

KNOXVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART



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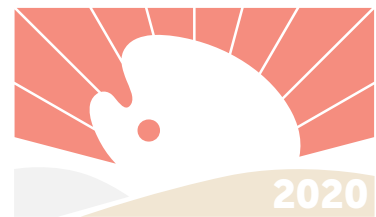
KNOXVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART



SPRING 2020

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Save the Date!



ARTISTS ON LOCATION
A PLEIN AIR PAINTING EVENT

Awards Reception & Art Sale

SATURDAY

April 25, 2020

5:00 - 9:00pm

The Guild
KNOXVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART



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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Denise DuBose, Director of Administration

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Canvas

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Questions?

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

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We've been working on it and talking about it for so long, I can't believe that *Beauford Delaney and James Baldwin: Through the Unusual Door* opens at the KMA in early February. Building a significant collection of works by Knoxville native Beauford Delaney has been a longstanding institutional goal. Late in 2017 we made a quantum leap in that direction by acquiring a dozen paintings and works on paper, one of the biggest and most significant art purchases in the museum's history. You might remember that we had a window of a few short weeks to raise close a million dollars, and the KMA community came through in the most amazing and generous way. With that transformative purchase, together with the 40+ works the museum had already acquired, the KMA now owns more works by Beauford Delaney than any public collection in the world. I love saying that! The museum's holdings include several brilliant portraits of and works connected to the iconic writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin, which sparked the idea of organizing an exhibition aimed at expanding the scope of the artist's legacy guided by Baldwin's compelling words about Delaney, his friend and mentor.

This ambitious project, which includes a full-color catalogue being published by the University of Tennessee Press, has consumed Bernard E. and Barbara W. Bernstein Curator Stephen Wicks for the past few years, and has attracted generous support from a host of sponsors, listed on page 3. It's been wonderfully encouraging to receive such tangible endorsements of the KMA's curatorial direction from both national funding sources (who don't know us well) and our own stakeholders (who do). *Through the Unusual Door* draws from the KMA's rich holdings, public and private collections around the country, and unpublished archival material. This is the biggest project we've undertaken since the installation of Richard Jolley's epic glass-and-steel *Cycle of Life* in Ann and Steve Bailey Hall. Like *Cycle of Life*, the Delaney/Baldwin exhibition represents the highest and best expression of our mission as an institution dedicated to the visual culture of East Tennessee and its connections to the wider world, and sets a standard for the scale and ambition of how we want to operate in the future. Exhibition-related events and programs are listed in this edition of *Canvas*, including a lecture on April 7 by Columbia University professor and MacArthur Foundation Fellow Dr. Kellie Jones, part of the Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer Lecture series.

Through the Unusual Door is part of a larger community-wide effort to reclaim all of Knoxville's creative history, operating under the umbrella of what we're calling "Gathering Light: The Delaney Project" and the leadership of KMA trustee Sylvia Peters. Soon after the exhibition opens, Marble City Opera will premiere a new chamber opera based on Beauford Delaney's life and art, and the University of Tennessee Humanities Center will present an international symposium on Beauford Delaney and James Baldwin. The Beck Cultural Exchange Center, Knoxville's African American museum, is raising funds to restore and repurpose the Delaney family home on Dandridge Avenue, and many more projects are in the works. The KMA is proud to take on a leadership role in this broadly-based initiative. The Delaney Project has the potential to open doors and chip away at some of the social, cultural, and racial barriers that separate segments of our community, and we think it will have widespread and long-lasting positive impact. It's something we need very much right now.

COVER IMAGE:

Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901-1979 Paris) *Portrait of James Baldwin*, 1944. Pastel on paper, 24 x 18 3/4 inches, Knoxville Museum of Art, 2017 purchase with funds provided by the Rachael Patterson Young Art Acquisition Reserve. Photograph by Bruce Cole. © Estate of Beauford Delaney by permission of Derek L. Spratley, Esquire, Court Appointed Administrator

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.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

John Himmelfarb (Chicago 1946; lives and works in Chicago)

Noted Chicago-based artist John Himmelfarb is internationally known for his idiosyncratic modernist work in several media. Himmelfarb is deeply influenced by Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art, and is known for creating playful works informed by his interest in a diverse range of topics including language, industrialization, and urban sprawl. Like artists such as Red Grooms and Pablo Picasso, he is a master technician who goes to great lengths to make objects that appear spontaneous and impulsive.



