

CANVAS

KNOXVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART



SPRING 2019

knoxart.org



Knoxville Museum of Art
1050 World's Fair Park Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916
865.525.6101 • info@knoxart.org

FREE Admission

Hours

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 1-5pm

Closed

Mondays, New Year's Day, Independence
Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve

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Canvas

Published three times a year by the
Knoxville Museum of Art © 2019
Kurt Zinser Design, design and layout

Free for KMA members
Subscription price is \$15 per year.

Questions?

Contact Angela Thomas, Director of Marketing,
865.934.2034, athomas@knoxart.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



If you're a regular reader of *Canvas*,* you're well aware that, because of the long lead times required by print production, the executive director's letter is composed months before the finished publication arrives at your home. I'm working on this letter in early November, the weekend before the contentious mid-term elections, after several weeks of disheartening and depressing events on the national stage. And those incessant ads! Like every sentient human being in the country, I am just about worn out. I think that's why the 2018 James L. Clayton Award luncheon last week left me feeling so much better about

the state of the world. It was comforting to gather with the friends who do so much for the KMA and selflessly and enthusiastically support so many good things in our community.

Jim Clayton made the largest single gift to the museum's original capital campaign, in the late 1980s, and continues to support the museum's operations in a significant way. The award named for him is presented to the individual, family, foundation, or business whose support of the museum, like his, is both uncommonly generous and sustained. This year we honored the Beall family, a magnificent example of the multi-generational engagement that makes our community great. The family's singular contributions over three decades and three generations are detailed on page 7. Their careful stewardship and thoughtful development of Blackberry Farm in nearby Walland, Tennessee--now one of the nation's premier resort destinations—provides a model for celebrating what is local and authentic. That model helped inspire the KMA's ambitions to become the premier showplace for East Tennessee's rich, homegrown visual culture. We are grateful for the Bealls' example, and the investment they have made in the KMA and in our community.

Another and equally inspiring example of long-term investment in the museum is on view this winter with *Lure of the Object: Art from the June and Rob Heller Collection*. The Hellers, who are past Clayton Award honorees, have already greatly enriched the KMA's holdings with the donation of numerous and important works of art, as well as sizable capital and operating gifts. Their extraordinary support for the KMA was recognized several years ago with the naming of the June and Rob Heller Garden on the north side of the building. They are temporarily emptying their beautiful home to share their collection with us. We are grateful for all the Hellers do for the KMA!

One more bit of feel-good news: after years of study and deliberation, the museum has launched an entirely new web site. The former site was nearly as old as the internet itself, and had grown increasingly creaky over the years as new technology was patched on to it, Rube Goldberg style. The new site (still www.knoxart.org) was purpose-built from the ground up and is infinitely more adaptable and easier to navigate than the old. The new platform will make it possible to present more content on cell phones and tablets and provide valuable new tools for gallery interpretation and education programs. It took a while, but the wait was worth it!

*Not to brag, but *Canvas* was honored with a silver award in the most recent Southeastern Museums Conference publication competition, which recognizes and rewards excellence in graphic design.



COVER: *Lure of the Object: Art from the June and Rob Heller Collection*

Michael Eastman (American, b. 1947): *Mirror Grid*, Milan, 2008
© Michael Eastman, St. Louis / Courtesy Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York

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.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KMA COLLECTION

Back on View

The KMA collection celebrates our region's rich visual culture and its connections to the broad currents of world art. *Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee*, the museum's permanent exhibition of work by regional artists from the mid-nineteenth to the late-twentieth century, documents the talent produced in or connected to the Knoxville area. *Currents: Recent Art from East Tennessee and Beyond*, the permanent exhibition of contemporary art from the KMA collection, emphasizes newer work and the web of connections that links us to the wider world.

Works featured in each exhibition are regularly rotated on and off view in order to make room for new acquisitions and allow for the introduction of new thematic connections. Two paintings that are now on display for the first time in several years were produced by the talented artists with ties to East Tennessee.

