil on canvas, 36 x 44 inches, Museum Purchase, Reading Public Museum, Reading, Pennsylvania.
In 1899, Ranger founded the Old Lyme Art Colony in Old Lyme, Connecticut, inviting a bevy of artists to travel outside of the city to paint, socialize, and enjoy nature. These artists were fairly united in their use of limited, moody colors, and therefore referred to as Tonalists. Ranger was an imposing but friendly figure at the colony, noted for the constant cigar on his lips and his staunch opinions on everything from painting to ping-pong. About his own work, Ranger once said, “I would like to get into my pictures of this region a little of the love I feel for those who made it. As for me, a landscape to be paintable must be humanized.”

Henry Ward Ranger was a landscape painter born in 1858 in New York. He first worked in his father’s commercial photography studio before teaching himself to paint in watercolors. Ranger was inspired by the work of French Barbizon painters Jean-François Millet and Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot, finding common ground in their melancholy and moody landscapes. These artists embraced the idea of painting en plein air, or out-of-doors, citing the direct experience with nature as integral towards projecting a truthful expression of the landscape.

American Landscape was painted in 1899, the same year the Colony was founded, and likely depicts the coastal area near Old Lyme. The presence of tiny figures along the shore was intentional, conveying a human aspect to the landscape through their interaction with nature. Although Ranger never considered himself an Impressionist, his palette did brighten in response to the style. The Old Lyme Colony became an incredibly important site for later American Impressionists as reflected in the current special exhibition, *American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists’ Colony*, now on view.
Many of the artists in *American Impressionism: The Lure of the Artists’ Colony and Creating An American Identity* were inspired by places. You and your child can follow them to all sorts of unexpected destinations without ever leaving the Museum. Find one of these paintings in our galleries:

Take a little time to look at the painting to imagine what it would be like to find yourself inside it: What is the weather like? What sounds do you hear? Are you wearing the right clothes? Which part of the painting would you want to explore - or get out of - first? What will you do while you’re there? How do you feel about being there?

Wish You Were Here Activity: To extend this activity, all you need are some large index cards and a pencil (Remember, pencils only in the galleries please). Kids can take a large index card and turn it into a postcard. On one side, sketch the painting. On the other, write a message to a friend or family member describing their trip inside the painting. Younger kids can tell you what they want to say and you can do the writing and help them “mail” their postcards.

After you have explored one painting, look for another that offers a very different kind of trip. This is a fun approach to try with abstract paintings as well. Before you leave the Museum, stop by the Family Art Lab and color your postcard using the colored pencils or crayons located there. While you are there, check out these books in our Book Nook: *Imagine a World, Round Trip, A World of Your Own, and Bear’s Picture*. Bon Voyage!

“After you have explored one painting, look for another that offers a very different kind of trip. This is a fun approach to try with abstract paintings as well.”
The Springfield Art Museum is currently seeking accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SAM and SMMA will prove beneficial in the AAM accreditation process. Both groups have been striving to complete this document since 2014. As stated in the document, “this MOU provides an excellent opportunity for the Museum Board and SMMA to work cooperatively to improve Springfield and the quality of life for Springfield’s citizens and tourists.” On January 30, 2017, I signed the final MOU along with a 99 year office lease agreement for the premises that SMMA occupies in the Springfield Art Museum. We are celebrating the completion of this journey and look forward to focusing on the future.

In 1989, SMMA’s Museum Shop was opened in what was then, hardly more than a closet. In 2008, we opened the new and larger gift gallery in its present location. In a bittersweet decision, we will be turning the inventory and management of that Shop over to SAM on April 30, 2017. We realize that the Museum Shop needs full time management and it has become too difficult for us to staff with volunteers. SAM has graciously agreed to accommodate our request. We are excited to watch as they take the Museum Shop to the next level.

We are grateful to the dedicated SMMA members who have devoted so many of their hours to the Museum Shop fundraiser. If you are one of our valued shop volunteers and wish to continue this gratifying service, please call the SMMA office to let us know. In the coming year, we are hopeful you will help us in our future fundraising adventures.

May 1 is the beginning of our fiscal year and at that time we begin the process of collection of dues for the upcoming year. Please contact our Executive Secretary, Leslie Janzen, at 417-874-2869, to continue to support this time honored organization.

SMMA Announcements 2nd Quarter 2017


Memorials: Masterpieces in memory of Phyllis Chalender

Board of Trustees Meetings: April 26, 2017; Annual Meeting May 24, 2017
The governing board of the Friends of the Springfield Art Museum met in January and I am pleased to announce that we voted unanimously to continue our sponsorship of the Family Art Lab with a $2,000.00 gift to the Museum. We were pleased to meet with Museum Educator Kate Baird, who presented a number of exciting changes to the Family Art Lab that this gift will fund, including new furniture for adults and kids, and additional art stations with ties to the Museum’s collection. For example, a textile arts station that mimics Anne Lindberg’s installation tilted sky, a self-portrait station with mirrors, and a plein-air station with pint-sized easels. Look for these changes and more throughout the summer and fall. FOSAM is proud to continue sponsoring this hands-on, free-play space in the Museum enjoyed by “kids” of all ages!