Delegate, 2019. Patinated bronze, 7 x 12 x 6 inches
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2019 gift of Molly Day and John Himmelfarb



Garcia Madero, 2010. Ink on Japan paper, 18 1/4 x 25 3/8 inches.
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2019 gift of Molly Day and John Himmelfarb



Howard Hull (Welch, West Virginia, 1932; lives and works in Louisville, Tennessee)

Late Summer, 2013. Acrylic on canvas, 32 x 32 inches.
Knoxville Museum of Art, 2019 gift of Fred Moffatt

Howard Hull has maintained an active studio practice in East Tennessee since the 1960s in addition to his work as a writer and arts educator. *Late Summer* represents Hull's interest in using views of rugged rural landscapes as points of departure for abstract compositions.

According to Hull, the structure of his paintings "is the result of growing up in Western Virginia. When I got up in the morning and walked outside and looked at my surroundings, I saw mountains in every direction...There seemed to be only a small strip of sky above the tops of them...The various shapes and colors of land formed below that strip of sky are so deeply embedded in my subconscious that they will probably always have an effect upon what I paint."

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Acquisitions rotate on and off view throughout the year.
Check back frequently for new and exciting changes in *Higher Ground* and *Currents*.

Beauford Delaney & James Baldwin

Through the Unusual Door

February 7-May 10, 2020

Beauford Delaney and James Baldwin: Through the Unusual Door features 50+ paintings, works on paper, and unpublished archival material, and examines the 38-year relationship between painter Beauford Delaney (Knoxville 1901-1979 Paris) and writer James Baldwin (New York 1924-1987 Saint-Paul-de-Vence, France). The exhibition draws from the KMA's extensive Delaney holdings, public and private collections around the country, and rarely displayed papers held by the Delaney estate.

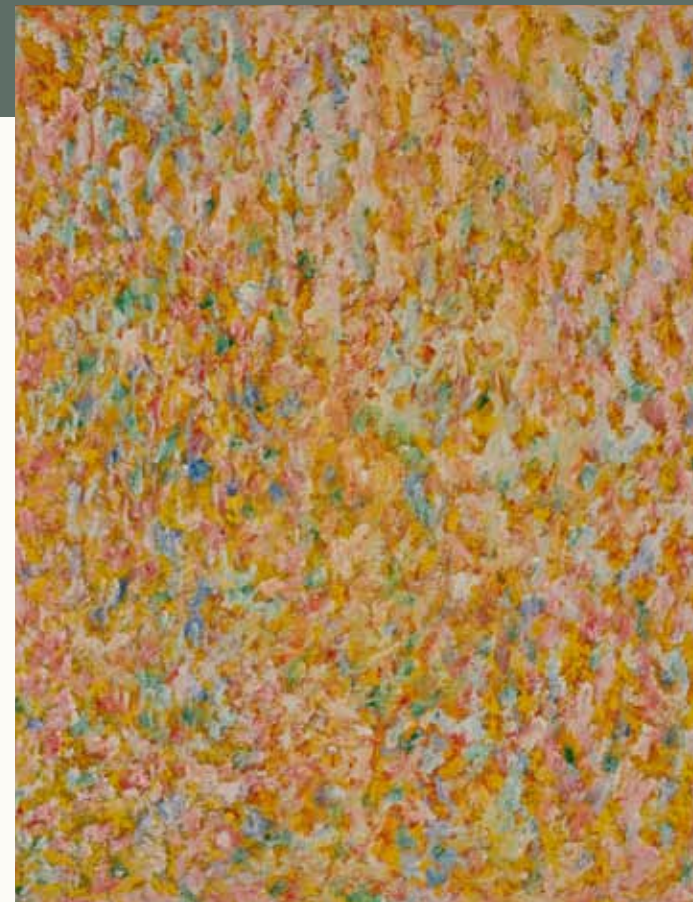
The exhibition title *Through the Unusual Door* comes from a passage in Baldwin's volume of collected essays *The Price of the Ticket* (1985) describing the author's reaction to his initial encounter with Delaney in the doorway of the artist's Greenwich Village studio: "Lord, I was to hear Beauford sing, later, and for many years, *open the unusual door...* I walked through that door into Beauford's colors." This first meeting encapsulates Delaney's transformational effect on Baldwin's view of himself and the world he lived in, and set the tone for the painter's role in the author's life as a father figure and mentor. Baldwin, in turn, inspired Delaney with his fearless social conscience and commitment to civil rights causes.