New in *Currents* is *Making Bricks* (1994) by Pikeville, Tennessee-based artist Andrew Saftel. The dense, colorful panel painting reflects the artist's preference for using a complex blend of labor-intensive techniques—carving, routing, embedding, stenciling, staining, brushing, and dripping—in a manner that echoes the natural processes of erosion, sedimentation, growth, and decay. He finds particular inspiration in personal letters, travel journals, maps, and discarded objects related to themes of passage and transition.

New in *Higher Ground* is *Etruscan Still Life* (1968), by Knoxville-born magic realist Charles Rain (1911-1985). Rain produced his meticulous, haunting scenes often using brushes with only two or three bristles. Even a small painting could take as long as six months to one year to complete. As in *Etruscan Still Life*, his subjects often include beautiful objects—many of which the artist collected while traveling abroad—arranged in strange, eerily-lit groupings. Rather than telling a specific story, Rain preferred that viewers interpret his enigmatic compositions in their own way.



Andrew Saftel (New Bedford, Massachusetts 1959; lives and works in Pikeville, Tennessee), *Making Bricks*, 1994.
Mixed media and found objects on wood panel, 42 x 52 inches, Knoxville Museum of Art, 2007 gift of Blair Carter in memory of Nell Sampson



Charles Rain (Knoxville 1911-1985 New York), *Etruscan Still Life*, 1968. Oil on canvas
10 x 8 inches, Knoxville Museum of Art, 2012 bequest of Henry W. Grady, Jr.

Lure of the Object

Art from the June and Rob Heller Collection

February 8-April 21, 2019



June and Rob Heller

Photo courtesy of Texture Photo

Lure of the Object celebrates the uncommon aesthetic vision and philanthropic impulse of June and Rob Heller, who are among Knoxville's most active, adventurous, and generous art collectors. The selection of more than 40 sculptures and paintings attests to the couple's journey as collectors over four decades. Some of the featured objects have been gifted to the KMA, while others are promised gifts. International contemporary glass is a particular area of focus, and the exhibition features works by William Morris, Richard Jolley, Bertil Vallien, Oben Abright, Stephen Rolfe Powell, and Ethan Stern. Complementing these works are important modern and contemporary paintings by Jennifer Bartlett, Jim Dine, Frank Stella, Christo, and Paul Jenkins.

Before settling in Knoxville, the Hellers moved frequently as dictated by career assignments in London, Geneva, Singapore, and other major

cities around the world. In each location, they made a practice of exploring galleries, art fairs, museums, and auctions with a sense of openness and adventure. Increasingly, they discovered works of art they could not live without. They were not bound by any set medium, period, or theme, but rather acquired works that provoked a strong emotional response. As their collection grew, so did the challenge of transporting objects—many of them quite large—from home to home. Soon after moving to Knoxville, they became involved in the city's art scene. They patronized area artists, and became staunch supporters of the Knoxville Museum of Art. In particular, they became outspoken advocates for the KMA's efforts to build a collection of contemporary sculpture of which glass is a primary material. They supported the museum by donating funds as well as works from their extensive collection of modern and contemporary art. *Lure of the Object* pays tribute to the Heller's

accomplishments as collectors, and to their significant role as KMA patrons as exemplified by the many key sculptures and paintings they have donated to the museum.

