KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART



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CANVAS

KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART



FALL 2019 knoxart.org





The Guild

KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART



presents the

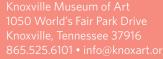
25TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR

Friday, December 13, 2019

More information at www.knoxart.org

Special thanks to presenting sponsor





FREE Admission

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Growing and developing the KMA's outdoor sculpture collection has long been an important strategic goal for the museum. Progress toward that goal has been slow, however. Sculptures by significant artists that are big enough and durable enough to be placed outside are, well, expensive to purchase and maintain. Also, for the past few years we have aggressively dedicated all available acquisition resources to building an unparalleled collection of works by Knoxville native Beauford Delaney, which because of special circumstances we had to do very quickly. As a result, the KMA is proud to own more works by Beauford Delaney than any other public institution in the world. Many of those recent acquisitions will make their debut in February 2020, when the museum opens its groundbreaking exhibition devoted to

the relationship between Delaney and his lifelong friend, writer and Civil Rights activist James Baldwin. It's a fascinating story that will focus the attention of the world on Knoxville.

The museum's outdoor sculpture collection got off to a great start fifteen years ago when friends of Alan Solomon, one of the "founding fathers" of the KMA, raised funds to commission in Dr. Solomon's honor a major sculpture by esteemed American artist Kenneth Snelson, which is still a highlight of the South Garden. When the grassy slope north of the museum (now the June and Rob Heller Garden) was completely rebuilt and reconfigured in 2014, the architects included a discrete area toward the street, articulated by a diagonal wall, to function as an outdoor gallery space. This dedicated sculpture area is already operating as intended, and we have placed in it objects we already own. But this is just a first step. The designation of this area, the Land Family Sculpture Garden, recognizes the generous support of Nancy and Stephen Land for the KMA's 25th Anniversary Campaign that made possible the creation of this space. Now the Lands have made another significant commitment, which has enabled us to commission an exquisitely beautiful new work by sculptor Karen LaMonte. On the cover of this issue of Canvas you can see the artist inspecting progress on the new sculpture in her workshop in the Czech Republic. The crate with the finished sculpture arrived at McGhee Tyson airport the first week in July; we plan to have it installed by late September.

Karen LaMonte will be a familiar name to the KMA family. Chado, LaMonte's life-size cast-glass kimono is a favorite of museum visitors. Mary Corkran, a contemporary glass collector in Washington, D.C., donated this spectacular sculpture in 2014, and it has been on view in Currents ever since. We are delighted and grateful that Nancy and Stephen Land have made it possible for us to commission another important work by the artist, this one for an outdoor exhibition space. The KMA's Nocturne 1 represents a new direction for the artist, who made her international reputation with monumental works in cast glass, a medium that obviously cannot not stand up to year-round exposure to the elements. Our new LaMonte sculpture is made of patinated cast iron, which can withstand the rigors of East Tennessee weather. We've introduced an interesting local element to the installation with a base of pink Tennessee marble fabricated by the Tennessee Marble Company in Friendsville, which operates the quarry that provided the original stone cladding for the Clayton Building.

We got another welcome boost to our campaign to populate the KMA's campus with significant outdoor works when New Jersey collectors Lynne and Charles Klatskin donated a monumental bronze, BA'AT, by New York artist Tobi Kahn, a work that, like LaMonte's, represents an innovative departure from the artist's usual practice. BAAT originated as the stylized figural element in a series of miniature shrines; ours is a rare example executed on a monumental scale. What a great addition to our fledgling but growing collection of outdoor sculpture! As this letter is being composed, in early July, we are still trying out (and arguing over) various potential locations for BA'AT.

A quick program note in closing: a major highlight of the season is the Holiday Homes Tour the second week of December. This wildly popular and wildly successful event, organized so beautifully by the KMA Guild, has marked the unofficial beginning of the holidays for twenty-five years. The KMA Guild has worked tirelessly and effectively on behalf of the museum since the early nineties, and we are looking forward to celebrating the silver anniversary of this iconic fundraiser.



