FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to 2022! Like you, the KMA begins the new year brimming with cautious hope as things begin to return to something resembling normal, and we tentatively resume in-person activities. December felt like old times. Alive After Five fired up again after a nearly two-year hiatus. Hundreds of (masked) teachers, students, and parents attended the opening of the East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition. If you were lucky enough to get a ticket to the KMA Guild’s sold-out Holiday Homes Tour, you could visit the featured houses in person. Art House gathered for live events. Given the ever-shifting public health situation, however, we’ll continue to require museum visitors, staff, and volunteers to wear masks for the time being.

We’re delighted to highlight in this edition of Canvas the exceptional contributions of Mary Hale Corkran. Mary and her late husband Blair created an extraordinary collection of American and European contemporary glass, from which she has made many generous gifts. You can see several of them in Facets of Modern and Contemporary Glass, a permanent exhibition that complements and provides context for Richard Jolley’s glass-and-steel Cycle of Life. Speaking of which, if you missed the December 10 premiere on PBS of the new episode of Craft in America featuring Richard’s masterwork and the musical composition it inspired, you can access the streaming version here. You don’t want to miss the world premiere of the Cycle of Life concerto at the Tennessee Theatre with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra on April 21 and 22.

Although East Tennessee is the KMA’s primary focus, we want to keep in sight the global landscape in which we operate. Thanks to the generosity of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, we have a great opportunity to look outward this winter with Global Asias: Contemporary Asian and Asian American Art from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation. While the KMA has hosted important exhibitions by individual Asian artists over the years, Global Asias presents a broad picture of the impact of Asian and Asian Americans artists on worldwide developments. We’re grateful to have Jordan Schnitzer here on February 16 to share insights about his superlative collection. Look for more information about this and other programs connected to the exhibition at knoxart.org/events/.

In April, we join forces with a sister institution, the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga, to look at the global contemporary art scene through a different lens, with a selection of significant contemporary women artists from our collections. By way of exchange, we’ll be sending to Chattanooga works by Knoxville-born luminary Beauford Delaney. You can enjoy Delaney and other artists connected to our region any time in Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee, always on view in the upper-floor galleries. An expanded version of this flagship permanent exhibition is slated to open in the entry-level galleries in late 2023; you’ll be hearing more about this important and exciting project as it takes shape.

We are grateful to each of you for your ongoing support of the KMA, and look forward to seeing you in person soon (even if we’re still in masks).

David Butler, Executive Director

COVER IMAGE:
Hung Liu, American, b. China (1948-2021), Red Flower Rain, 2017, Mixed media on panel, Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer

The Knoxville Museum of Art celebrates East Tennessee’s rich, diverse visual culture and its connections to the wider currents of world art.
The KMA collection has grown rapidly in recent years, thanks in large part to gifts from private collectors. One collector who stands out for her generous and sustained giving is Washington, D.C.-based Mary Hale Corkran. A native of East Tennessee, Corkran and her parents, Mary Lee Nance Hale and Julius David Hale, were long-time residents of Jefferson City. Mary and her late husband Blair became avid collectors of international studio glass in the early 1980s. Blair, who worked for the U.S. Securities Exchange Commission, was also a board member of the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass. The couple only purchased works they could both agree on, and went out of their way to get to know the makers. They would often visit studios in order to understand each artist’s ideas and working methods and found that the experience added a rewarding personal element to their collection.

Corkran became reacquainted with the KMA in 2014 during the festivities surrounding the unveiling of Richard Jolley’s monumental Cycle of Life installation. Jolley and wife Tommie Rush introduced Corkran to members of the KMA family and “the rest is history,” as KMA curator Stephen Wicks explains. Since then, Corkran has gifted dozens of works to the KMA, particularly in the area of contemporary glass, and has contributed funds toward the purchase of many others. Her most recent gift included six sculptures from the extensive collection she and Blair built over the years. Some works have already been featured in recent KMA exhibitions such as Undercurrents: Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Art, and others will be shown in days ahead in Facets of Modern and Contemporary Glass, a permanent exhibition devoted to the KMA’s growing contemporary glass collection.