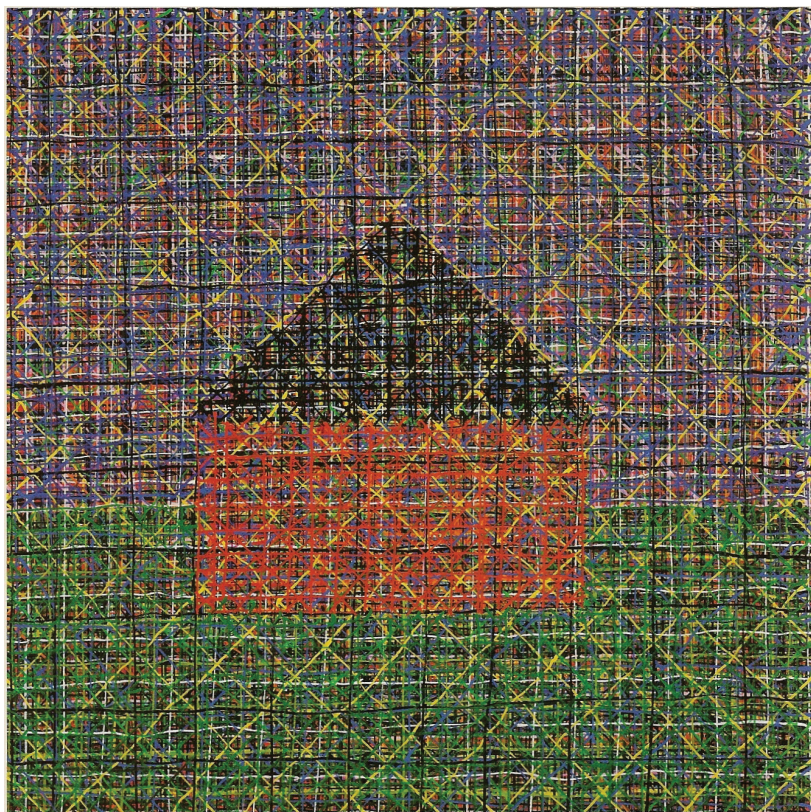
Among the featured objects are major works by Jennifer Bartlett, Oben Abright, Stephen Rolfe Powell, and Ethan Stern. Jennifer Bartlett is best known for constructing large paintings such as *House Dark Plaid* in which familiar subjects are presented in a style made up of both representational and abstract elements. Her bold, geometric forms are structured in such a way as to suggest profound meaning while calling attention to her studio process. Socially-conscious glass sculptor Oben Abright uses cast glass to create figures such as *Qraun Series*, which calls attention to the plight of homeless and other marginalized populations.

Kentucky-based glass sculptor Stephen Rolfe Powell is known for his bulbous oversized vessels with attenuated spouts. A more recent series of wall-mounted blown glass discs, here represented by *Funneling Salacious Mania*, reflects his growing interest in installation art and open circular forms marked by rotational energy and expressive bands of color. As in *Lunar Light Long*, Ethan Stern orchestrates abstraction, color, texture, and light in an effort to open up new expressive possibilities for his vessel forms. The artist employs carving and engraving in order to endow his surfaces with dramatic textures and sculptural depth.

The Hellers' gifts to the KMA collection are among the most significant in the museum's history, and *Lure of the Object* is a fitting tribute to their extraordinary support of the KMA and its collection.

Lure of the Object is organized by the KMA with assistance from consulting curator Mary Morris.

Presenting sponsor: The Guild of the KMA



Jennifer Bartlett, *House Dark Plaid*, 1988. Oil on canvas, 50 x 50 inches.
© Jennifer Bartlett courtesy of The Jennifer Bartlett 2013 Trust.



Ethan Stern, *Lunar Light Long*, 2015. Blown and wheel-cut glass, 22.5 x 12 x 3 inches.



Stephen Rolfe Powell, *Funneling Salacious Mania*, 2013.
Blown and hot-formed glass, 27.5 x 27.5 x 8.5 inches.



Oben Abright, *Qraun Series*, 2005. Molded blown glass and oil paint, 37.75 x 14.25 x 9.5 inches.