Process shot of Karen LaMonte in her Prague Studio fabricating the cast iron sculpture Nocturne 1. (page 3)

The Knoxville Museum of Art celebrates the art and artists of East Tennessee, presents new art and new ideas, serves and educates a diverse community, enhances Knoxville's quality of life and economic development, and operates ethically, responsibly, and transparently as a public trust.

Whistler & Company The Etching Revival

August 23-November 10, 2019

he legacy of expatriate American artist James Abbott McNeill Whistler (Lowell, Massachusetts 1834-1903 London) was far-reaching, and his sphere of influence included early 20th-century East Tennessee. The Nicholson Art League, for instance, Knoxville's leading art group of the period, dedicated its entire December 1, 1911 program to Whistler. Led by noted impressionist Catherine Wiley, the gathering featured presentations including "Whistler's Influence on American Art," and Whistler, His Life and Work."

The exhibition Whistler & Company examines Whistler's influential role in the etching revival of the 19th and early 20th centuries. This revival took hold in France, England and the United States. Artists set out to reestablish etching—the art of incising lines with an etching needle into a thin copper plate which was then inked and pressed into paper with the help of a printing press to create impressions—as an art form that could stand on its own. Inspired by Rembrandt, and the old masters, practitioners

created remarkable original and expressive compositions that gained popularity with refined collectors and the broader public.

Whistler & Company includes nearly a dozen works by Whistler accompanied by more than 50 etchings by some of his most accomplished American and European contemporaries. Whistler's gritty images of the River Thames, views of Venice, and Parisian scenes are among works featured in the exhibition. Other artists who participated in the etching revival include Francis Seymour Haden, James McBey, Edwin Edwards, David Young Cameron, Muirhead Bone, Mortimer Menpes, Charles Meryon, Maxime Lalanne, Joseph Pennell, and Frank Duveneck, among others.

All of the works in the exhibition are drawn from the Reading Public Museum's permanent collection of works on paper, which numbers more than 10,000. Whistler & Company: The **Etching Revival is organized by the Reading** Public Museum, Reading Pennsylvania.









James Abbott McNeill Whistler (Lowell, Massachusetts 1834-1903 London), Rag Pickers, Quartier Mouffetard, Paris, 1858, Etching and drypoint Gift Kathryn M. Klingeman. Reading Public Museum, Reading, PA.

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The Guild KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART



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MEDIA SPONSORS INCLUDE

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

he KMA was fortunate to acquire several major works of contemporary art donated by collectors from across the country. Nancy and Stephen Land, of Knoxville, provided funds for the commissioning of an outdoor cast iron sculpture by noted artist Karen LaMonte (whose cast glass sculpture Chado entered the KMA collection in 2014 thanks to a generous gift from DC-based collector Mary Hale Corkran). New Jersey collectors Lynne & Charles Klatskin donated a monumental outdoor sculpture by New York multi-media artist Tobi Kahn. Stephen Hanson, a New York collector, contributed paintings by Daniel Pitin and Marin Majic, both of whom were represented in the KMA's 2011 exhibition After the Fall, which featured contemporary Eastern European painters exploring socio-political changes in their respective homelands. The KMA also acquired two works by artists with ties to East Tennessee: Creighton Michael and Hamlett Dobbins. Michael's KOAN 288, donated by New York collector Jerry Labowitz, represents the versatile artist's interest in exploring combinations of media and new ways of displaying art objects in space. Dobbins' painting *Untitled (for I.V./C.B.)*, donated by the artist and Memphis gallerist David Lusk, appears to be a spontaneous abstraction but in fact began as a computer composition that the artist transferred to canvas in a labor intensive process.



Hamlett Dobbins (Knoxville 1970; lives and works in Memphis)

Untitled (for I.V./C.B.), 2016

Acrylic on canvas

40 x 48 inches Knoxville Museum of Art, 2018 gift of the artist and David Lusk Gallery,

Memphis

Dobbins' inventive abstract paintings are often based on memories of specific productions.

Dobbins' inventive abstract paintings are often based on memories of specific individuals. He explores subtle variations in edge, color, pattern, density, and texture, and spatial relationships and their ability to produce certain emotional responses. After manipulating both drawn and photographic imagery on his computer, Dobbins then transfers the digital sketch onto the canvas grid by grid.