The KMA is extremely grateful to Mary Corkran for her legacy of generosity, and for agreeing to an interview with Stephen Wicks that highlights her adventures in collecting and in supporting the development of the museum’s collection.

Although you’ve lived in Washington D.C. for years, you have strong ties to our area. Can you tell us a bit about your family roots here in East Tennessee and your early interest in art?

I grew up in Jefferson City. My childhood was filled with the joys of a small town, the beauty of Cherokee Lake and the Smokies, and glimpses of life in a larger city provided by Knoxville. I had many family members who lived and worked in Knoxville, and I visited them often. There was no art museum in Knoxville then, and later I saw the joys that museums can provide. My roots are in East Tennessee. My father died in 2003 at the age of 101. I visited him frequently. I have watched the KMA from its infancy. I would swing by the museum on my way to or from the airport on my trips home to see my father. I began my teaching career in Richmond, Virginia and took advantage of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the colonial architecture provided by Williamsburg and homes like Wilton, Tuckahoe, and Monticello. While living in Richmond I made my first two of many trips to Europe. Art and architecture were the main focuses of these trips. I was exposed to major works of sculpture, architecture, and painting. Later in my travels, garden design became a focus.

How did you and your husband Blair start your journey as collectors, and why did you choose to focus on contemporary glass? What were some of your more memorable collecting adventures?

I was living in Washington, D.C. when I met my husband. Among many other wonderful things, marrying Blair provided me with a travel buddy. When we married, he collected stamps and coins, and I had a few Indian baskets that included my prize, a double woven one with lid by Eva Wolfe. I was also interested in Kang Chi blue and white porcelain that I could not afford. Neither of us were enamored by the other’s collections. Then in 1982, the Corning Museum of Glass’s New Glass Revue came to the Renwick Gallery.

Pavel Hlava (Semily, Bohemia 1924-2003 Prague) Untitled, 1974 Blown and assembled glass 9 x 12 x 4 1/2 inches
We were hooked. Contemporary art glass became the focus of our collecting and our travels. At first, we collected only hot glass sculptures made by American artists. Then we added cast glass works and those by foreign artists. We met every artist whose work we owned either in galleries or in their studios.

What personal connections with artists represented in your collection have had the greatest effect on your view of their work?

Travel is a reward, but visiting artists and art venues is extra special. I have so many fun memories. Early in our collecting we visited the artists near Penland, North Carolina. Harvey Littleton’s studio was off the parkway, and we asked a park ranger if he could give us directions. The ranger was just amazed that “Good Ole Harv” was a nationally and even internationally known artist. He just kept shaking his head and saying, “Harv, Good Ole Harv!” On that same trip we visited Mark Peiser, who was preparing for an exhibition at Habatat Gallery in Southfield, Michigan. We were offered a work called Pine Trees for $5000.00. It was amazing, but just way over our budget. We were new, naive collectors and should have found the funds for the work. When you traveled with Habatat Gallery and an artist had a limited number of works for sale, each couple who was interested in the work threw a credit card in the basket. If your card was pulled out, you got the piece. When the group visited Stanislav Libensky, we were told that the artist was recovering from a chemo treatment and would not be able to see us. However, he bounced out of his home, popped on the bus and rode with us to the studio. There were three pieces for sale. We were interested in the orange work that was auctioned last. Blair threw his credit card into the bag, and we waited with bated breath. Blair’s card was pulled. We were good winners and only did a victory dance back in our hotel room.

Can you tell us a bit about your transition from collector to museum benefactor and the satisfaction you have derived from each of those phases?

Blair died after a brief illness in October 2010. I sold half of our collection as he directed because there was no space in my new condo for our entire collection. We gifted one large piece to the Corning Museum of Glass. I have been blessed to share my love of art with the KMA either by donating works from our collection, purchasing glass sculptures, or contributing funds for a garden sculpture or a painting.