AT THE KMA

JANUARY

	Education Gallery Sequoyah Elementary School
	Alive After Five Smooth Sailor 6-8:30pm
	Second Sunday Art Activity Day 1-4pm
	Second Sunday Docent Tour In English and Spanish 2pm
	Memory Care Art Workshop 1-3pm Free
	Alive After Five The Streamliners Swing Orchestra 6-8:30pm
	Alive After Five Wallace Coleman Band 6-8:30pm
	Memory Care Art Workshop 1-3pm Free

FEBRUARY

	Education Gallery Yellow Key Arts Program
	Alive After Five The Fine Colombians: Steely Dan Tribute 6-8:30pm
	Clay and Fauna Four-part Workshop 10:30am-12:30pm KMA members \$125/Non-members \$150
	Lure of the Object: <i>Art from the June & Rob Heller Collection</i> Opens to the public Free
	Second Sunday Art Activity Day 1-4pm
	Second Sunday Docent Tour In English and Spanish 2pm
	Cocktails & Conversation Lure of the Object with Art Collectors June and Rob Heller 5:30-7pm
	Alive After Five Cheryl Renée & Wendel Werner 6-8:30pm
	KMA Book Club Discussing "How To Be Both" by Ali Smith 5:30-7pm



THE KMA GIFT SHOP IS THE PLACE TO SHOP IN KNOXVILLE!

Always fun and unique items to choose from.
KMA members always receive a discount!

WINTER / SPRING 2019

For details visit knoxart.org

MARCH

	Education Gallery Yellow Key Arts Program
	L'Amour du Vin Wine Auction & Dinner 6pm
	Alive After Five Nick Moss Band featuring Dennis Gruenling 6-8:30pm
	Second Sunday Art Activity Day 1-4pm
	Second Sunday Docent Tour In English and Spanish 2pm
	Alive After Five Kelle Jolly & the Women in Jazz Jam Festival 6-8:30pm
	Drop-in Figure Drawing Workshop 10:30am-12:30pm \$10 per session
	Dine & Discover Julie Warren Conn, Marble Sculptor 12-1pm
	Alive After Five Kris Lager Band 6-8:30pm

APRIL

	Education Gallery Jean Zay Elementary School, Paris France & Nature's Way Montessori School
	Drop-in Figure Drawing Workshop 10:30am-12:30pm \$10 per session
	Alive After Five Soul Connection 6-8:30pm
	Volunteer Appreciation Reception 5:30pm
	Alive After Five Bruce Katz Band 6-8:30pm
	Second Sunday Art Activity Day 1-4pm
	Second Sunday Docent Tour In English and Spanish 2pm
	Alive After Five Devan Jones and The Uptown Stomp 6-8:30pm
	Artists on Location Art Show and Sale 5:30pm
	Art of Clay Relief Tiles Four-part Workshop 10:30am-12:30pm KMA members \$125/Non-members \$150

FREE ADMISSION SPONSORS

JANUARY

Pilot/Flying J

FEBRUARY

Pharma Packaging Solutions

MARCH

Regions Bank

APRIL

The Guild of the KMA

James L. Clayton Award

The Knoxville Museum of Art hosted the 21st annual James L. Clayton Award Luncheon in October to honor the extraordinary and sustained support of the Beall family and to recognize museum members at the Director's Circle Level and above.

Multiple generations of Bealls have been generous and committed museum stakeholders. Sam Beall Jr. and late wife Mary Anne, fondly known as Squirt by family and friends, have supported the KMA since it opened.

Their grandson Sam Beall IV, who died tragically in 2016, lent his vision, expertise, and the efforts of his team at Blackberry Farm to transform the museum's fundraiser L'Amour du Vin into one of the nation's premier food and wine experiences. His wife Mary Celeste, proprietor of Blackberry Farm, continues her and Sam's passion to support the event.

Sam IV's parents, Sandy Beall and Kreis Beall, are the creators of Blackberry Farm. Kreis served on the KMA Board of Trustees and led the redesign of the museum logo and promotion of the unveiling of the *Cycle of Life* installation by Richard Jolley.

The 2018 James L. Clayton Award Luncheon was sponsored by Ann and Steve Bailey, The LAMP Foundation, Schaad Companies, The Trust Company of Tennessee, and All Occasion Catering.