Karen LaMonte (New York 1967; lives and works in Prague, Czech Republic)

Nocturne 1, 2019

Cast iron, 2/3

60 x 26.5 x 19 inches (life-sized)

Knoxville Museum of Art, 2019 purchase with funds provided by Nancy and Stephen Land

Karen LaMonte investigates the elusive beauty of the female form in a variety of materials including glass, stone, bronze, and cast iron. She begins by sewing garments onto mannequins, covering the fabric in a special hardening resin, removing it in sections, and then reassembling it as a mold into which she pours hot metal or glass. After the material has cooled, she removes the mold to reveal the cast figure. For *Nocturne 1*, she applied chemicals to the surface of the cast iron to produce the desired oxidized color.

LaMonte's unique method enables her to transform impressions left by her model's body into sculptures in which the presence of the female form is suggested by its absence. In this way, the artist denies the female body's stereotypical role as an object of desire, and underscores the key role of clothing as both a means of concealing the flesh and expressing individual identity. *Nocturne 1* stems from a recent series inspired by LaMonte's interest in drawing connections between female figure and "the beauty of the night."



Daniel Pitin (Prague, Czechoslovakia 1977; lives and works in Prague)

Waiting, 2010

Oil and acrylic on canvas 15 7/10 x 23 3/5 inches

Knoxville Museum of Art, 2018 gift of Stephen Hanson

Pitin uses film footage from the Communist period of his youth and stills from television series of the 1970s to construct fictional settings in which anonymous characters are gathered in ways that suggest an unfolding drama of unknown significance. As seen in *Waiting*, his signature painting method blends hard-edged imagery with loose, gestural passages that suggests scenes in transition or pulled from memory.



Marin Majic (Frankfurt am Main, Germany 1979; lives and works in Berlin)

Foyer, 2010

Oil on canvas 70 9/10 x 90 3/5 inches

Knoxville Museum of Art, 2018 gift of Stephen Hanson

Croatian painter Marin Majic uses objects representative of localized history, and paints them into scenarios intended to provoke new narrative possibilities. His figurative subjects are rendered using a meticulous painting technique that recalls the smooth finish and intricate detail associated with photography. In Foyer, Majic seamlessly blends imagery pulled from various sectors of Croatian daily life to construct an enigmatic scene laced with references to consumer culture, nightlife, and the Cold War era.



Creighton Michael (Knoxville 1949; lives and works in New York)

KOAN 288, 1988

Plywood, tin, screen and acrylic 67 1/2 x 31 x 19 3/4 inches

Knoxville Museum of Art, 2018 gift of Jerry H. Labowitz

Michael blends analog and digital techniques resulting in sculptures, paintings, and drawings endowed with unexpected qualities. In KOAN 288, for instance, he presents an object whose open, linear structure reflects qualities more often associated with drawing than sculpture. KOAN 288 is also designed to occupy an atypical display space—the ceiling. The title is taken from Zen Buddhism concept of presenting an article that appears outside the norm for the purpose of sparking mediation.



Tobi Kahn (New York 1952, lives and works in New York)

BA'AT, 2001

Bronze

102 x 42 x 31 inches

Knoxville Museum of Art, 2019 gift of Lynne & Charles Klatskin

Tobi Kahn works with abstracted imagery drawn from nature to construct paintings, sculptures, ritual objects, and immersive environments designed to encourage contemplation and spiritual reflection. BA'AT (a made-up word inspired by Hebrew, but without a specific meaning) originated as the stylized figural element in a series of table-top architectural shrines, conceived as a series of miniature sacred spaces, one of which was executed on a monumental scale in stone and bronze at New Harmony, Indiana in the early 1990s.

About *BA'AT*, Kahn says, "All of my work, both painting and sculpture, is a quest to distill what we remember into essential images, into archetypes that allow the past to be transformed by imagination. *BA'AT* is abstract, and yet in relationship to the physical world. I've been obsessed with memory and have tried to create this work that seems unaffected by time. Art responds to the capacity of the soul to be at home in the world while signaling transcendence."