All objects illustrated are 2020 gifts from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. M. Blair Corkran.
What are your thoughts on the KMA at this stage in its evolution? Do you have any particular things you would like to see happen with the KMA and its collections in the years ahead?

Living out of town has limited my involvement in the museum’s activities. However, I am especially gratified to have played a key role in the growth of the KMA’s contemporary glass collection. I enjoy the experience of seeing this collection in the ongoing display Facets of Modern and Contemporary Glass, and it is especially exciting to view Facets in such close proximity to Richard Jolley’s monumental glass and steel installation Cycle of Life. The experience of seeing this striking variety of interconnected approaches to the same medium gives visitors a true understanding of the possibilities for glass as a fine art material. I also admire the way the KMA displays its glass sculpture alongside contemporary paintings, prints, and works in other media so that it is not segregated as it is at many other museums. In the years ahead, I would be pleased to see a broader segment of East Tennessee’s community enthusiastically involved in supporting the KMA and its collections.

Dante Marioni (Mill Valley, California 1964; lives and works in Seattle)
**Black with Blue Pair**, 2008
Blown glass
35 x 18 x 6 inches (taller vessel)

Mark Peiser (Chicago 1938; lives and works in Penland, North Carolina)
**Landscape Vase**, 1971
Blown glass
10 1/2 x 8 x 8 inches

Mark Peiser (Chicago 1938; lives and works in Penland, North Carolina)
**Pine Trees with a Stream**, 1981
Blown glass
5 1/2 x 4 x 4 inches

Acquisitions rotate on and off view throughout the year. Check back frequently for new and exciting changes.
Global Asias: Contemporary Asian and Asian American Art
from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation
January 28-April 24, 2022

Drawn from the multifaceted collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation, Global Asias examines the cosmopolitan, playful and subtly subversive characteristics of contemporary Asian and Asian American art. The exhibition highlights the work of sixteen artists of Asian heritage who draw on a rich array of motifs, techniques, and cultural motivations to construct diverse “Asias” in a modern global context. Among the artists included are Kwang-Yun Chun, Dinh Q. Lê, Jun Kaneko, Hung Liu, Takashi Murakami, Do Ho Suh, and Barbara Takenaga.

Organized by the Palmer Museum of Art at Penn State University in conjunction with the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, the exhibition is divided into three thematic sections. “Exuberant Forms” features work that has the potential to reshape conventional views of abstract art—its composition, palette, materiality as well as its cultural implications, expanding and complicating the canonical narrative of abstraction. “Moving Stories” brings together powerful prints and mixed-media works that reflect on the experiences of migration, both within Asia and beyond. The artists in this section map their own diasporic trajectories, literally and metaphorically, and the art compels the viewer to respond to the shifting socio-political realities of time and place. “Asias Reinvented” highlights two- and three-dimensional works that transform styles and techniques of traditional Asian arts in alignment with the vibes of the contemporary and the cosmopolitan. Combined, the works in Global Asias suggest the plurality and fluidity of “Asia” as cultural construct and creative practice. The exhibition is guest curated by Chang Tan, Assistant Professor of Art History and Asian Studies at Penn State University.

Support for the exhibition and related educational and outreach programs has been made possible by a grant from the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation.