In March, FOSAM and the Studio 55 Fine Arts Guild continued our successful “ArtTalks” collaboration, hosting local artist David Bigelow in the Museum’s Community Room. David held a workshop for over 60 patrons and helped us “Unblock & Unleash” our creativity. David displayed many of hisetchings and led the group in a demonstration of how to use drawing skills, regardless of skill or training-level, to tap into visual thinking strategies. David is known for using humor, clichés, and popular notions to influence his work and creative process. He brought his sense of humor to bear during the culminating activity of the evening, a group drawing that all the participants contributed to.

For more information about FOSAM and upcoming ArtTalks, please visit the FOSAM website http://artmuseumfriends-spfd.org. If you have a suggestion for an ArtTalk, please contact the ArtTalk Chair & FOSAM Vice President, Sandra Letson at sandragraves@mchsi.com. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at an upcoming event.
In mid-April, new works will rotate into our semi-permanent exhibition of our permanent collection, Creating an American Identity. Rotating works of art on and off of display not only helps preserve the art, particularly works on paper, but it helps keep our collection of American art from the 18th century onward, fresh and relevant to our patrons.

The Springfield Art Museum has been collecting works of art for almost 90 years and we have almost 10,000 items in our collection. As such, only a small fraction of our collection is on view at one time. Our curatorial staff rotates works on display in this exhibit quarterly to help ensure that the public gets to enjoy more of what we have acquired over the years. It also helps ensure that no two visits to the Museum will be exactly the same. After all, who doesn’t want to see more art?

Be on the look out for new works by Thomas Hart Benton, Jon Schueler, Aaron Bohrod, Mark Tobey, Joseph Konopka, Neil Taylor, Albert James Newbill, and James Bogle. Of particular note, work from well-known local outsider artist Robert E. Smith and sculptor Jacob Burmood will be on view. Also important on the heels of Women’s History Month, work from a diverse group of female artists including Anne Silber, Renée Stout, Nancy Morrow, Anna Hyatt Huntington, Barbara Hepworth, and Wendy Red Star will also go on view.

As part of our continuing practice, these works will 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 450 entries available for perusal and research on our website. Missing a favorite piece that has gone off of view? Find it online at www.sgfmuseum.org/129/browse-the-collection
SAVE THE DATE!

1 Million Cups Every Wednesday, 8:30-10 AM
Coffee, networking, and entertainment at 8:30 AM courtesy of Brick & Mortar Coffee and Spark Events. Presentations from local entrepreneurs and innovators at 9 AM. www.1mcsf.com for more info.

First Friday Art Walk Shuttle Fridays, April 7, May 5, June 2, 5:30 – 9 PM
Enjoy free shuttle service from the Museum to downtown Springfield’s First Friday Art Walk.

World Tai Chi Day Saturday, April 29, 9:30 – 11 AM Amphitheater
Explore the ancient art of Taijiquan with a variety of demonstrations and interactive Tai Chi and meditation classes. Free and open to the public. Bring your own blanket or yoga mat, water, or chair. In case of inclement weather the event will take place in the Community Room.

Give Ozarks 2017 Tuesday, May 9, All Day
#GetAmped for our fundraising project, Revamp the Amp, by participating in this 24 hour online fundraising event. Join us in the Amphitheater from 3 – 8 PM for special performances, food, and art activities. Free and open to the public. Donations encouraged and welcomed! giveozarks.org/2017/revamp-the-amp for more information.

Shakespeare at the Columns: Actors Theatre of Missouri, in association with Rice Theatricals and The Dangerous Playground, presents The Winter’s Tale, May 25, 26, 27 & June 1, 2, 3, 7:30 PM curtain Amphitheater
Shakespeare at the Columns is a quintessential Springfield summer event. This event is free and open to the public in the Museum’s historic outdoor amphitheater. Bring your own chair or blanket. In case of inclement weather the production will be moved into the Museum’s auditorium.

Fantastic Friday Friday, June 2, 10 AM – Noon
Color your world beautiful with the Springfield-Greene County Library at the Museum. Join us for a special family event featuring current exhibits, art-making, storytelling, and writing activities. Make sure you bring your library card, because the Mobile Library will be on site. Free and open to the public.

99x: Gilded Coast Glamour Saturday, September 30:
6 – 7 PM Sponsor Hour; 7 – 9 PM General Admission
Revel in a costumed evening of contemporary living art tableaus and illuminated murals inspired by Gilded Age Newport, Rhode Island. Enjoy spirits, music, food, fashion, and frivolity. Lustrous cocktail attire encouraged. Funds from 99x benefit the Museum’s Conservation & Preservation Fund. Sponsorship opportunities available, please contact Joshua Best, Development & Marketing Coordinator at jbest@springfieldmo.gov or (417) 837-5700.

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

WATERCOLOR USA

June 3 - August 27, 2017

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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