While no other figure in Beauford Delaney's extensive social orbit approaches James Baldwin in the extent and duration of influence, none of the major exhibitions of Delaney's work have explored in any depth the creative exchange between the two. Most studies of Delaney's art emphasize the influence of other modern masters on his development, his shift toward abstraction after moving to Paris in 1953, and his growing interest in the potential of color to convey light and dispel the shadows plaguing his inner world. *Through the Unusual Door* posits the idea that this profound stylistic change was in part inspired by the intellectual and personal relationship between Delaney and Baldwin. The exhibition incorporates previously unpublished archival materials and artworks that promise to extend the understanding of Delaney's aesthetic agenda and reveal the extent of his ties to Baldwin.

Related programs are listed on page 10.



Anonymous, James Baldwin and Beauford Delaney, Paris, circa 1960. Gelatin silver print, 4 x 2 1/2 inches. Estate of Beauford Delaney.



Scattered Light, 1964. Oil on canvas, 39 x 24 inches, Knoxville Museum of Art. Photograph by Bruce Cole.



Untitled (Yellow, Red, and Black Circles for James Baldwin, Istanbul), 1966. Watercolor and gouache on paper, 25 5/8 x 19 inches, Knoxville Museum of Art. Photograph by Bruce Cole.



Dark Rapture (James Baldwin), 1941. Oil on Masonite, 34 x 28 inches, Collection of halley k harrisburg and Michael Rosenfeld, New York. Image courtesy of Michael Rosenfeld Gallery LLC, New York.



Blue-Light Abstraction, circa 1962. Oil on canvas, 25 3/4 x 21 1/2 inches, Knoxville Museum of Art. Photograph by Bruce Cole.

PRESENTING SPONSORS



EXHIBITION SPONSORS








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Mr. and Mrs. Terry Wertz

JANUARY

1		Education Gallery Corryton and Ritta Elementary Schools
10		Alive After Five The Streamliners Swing Orchestra 6-8:30pm
12		Second Sunday Art Activity Day 1-4pm
12		Second Sunday Docent Tour In English and Spanish 2pm
17		Alive After Five The Fine Colombians: A Steely Dan Tribute 6-8:30pm
24		Alive After Five Smooth Sailor 6-8:30pm
31		Alive After Five Wallace Coleman Band 6-8:30pm

FREE ADMISSION SPONSORS

JANUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

The KMA Guild

FEBRUARY

1		Education Gallery Halhenard Elementary School
7		Alive After Five "Bob Marley 75th Birthday Tribute" with Natti Love Joys 6-8:30pm
7		Beauford Delaney & James Baldwin: Through the Unusual Door Exhibition opens to the public Free
8		Winter Family Fun Day 11am-3pm Free and open to the public!
9		Second Sunday Art Activity Day 1-4pm
9		Second Sunday Docent Tour In English and Spanish 2pm
14		Alive After Five "Valentine's Day Special" with Stina Nesbit & Sam Adams Band 6-8:30pm
21		Alive After Five "Fat Friday Mardi Gras" featuring Roux Du Bayou Cajun Band 6-8:30pm
25		Cocktails & Conversation Maurita Poole, Clark Atlanta University Museum Delaney and Baldwin Collection 5:30-7pm
28		Alive After Five "Wild Women Don't have the Blues" 6-8:30pm

MARCH











1		Education Gallery Halhenard Elementary School
3		KMA Book Club Discussing "Going to Meet the Man" by James Baldwin 5:30-7:30pm
7		KMA Closed to the Public
7		L'Amour du Vin Wine Auction & Dinner 6pm
8		KMA closed to public. NO Second Sunday Art Activity Day or Docent Tours
13		Alive After Five Kelle Jolly & The Women in Jazz Jam Festival Band 6-8:30pm
19		Cocktails & Conversation Michelle Commander, Associate Director & Curator Lapidus Center "An Introduction to James Baldwin" 5:30-7pm
20		Alive After Five Beauford Delaney Tribute 6-8:30pm

THE KMA GIFT SHOP IS
THE BEST PLACE TO SHOP IN
KNOXVILLE FOR AFFORDABLE
WORK BY LOCAL ARTISTS!