(l to r) Kreis Beall, Jim Clayton, Sam Beall Jr, Andrew Saftel, Mary Celeste Beall



James L. Clayton Award Luncheon

SPOTLIGHT ON PHILANTHROPY

The Guild
KNOXVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART



The KMA is thrilled to shine the spotlight on the KMA Guild, the museum's original auxiliary group and a major fundraising entity for the KMA. Last year alone, the Guild raised close to \$100,000 for the KMA general operating fund with the Holiday Homes Tour and Artists on Location.

The Guild was created in 1996 to encourage participation in and support for the KMA, its name intended to honor the legacy of and underscore the direct connection to The Dulin Gallery of Art Guild, which supported the KMA's predecessor organization. Since its inception at the KMA, the Guild has been effective in raising funds for and promoting the museum and its activities.

The founders of L'Amour du Vin (former Clayton Award recipients Susan and Lee Hyde, Carolyn Browning, and Jan and Pete Peter) worked through the Guild volunteer network to create what is today recognized as one of the greatest food and wine events in the region. In fact, L'Amour du Vin has grown into such an important revenue source for the museum that it is supported by a full-time staff position. Visitors will see the Guild's support listed around the museum on permanent and temporary exhibitions, free monthly admission, Summer Art Academy, the East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition, and more. The KMA is proud to partner with this skilled and effective group of volunteers!



(l to r) Sylvia Peters, Mimi Turner, Guild President Karen Mann, Sandy Steer, Gail Van Hoozier



(l to r) Janet Greer and Guild President Karen Mann



(l to r) Julia Conner and Carol Coode at Artists on Location

The KMA gratefully acknowledges support from the following...

Thank you to Regions Bank for its support of the KMA's education programs. This gift will help the museum reach many at-risk children in the Knoxville area with art and cultural programming.



(l to r): Rosalind Martin, KMA Director of Education; Yolanda Hollingsworth, Regions Community Relations Manager; Robert (Rob) M. Stivers, III, Regions Market Executive, Commercial Banking Manager, and Senior Vice President; Allison Lederer, Vice President, Wealth Advisor Regions Private Wealth Management, and KMA Board of Trustees Chair; David Butler, KMA Executive Director

Thank you to Knox County Government and Commissioner Evelyn Gill for presenting a check for \$25,000 to the KMA for capital improvements.



Knox County Commissioner Evelyn Gill and KMA Executive Director David Butler

Former KMA Board Chair Heads Tennessee Arts Commission



Steve Bailey

Congratulations to former KMA board chair and current board member Steve Bailey, who has been appointed chair of the Tennessee Arts Commission (TAC). Most of the funding the TAC distributes to arts organizations across the state (including the KMA) comes from the sale of specialty license plates, a percentage of which is set aside to benefit the arts in Tennessee.

For more information about specialty license plates, go to www.tnartscommission.org.

BACK THE ARTS IN TENNESSEE WITH AN
Arts Plate



Funds from the plate provide arts programming in schools and nonprofits across the state, like this venue you are enjoying now

Drive  *in style*

No need to wait until your current tag expires, you can get an Arts Plate anytime. Just visit your local county clerk. Tag fees will be prorated.

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BECOME A KMA VOLUNTEER!

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the KMA. They welcome visitors at the front desk, help *Alive After Five* run smoothly, staff museum events, serve in the leadership of the KMA Guild and Art House, perform critical back-office duties, and help in so many other ways. The museum always needs more dedicated volunteers who love the museum and want to serve the community. Contact Chelsea Lloyd at clloyd@knoxart.org if you're interested or know someone who is. The KMA is also looking for volunteer docents to engage visitors and introduce them to the museum's rich offerings. Working as a docent requires rigorous training, but the rewards are great. For more information about becoming a docent contact DeLena Feliciano at dfeliciano@knoxart.org.