For a listing of Global Asias-related programs and events, please see pp. 14-15.
Dinh Q. Lê
Vietnamese American (b. 1968)
The Cross, 1997
Chromogenic print and linen tape
44 x 30 inches
Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer

Hiroki Morinoue
American (b. 1947)
Pure Water, 2001
Woodcut, edition 5/30
18 1/2 x 38 1/2 inches
Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer

Hung Liu
American, b. China (1948-2021)
Crossing the River: Chasing, 2003
Lithograph, edition 8/30
30 1/4 x 30 1/4 inches
Collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation

JOIN US FOR A VERY SPECIAL MEMBERS’ RECEPTION!
Wednesday, February, 16 • 5:30-7:30PM • Cash Bar
Gallery walk-through with Jordan D. Schnitzer starting at 6:30PM
**CURATOR’S GALLERY TALK ON GLOBAL ASIAS**

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**Dr. Chang Tan**

**Sunday, February 27**

**2-3PM**

Join Dr. Chang Tan, curator of *Global Asias: Contemporary Asian and Asian American Art from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation* for an in-gallery discussion. Space is limited, registration will be available on the event page at www.knoxart.org/events.

Chang Tan specializes in Chinese and East Asian art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Her research interests include global modernism and avant-gardism, public and socially engaged art, art and ecocriticism, and the history of collecting and exhibiting Asian and Asian American art in the U.S.. She has published in *Art Journal, World Art,* and *Third Text,* among others. Her upcoming monograph studies Chinese artists’ engagement with the marginalized sectors of the public. Her current research, supported by the Chiang-Ching Kuo Foundation and the Humanities Institute, studies early studio photographic practices in China and the Chinese diaspora. Dr. Tan is the Assistant Professor of Art History and Asian Studies at Penn State.

Registration at [www.knoxart.org/events](http://www.knoxart.org/events)

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**DINE & DISCOVER**

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**Mary Laube**

**Wednesday, February 23**

**12-1PM**

Join us for a lunchtime lecture with University of Tennessee School of Art Assistant Professor Mary Laube. Laube received her MFA in painting and drawing from the University of Iowa.

“Prompted by her own identity as a Korean-born American, she explores the hybrid nature of identity, cultural displacement, and diaspora through the representation and abstraction of Korean artifacts.”

To make a reservation and order a lunch please contact Delena Feliciano by February 18 at dfeliciano@knoxart.org or 865-934-2041.

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**Koichi Yamamoto**

**Wednesday, April 13**

**6-7PM**

Grab a cocktail and join the conversation with local artist Koichi Yamamoto at Cocktails & Conversation. Yamamoto is an exquisite printmaker using the simple process of intaglio with a range of values to create the illusion of unexpected forms. He takes his prints to another level as kites expressing that printmaking is the language and the kite is the chosen vehicle of expression. His talk “Static Dynamic Printmaking to Kite Flying” will bring these two avenues together for an informative discussion.

Yamamoto, a professor at the University of Tennessee School of Art, received his MFA from the University of Alberta. He teaches and exhibits his art internationally.

Registration at [www.knoxart.org/events](http://www.knoxart.org/events)
Global Asias Community Day

Saturday, March 19
11AM-3PM

The Global Asias Community Day is a celebration of Asian arts and culture in connection with the exhibition Global Asias: Contemporary Asian and Asian American Art from the Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation (January 24-April 24, 2022). This free event will feature workshops and performances by members of Knoxville's Asian community. Visitors of all ages will learn about the history of the Japanese tea ceremony, watch artist demonstrations, and participate in hands-on art making. The KMA would like to thank Asian Culture Center of Tennessee for their partnership on this event.

Registration at www.knoxart.org/events

KMA BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, March 29 • 6-8PM • 3rd floor

An Artist of the Floating World

by Kazuo Ishiguro

From the winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature and author of the Booker Prize–winning novel The Remains of the Day.

In the face of the misery in his homeland, the artist Masuji Ono was unwilling to devote his art solely to the celebration of physical beauty. Instead, he put his work in the service of the imperialist movement that led Japan into World War II.

Now, as the mature Ono struggles through the aftermath of that war, his memories of his youth and of the “floating world”—the nocturnal world of pleasure, entertainment, and drink—offer him both escape and redemption, even as they punish him for betraying his early promise. Indicted by society for its defeat and reviled for his past aesthetics, he relives the passage through his personal history that makes him both a hero and a coward but, above all, a human being.