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



APRIL

1		Education Gallery Farragut Intermediate School
1		Dine & Discover KMA Curator Stephen Wicks "Creation of an Exhibition: Through the Unusual Door" 12-1pm
7		Kramer Lecture Dr. Kellie Jones, Columbia University Free and open to the public 6pm
10		Alive After Five Cheryl Renée & Wendel Werner 6-8:30pm
12		Second Sunday Art Activity Day 1-4pm
12		Second Sunday Docent Tour In English and Spanish 2pm
14		Volunteer Appreciation Reception 5-8pm
17		Alive After Five Boys' Night Out 6-8:30pm
21		Cocktails & Conversation Mary Campbell, UTK Associate professor of American Art History "Art and Civil Rights" 5:30-7pm
25		Artists on Location Art Show and Sale 5-9pm

James L. Clayton Award

The Knoxville Museum of Art hosted the 22nd annual James L. Clayton Award Luncheon in October to honor the sustained and exceptional support of Schmid & Rhodes Construction company and to recognize museum members at the \$1,000 Director's Circle level and above.

Spearheaded by award-winning builder David Rhodes, Schmid & Rhodes Construction company is a custom construction and home maintenance firm that has been providing quality craftsmanship and service to the East Tennessee region since 1989. The company has served as the presenting sponsor of The KMA Guild's Holiday Homes Tour since 2000, and has become a supporter of L'Amour du Vin in recent years. Proceeds from the Holiday Homes Tour help fund the East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition, education programs, exhibitions, and free museum admission. We are grateful for Schmid & Rhodes' nearly 20 years of support and leadership!

Thank you to 2019 James L. Clayton Award Luncheon sponsors Ann and Steve Bailey, The LAMP Foundation, Schaad Companies, The Trust Company of Tennessee, and All Occasion Catering.



(l to r) David Butler, David Rhodes, Jim Clayton

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CONSTRUCTION

SARAH JANE HARDRATH KRAMER LECTURE

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 6-8PM

Dr. Kellie Jones, Professor in Art History and Archaeology at the Institute for Research in African American Studies at Columbia University

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.

Dr. Kellie Jones is Professor in Art History and Archaeology at the Institute for Research in African American Studies (IRAAS) 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 received numerous awards for her work from the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University; Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant and a term as Scholar-in-Residence at the Terra Foundation for American Art in Europe in Giverny, France. In 2016 she was named a MacArthur Foundation Fellow. Dr. Jones is an authority on art of the African Diaspora, including the art of Beauford Delaney and other key African American modernists.

This event is made possible by the Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer Fund and is supported by The Melrose Foundation and Wayne R. Kramer.



SPOTLIGHT ON PHILANTHROPY



The Trust Company of Tennessee has been a Knoxville Museum of Art supporter since before the museum opened its doors in 1990. The Trust Company's current sponsorships of Kick Off to Summer, Artists on Location, L'Amour du Vin, and the Holiday Homes Tour allow the KMA to provide quality education programs, exhibitions, and free admission to visitors. The company is also a longtime supporter of the annual James L. Clayton Award Luncheon.

"The Trust Company of Tennessee's generosity touched the lives of 70,000+ visitors in 2018-

2019," said David Butler, KMA Executive Director. "We are grateful to Sharon Pryse and The Trust Company for our 30-year partnership."

CEO and founder Sharon Jones Pryse attended the University of Tennessee and never considered leaving Knoxville. After graduating with a finance degree, she began as a clerk in the Trust Department of Valley Fidelity Bank. While still in her twenties, she became the bank's youngest Senior Vice President, then, at age thirty-five, founded The Trust Company of Tennessee. Sharon's long-standing community commitment includes social service, the arts, economic development, and education.

With a professional staff of eighty, The Trust Company of Tennessee has grown over the last 30 years to provide wealth management, retirement plans, and personal trust services through their three East Tennessee offices in Knoxville, Johnson City, and Chattanooga.



Sharon Jones Pryse

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MUSEUM OF ART
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VOLUNTEER AT THE KMA!

Volunteers and KMA staff enjoyed the Fourth Annual Volunteer Preview in October. This event is a great opportunity for volunteers from all departments to socialize and become more familiar with each other and the KMA staff. Volunteers learn about recent projects and programs at the museum while receiving policy refreshers and an exclusive preview of upcoming exhibitions from KMA Curator Stephen Wicks.