In October, volunteers and KMA staff enjoyed the Annual Volunteer Preview, an opportunity for volunteers from every department to socialize with new friends, learn about recent projects and programs at the museum, and preview upcoming exhibitions from KMA Curator Stephen Wicks.



KMA Curator Stephen Wicks presents upcoming exhibitions to volunteers



Docent-guided tour



(l to r) Kitsy Hartley, KMA Volunteer Coordinator Chelsea Lloyd, Diana Lopez



(l to r) Madison Adler, Ann Preston, Amanda Seale



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Students in the Pond Gap Elementary School Community Schools Outreach programs created upcycled planters this month as a part of the partnership with Children's Museum of the Arts in New York City and their civic engagement movement!

Community schools are used as a hub for the community to meet academic, social, and practical needs of the students and their families. The KMA provides art and culture classes in this after-school program and serves more than 1,000 economically disadvantaged students.



SUMMER ART ACADEMY 2019

Be on the lookout for Summer Art Academy info!

KMA's Summer Art Academy nurtures an appreciation of art for students age 3 and up. The Summer Art Academy introduces students to a variety of materials and artistic concepts to stir up their curiosity and to enhance their natural creativity and critical thinking. Classes for 2019 will be posted on knoxart.org in late February. Sessions start June 3 and continue through August 2, 2019. All classes take place at the KMA and run from 9am to 12noon with afternoon classes from 1 to 4pm.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WINTER/SPRING 2019

DINE & DISCOVER

WEDNESDAY **MARCH 27** 12-1PM

Artist Julie Warren Conn, Marble Sculptor

WEDNESDAY **APRIL 10** 12-1PM

Tim Hiles, Assistant Director & Professor,
University of Tennessee

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

TUESDAY **FEBRUARY 12** 5:30-7PM

Art collectors June and Rob Heller discuss *Lure of the Object*:
Art from the June and Rob Heller Collection

Free and open to the public.

WINTER/SPRING WORKSHOPS 2019



CLAY AND FAUNA FOUR-PART WORKSHOP

Mondays, February 4, 11, 18, and 25
10:30am-12:30pm

KMA Members \$125/Non-members \$150

Taught by Annamaria Gundlach

Get a jump on spring with clay creations such as floral wall hangings, garden animals, or vessels. Learn clay hand-building and sculpture basics while you create wall reliefs or garden animals. This workshop is tailored to all skill levels, just bring your imagination! All sculptures are fired and completed with Patina finishes. Materials, tools, firing included.

ART OF CLAY RELIEF TILES FOUR-PART WORKSHOP

Mondays, April 29, May 6, 13, and 20
10:30am-12:30pm

KMA Members \$125/Non-members \$150

Taught by Annamaria Gundlach

Enjoy the experience of creating clay relief tiles. Gundlach's fun and easy techniques help you master the decorative art of clay relief tiles. Demonstrations and personalized instruction allow all levels to work at their own level. Materials, tools, firing included.



DROP-IN FIGURE DRAWING

Mondays, March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29
10:30am-12:30pm
\$10 per session

Facilitated by KMA Staff

Artists of all skill levels and media are welcome to join these self-instructed drop-in figure drawing sessions. These sessions are ongoing throughout the year. Participants of all ages are welcome, although participants under 18 years old must have parents' permission.

Please note that art materials are not supplied.



ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Annamaria Gundlach, an artist and educator, received a BA in English and Spanish and certification in secondary education from the University of Florida, Gainesville. Gundlach is also a teacher-training facilitator for the Knoxville Institute of the Arts. She has conducted enrichment courses for Maryville College and for Project Upward Bound and has been an artist in residence at the KMA for 17 years.

KNOXVILLE
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Artists on Location
a plein air event

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019

5:30pm

Art Show and Sale

presented by

The Guild
KNOXVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART



2018 Featured Artist Jason Allen Saunders