Free and open to the public.
Contact Margo Clark at mclark@knoxart.org for more information.
Dr. Kellie Jones

Tuesday, March 15
6-8PM

The KMA is excited to welcome art historian and curator, Dr. Kellie Jones as the speaker for the 13th annual Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer Lecture.

This annual event celebrates the life of Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer and her passion for the visual arts and learning, and recognizes her many years of tireless, enthusiastic, and dedicated service to the Dulin Gallery of Art and the Knoxville Museum of Art. The fund established by Sarah’s family, friends, and others committed to the arts supports lectures by a prominent artist, art historian, art educator, or expert in a related field. We hope that all who attend will share in Sarah’s love for the arts and for the museum.

Dr. Kellie Jones is Chair of the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and Hans Hofmann Professor of Modern Art in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University. Her research interests include African American and African Diaspora artists, Latinx and Latin American Artists, and issues in contemporary art and museum theory. Dr. Jones has over three decades’ experience as a curator and is the author of two books *EyeMinded: Living and Writing Contemporary Art* (2011), and *South of Pico: African American Artists in Los Angeles in the 1960s and 1970s* (2017). Dr. Jones is the recipient of several awards including the MacArthur Fellows Program award in 2016.

Registration at [www.knoxart.org/events](http://www.knoxart.org/events)

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**ADULT PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP**

Thursdays, February 17 & February 24
10AM-4PM

The Knoxville Museum of Art is offering two one-day printmaking workshops that will introduce the aspiring adult artist to several printmaking methods, including linoleum relief prints, collagraphs with aluminum tape, monotypes, and transfers with Gelli plates. In addition, the workshop will include some bookmaking and collage. The workshop is offered in two parts to provide more practice. No experience is necessary, but a willingness to learn something new. Registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.

For more information, call 865.523.6349 or e-mail rmartin@knoxart.org.

Members $100/Non-members $150

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**IT'S ABOUT ME!! PRE-K WORKSHOP**

Tuesdays, April 5, 12, 19, & 26
10AM-12PM

Start preparing your child for school. This five-part art workshop is designed to engage and motivate 3- and 4-year-olds in hands-on creative avenues. Pre-K students and their parents will be introduced to the elements of art including line, shape, color, form, and texture. This workshop will stimulate your child’s imagination, increase their vocabulary, and improve motor skills, while offering a social environment to boost interpersonal skills as well as self-esteem.

To register please call 865.523.6349
The fee for each class is $15 or $60 for the series.
The KMA’s Second Sunday Art Activities are a great way to introduce your little ones to the wide world of creating art! Join us on YouTube for step-by-step arts and crafts with local art educators.

Creative Kids with Tatiana Tikhonova (AGE 3-4)
January 9 ............. PART 4: Styrofoam Prints
February 13 .......... PART 5: Collage Building with Stamping

Abstract Drawing with Donna Anderson (AGE 7-9)
March 13 ............. PART 1: Graphite Ground
April 10 ............... PART 2: Charcoal and Stencil Pattern

The Knoxville Museum of Art’s Summer Art Academy offers quality educational opportunities that will ignite your child’s imagination through drawing, painting, sculpture, and more!

Summer Art Academy will continue to offer classes and workshops for ages 5-17. Workshops will be held in the Bailey Hall, the Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer Education Center and the Martin Studio. Partial and full scholarships will continue to be offered first-come, first-served; as monies allows.

For more information email education@knoxart.org.

EDUCATION GALLERY - ELEMENTARY ART EXHIBITION

NOVEMBER-JANUARY
Fountain City Elementary

FEBRUARY-MARCH
Lonsdale Elementary and Sam E. Hill Primary

APRIL-MAY
Powell Elementary
Knoxville-born Beauford Delaney is widely considered to be among the greatest American modern painters of the twentieth century. Despite battling poverty, prejudice, and mental illness, Delaney achieved an international reputation for his portraits, scenes of city life, and free-form abstractions marked by intense colors, bold contours, and expressive surfaces.