Would you like to learn more about art while engaging with the community? Would you like to earn your service hours while having fun? Then become a volunteer at the Knoxville Museum of Art! Volunteers are the heart and soul of the KMA and always offer a warm welcome to guests during check-in while providing vital information about our current exhibitions. Summer Art Academy, Family Fun Day, Alive After Five, and other museum events all run smoothly thanks to the dedication of our reliable volunteers. There are also voluntary leadership positions within the KMA Guild, Art House, and Volunteer Advisory Council.

For more information about our volunteer program, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Chelsea E. Lloyd at clloyd@knoxart.org



PROGRAMS: THROUGH THE UNUSUAL DOOR

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DINE & DISCOVER



WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 12-1PM
Stephen Wicks, Barbara W. and Bernard E. Bernstein Curator, KMA. **Creation of an Exhibition: Through the Unusual Door**

To order lunch for Dine & Discover, call 865.525.6101 ext.227

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

Cash bar



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 5:30-7PM
Maurita N. Poole, PhD, Director of the Clark Atlanta University Art Museum, **Delaney and Baldwin Collection**



THURSDAY MARCH 19 5:30-7PM
Michelle Commander, Associate Director & Curator, Lapidus Center, **An Introduction to James Baldwin**



TUESDAY APRIL 21 5:30-7PM
Mary Campbell, Associate Professor of American Art History, University of Tennessee School of Art, **Art and Civil Rights**

JOIN THE KMA'S DOCENT TEAM!



Experience the excitement that comes from a continuing educational experience of field trips, lectures, and hands-on trainings. Make new friends with people who have similar interests, and become part of a great museum. No experience is necessary, just enthusiasm for learning about art. The docent training program runs every month and docents commit to giving tours year round. After completing training, you will be ready to give tours in the galleries and special exhibitions, helping our visitors make exciting discoveries about art. Docents need to be able to move around the museum comfortably for two hours at a time.

For more information about the docent program, please contact Assistant Director of Education DeLena Feliciano at dfeliciano@knoxart.org.



SUMMER ART ACADEMY 2020

Be on the lookout for Summer Art Academy info!

KMA's Summer Art Academy will start June 1- July 31, 2020. Summer Art Academy is for students ages 3 and up, and introduces students to a variety of materials and artistic concepts to stir up curiosity and to enhance their natural creativity and critical thinking. Classes for 2020 will be posted on knoxart.org in late March.

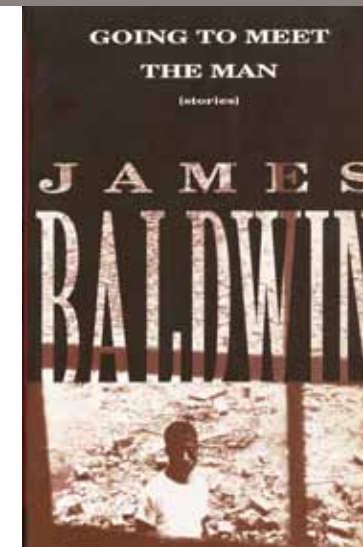
KMA BOOK CLUB

**Tuesday, March 3
5:30-7:30pm**

Going to Meet the Man
by James Baldwin

"There's no way not to suffer. But you try all kinds of ways to keep from drowning in it." The men and women in these eight short fictions grasp this truth on an elemental level, and their stories, as told by James Baldwin, detail the ingenious and often desperate ways in which they try to keep their head above water. It may be the heroin that a down-and-out jazz pianist uses to face the terror of pouring his life into an inanimate instrument. It may be the brittle piety of a father who can never forgive his son for his illegitimacy. Or it may be the screen of bigotry that a redneck deputy has raised to blunt the awful childhood memory of the day his parents took him to watch a black man being murdered by a gleeful mob.

By turns haunting, heartbreaking, and horrifying--and informed throughout by Baldwin's uncanny knowledge of the wounds racism has left in both its victims and its perpetrators--*Going to Meet the Man* is a major work by one of our most important writers.



WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY

Celebrating *Beauford Delaney and James Baldwin: Through the Unusual Door*

**Saturday, February 8
11am-3pm**

Come enjoy the KMA Winter Family Fun Day! Experience a day of family fun filled with excitement, art activities, artist demonstrations, door prizes, face painting, food for purchase, and more.