For details visit knoxart.org





Education Gallery

Mooreland Heights Elementary School

Second Sunday Art Activity Day

1-4pm

Second Sunday Docent Tour

In English and Spanish 2pm

Drop-in Figure Drawing Workshop

10:30am-12:30pm \$10 per session

Cocktails & Conversation

Carl Gombert, Professor of Art, Maryville College "Beyond Whistler" 5:30-7pm

Alive After Five

The Blair Xperience 6-8:30pm

Alive After Five

Nouveaux Honkies 6-8:30pm

Memory Care Workshop

Abstract Painting 1-3pm

Alive After Five

Free

Efrat's Experiment featuring Banjo Nickarou & Betina Hershey 6-8:30pm

FREE ADMISSION SPONSORS

SEPTEMBERFirst Tennessee Bank

NOVEMBERThe KMA Guild

OCTOBERThe KMA Guild

DECEMBER

Regions Bank

Education Gallery

Mooreland Heights Elementary School

Dine & Discover

Mark Hall, Professor Emeritus, Maryville College "The Etching Revival of the 20th Century"

Drop-in Figure Drawing Workshop

10:30am-12:30pm \$10 per session

Volunteer Preview

5:30-7:30pm

Alive After Five

Crawlspace 6-8:30pm

Second Sunday Art Activity Day

1-4pm

Second Sunday Docent Tour

In English and Spanish 2pm

Alive After Five

26th Anniversary & Costume Party with Boys' Night Out 6-8:30pm

KMA Book Club

Discussing "The Lady & the Unicorn" by Tracy Chevalier 5:30-7:30pm

Memory Care Workshop

Abstract Painting 1-3pm

Refr spec

Education Gallery

Corryton Elementary School & Ritta Elementary School

Alive After Five

Mojo Tweed 6-8:30pm

Alive After Five

The Royal Hounds 6-8:30pm

Second Sunday Art Activity Day

I-4pm

Second Sunday Docent Tour

In English and Spanish

Alive After Five

Mighty Blue 6-8:30pm

Memory Care Workshop

Abstract Flower Painting 1-3pm

Alive After Five

Jeanine Fuller & the True Funk SOULdiers 6-8:30pm

East Tennessee Portfolio Day

12-4:30pm

East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition opens to the public



Educati Corrytor Element

Education Gallery

Corryton Elementary School & Ritta Elementary School

Memory Care Workshop

Pastel Landscapes 1-3nm

1-3pm Free

Second Sunday Art Activity Day

Second Sunday Docent Tour

In English and Spanish

East Tennessee Regional Student Art Reception

6-8pm

Holiday Homes

9-11:30am & 1:30-4pm Noon luncheon at Cherokee Country Club

Alive After Five

"Holiday Dance Party" with Soul Connection 6-8:30pm

















Connecting a new generation to the Knoxville Museum of Art has been the mission of Art House since its launch in 2016. The new auxiliary membership group began with trustee Courtney Lee who believed an initiative was needed to better engage millennials and Gen X.

A volunteer committee led by Courtney developed an eclectic roster of social and educational events exclusive to members under 50, all focused on art. Events have included behind-the-scenes and artist studio tours, exhibition-themed date nights, secret location holiday parties, viewings of local private collections, and a biannual summer event featuring artists with untraditional methods.

The initiative achieved great success engaging younger stakeholders. In 2016, 57 households joined the membership group, which has now grown to 110 households.

After serving three years as chair of the Art House committee,





Courtney has passed along her key leadership role to new cochairs Mollie Turner and Courtney Jernigan. The committee, which Courtney continues to serve on, remains fully committed to cultivating visual art awareness through fun experiences for young individuals and families.

Special thanks to current and past Art House committee members: Melissa Burleson, Annie Colquitt, Amelia Daniels, Amanda Hall, Courtney Jernigan, Allison Lederer, Mollie Turner, and Mandy Welch.

Art House is open to museum members under 50; additional fee. For more information or to join email arthouse@knoxart.org.

KMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020 * Welcome new trustees! *

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David Butler Executive Director	Barbara W. Bernstein Honorary Trustee	James L. C Honor Trust	ary Legal	Co-Chairs

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION RECEPTION 2019

Volunteers are a cherished part of the KMA who put in countless hours to help in a variety of areas throughout the museum.

The following volunteers were recently recognized at the 2019 Volunteer Appreciation Reception.

SPOTLIGHT ON BOARD OF TRUSTEES



WELCOME CAESAR!

We enthusiastically welcome L. Caesar Stair IV as the new chair of the KMA Board of Trustees. Caesar is an attorney with Bernstein, Stair, and McAdams LLP where his practice focuses on business and real estate transactions. He received his undergraduate degree from Emory University and his J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 2005. He and

Megan Stair are the proud parents of Elsie and Caesar V. Fun fact: Caesar's dad, L. Caesar Stair III, was the KMA's founding board chair, and one of the key players in getting the museum off the ground three decades ago. We are fortunate that the KMA continues to benefit from a great family tradition of community leadership and service.













NOVEMBER 29, 2019-JANUARY 12, 2020

FALL WORKSHOPS

FALL SERIES

FRIDAYS AT 6PM

ALIVE AFTER FIVE



drop-in figure drawing sessions. All ages are welcome, although participants under 18 years old must have parent permission. Please note - easels are available, but art materials are not supplied.

WEDNESDAY Abstract Flower Painting

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Rosalind Martin

at 865.523.6349 or email rmartin@knoxart.org.

Pastel Landscapes







BEST IN SHOW, 2018 Shelby Lawson, 12th Grade, Watson the Dog, clay and oil paint

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS









ANN & STEVE BAILEY

The Tennessee Art Education Association is pleased to continue its partnership with the Knoxville Museum of Art to present the

14th Annual East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition, featuring

artwork created by East Tennessee middle and high school students from a 32-county area. This competition provides the opportunity for students to participate in a juried exhibition, to have their

artworks displayed in a professional art museum environment, and to compete for awards and college scholarships. The Best-in-Show

winner will receive a Purchase Award of \$500, and the artwork will

become a permanent part of the collection of Mr. James Dodson,

on loan to the Knoxville Museum of Art's Education Collection.

PRESENTING SPONSOR

REGAL



FALL PUBLIC PROGRAMS



COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION TUESDAY AUGUST 29 5:30-7pm Jack Neely, Executive Director, Knoxville History Project, "On Vine & Central and the Henri Cartier-Bresson Photograph" TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 10 5:30-7pm **Carl Gombert, Professor of Art, Maryville College**

"Beyond Whistler, Artist Talk and Demo"

Free and open to the public



DROP-IN FIGURE DRAWING

Facilitated by KMA Staff Mondays September 9, 16, 23, and 30; October 7, 14, 21, and 28 10:30am-12:30pm \$10 per session

Artists of all skill levels and media are welcome to join these self-instructed

MEMORY CARE WORKSHOPS

The KMA is offering one-day workshops to individuals living with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or memory loss. Participants can experience abstract painting or pastel landscape. Taught by Annamaria Gundlach and Nancy Campbell in a safe and relaxing environment. No experience necessary. Free and open to the public. Registration is required.

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25 1-3pm **Abstract Painting**

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 1-3pm **Oil and Chalk Pastel Drawing**

NOVEMBER 20 1-3pm

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4 1-3pm







SEPTEMBER 20

Nouveaux Honkies

SEPTEMBER 13

The BlairXperience

SEPTEMBER 27 Efrat's Experiment featuring Banjo Nickarou & Betina Hershey

OCTOBER 11 Crawlspace

OCTOBER 25 "AA5 26th Anniversary" & Costume Party with Boys' Night Out

NOVEMBER 1 Mojo Tweed

NOVEMBER 8 The Royal Hounds

> **NOVEMBER 15** Mighty Blue

NOVEMBER 22 Jeanine Fuller & The True Funk Souldiers

DECEMBER 13 "Holiday Dance Party" with Soul Connection

Live music, dancing, spirits, food, and fun!

For more information about Alive After Five, contact Michael Gill, Alive After Five coordinator, at 865-934-2039 or mgill@knoxart.org. www.knoxart.org