Although closely identified with the color yellow, Delaney also loved red. Knowing this, his mother once made up his bed with a bright red spread whose color the artist later confessed excited him so much that it disturbed his sleep. In this unusually large abstraction, the artist creates a composition of great optical presence and depth by applying layers of alternating colors in lyrical interlocking patterns. Of Delaney’s early 1960s abstractions, close friend and fellow painter Paul Jenkins wrote, “The structure was there in each painting but one sensed more of a veil than a grid. It was as if he had cut hundreds of flowers and crushed them. Stems and all.”

Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901–1979 Paris)
Abstraction #12, 1963
Oil on canvas
51 1/2 x 38 1/2 inches
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2018 acquisition
Photograph by Bruce Cole
The Knoxville Museum of Art hosted the 23rd annual James L. Clayton Award luncheon in October to honor the generous and sustained support of the Watkins Family and to recognize museum members at the $1,000 Director’s Circle level and above.

The Watkins Family has been with the museum since the beginning—more than 30 years ago. Participating in annual giving, event sponsorship, acquiring key acquisitions, and the 25th Anniversary Capital Campaign, the Watkins’ have always led by example. Their company, Partners Development, led the restoration of the Clayton Building in 2014, as well as the installation of Richard Jolley’s monumental glass sculpture *Cycle of Life: Within the Power of Dreams and the Wonder of Infinity*.

The 2021 James L. Clayton Award Luncheon was sponsored by Ann and Steve Bailey, The LAMP Foundation, The Trust Company of Tennessee, and All Occasion Catering.

Photography by Sarah Kaplan

SUPPORT THE KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART WITH AN ARTS PLATE
The KMA Gift Shop has a variety of exciting and unique gifts for everyone. The best place to shop in Knoxville for beautiful work by local artists. Offerings change, so visit often!

KMA MEMBERS ALWAYS RECEIVE A DISCOUNT!

AWARDS RECEPTION & ART SALE
Knoxville Museum of Art
Saturday, April 23 • 5-9PM
To find out more, visit knoxart.org

Congratulations to The Guild of the KMA for another successful year of Holiday Homes Tour!

A special thank you to event co-chairs Stephanie Daniel and Barbara Apking, committee members, homeowners, and sponsors for their generosity and dedication supporting this vital museum fundraiser.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

REMBRANDT SPONSOR
THE KMA GIFT SHOP IS THE BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR FRIENDS & FAMILY!

Museum members always receive a discount

Visit knoxart.org for more details about events and programs.
## MARCH

1

**Education Gallery**  
Lonsdale Elementary and Sam E. Hill Primary  

3-6  

**KMA Closed to the Public**  

13  

**Second Sunday Art Activity**  
on Youtube  

15  

**Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer Lecture**  
6-8pm  

18  

**Global Asias Community Day**  
11am-3pm  

19  

**Alive After Five**  

29  

**KMA Book Club**  
“An Artist of the Floating World” by Kazuo Ishiguro  
6-8pm  

## APRIL

1  

**Education Gallery**  
Powell Elementary  

5, 12, 19 & 26  

**Alive After Five**  

8  

**Second Sunday Art Activity**  
on Youtube  

10  

**Cocktails & Conversation with Koichi Yamamoto**  
6-7pm  

13  

**Artists on Location - Art Show and Sale**  
5-9pm  

### THANKS FOR SPONSORING  
FREE ADMISSION

#### JANUARY  
Carton Service

#### FEBRUARY  
Emerson Automation Services

#### MARCH  
Regions Bank

#### APRIL  
The KMA Guild

## UPCOMING

**Women Artists: Highlights from the Hunter Museum of American Art and the KMA**  
April 22-July 24

Lesley Dill (b. 1950)  
Laminated fabric, hand-dyed cotton, paper, metal, silk, organza with cotton  
Hunter Museum of American Art, Gift of Lesley Dill, 2015