

CANVAS

KNOXVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART



SUMMER / FALL • 2021

knoxart.org



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

FREE Admission

Museum Hours Beginning August 2021

Tuesday-Saturday 10am-5pm

Sunday 1-5pm

Closed : New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve

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Canvas

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Kurt Zinser Design, design and layout

Free for KMA members
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Questions?

Contact Sarah Kaplan, Marketing Manager,
865.934.2034, skaplan@knoxart.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The KMA reopened on July 1, 2020, stayed open through the worse of the pandemic (thank you, floor staff and volunteers!), and offered virtual programming via YouTube and Zoom when we couldn't gather in person. In the past few months, with the rollout of vaccines and the general improvement in public health conditions, we've been able gradually to resume in-person events and make definite plans again, hence this new and somewhat delayed edition of *Canvas*. Staff is back in the office and gearing up for a new season. I'm overjoyed to report that, thanks to the generosity and steadiness

of our members and other stakeholders, the successful fundraising events profiled in this edition of *Canvas*, and a welcome infusion of Federal COVID relief, we finished the fiscal year on June 30 in excellent shape, and ready to resume a full schedule.

Things start with a big splash with *Under Construction: Collage from the Mint Museum*, an exciting show celebrating the achievement and influence of collage pioneer Romare Bearden. The exhibition opening, on Friday August 20, is our first in-person members' event since, well, forever, and not to be missed—watch for your invitation. Go to knoxart.org for a schedule of other exhibition programming. *Under Construction* expands the regional picture presented in our permanent exhibitions *Higher Ground* and *Currents*—Bearden is a native son of Charlotte—and represents another successful collaboration with a Southeastern institutional partner. The annual *East Tennessee Regional Student Exhibition*, now in its sixteenth year, follows in late November. We're also gearing up to resume *Alive After Five*, probably later in the fall—stay tuned.

At this critical juncture in the KMA's history, we are guided by the new strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees in May, a project we started two years ago. The advent of COVID-19 and its attendant disruptions considerably delayed things, but also presented an opportunity to assess and prepare for a considerably altered set of circumstances. What at first seemed an unmitigated catastrophe has left us a stronger, more responsive, and more resilient institution, one for which our community stakeholders have demonstrated their support and commitment. Another consequential development in 2020 stemmed from the civil unrest that erupted across the nation in response to the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. These events challenge the KMA, like every other cultural organization in America, to address the long-overdue national reckoning on race and equity that has ensued. The new [strategic plan](#) is less about doing big new things than on reinforcing the museum's focus on the art and artists of East Tennessee and diversifying the museum's collection, programming, and audiences. To those ends, the new plan is built around the complete rethinking, reinstallation, and upgrading of *Higher Ground*, first opened 13 years ago. The KMA now has a significantly bigger, richer, and more diverse collection to present (see the new acquisitions presented on pp. 2-4). The new, expanded *Higher Ground* is projected to open in the fall of 2023, accompanied by the museum's first-ever book-length collection catalogue.

I'll finish by acknowledging the service of departing trustees and welcoming the new trustees listed on p. 9. The KMA enjoys a long, rich tradition of outstanding volunteer leadership, and immediate past chair Caesar Stair, who got us through a tough, uncertain time, and incoming chair Julia Bentley certainly represent the best of that tradition. I thank them, our departing and incoming trustees, and you for the support and engagement that got us here in such good shape.

COVER IMAGE:

Romare Bearden (Charlotte, North Carolina 1911-1988 New York City)

Guitar Magic, 1986

Collage and watercolor on board

Gift of Bank of America

Under Construction: Collage from The Mint Museum is organized by The Mint Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The Knoxville Museum of Art celebrates East Tennessee's rich, diverse visual culture and its connections to the wider currents of world art.

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knoxart.org

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Despite the effects of the pandemic, the KMA collection grew thanks to a series of gifts and purchases. Distinguished New York-based contemporary art collectors Sherry and Joel Mallin donated a canvas by Spanish contemporary painter Antonio Santin, and the late Knoxville attorney and long-time KMA trustee Daniel McGehee bequeathed paintings by Knoxville painters Jered Sprecher and John Woodrow Kelley.

Funds provided by Alabama-based collectors Sasha and Charlie Sealy and local museum supporter Nick Wyman enabled the KMA to acquire a rare vintage print by legendary Knoxville-born photographer Charles E. Krutch, best known for his dramatic black and white images that provided visibility for the Tennessee Valley Authority's projects from the 1930s through the 1950s.

At the 2020 KMA Collectors Circle Purchase Reception, group members voted to purchase a distinguished group of works on paper by 20th century artists with ties to East Tennessee or depicting East Tennessee subjects, including Thomas Hart Benton, Ted Burnett, Joseph Delaney, and Fuller Potter. These works promise to enrich and expand the KMA's ongoing historical display *Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee*.



Jered Sprecher (Lincoln Nebraska 1976; lives and works in Knoxville)

Technology of Dirt, 2018

Oil on linen

47 x 40 inches

2020 bequest of Daniel F. McGehee



Charles E. Krutch (Knoxville 1887-1981 Knoxville)

Men Playing Checkers, Red Bank, Tennessee, for the Tennessee Valley Authority, 1935

Silver print

12 x 15 3/4 inches

2021 purchase with funds provided by Sasha and Charlie Sealy, Patricia and Alan Rutenberg, and Nick Wyman



John Kelley (Knoxville 1952; lives and works in Knoxville and New York)

Bacchus with Grapes, 1987

Oil on canvas

40 x 38 inches

2020 bequest of Daniel F. McGehee



Thomas Hart Benton (Neosho, Missouri 1889-1975 Kansas City, Missouri)

Cradling Wheat, 1939

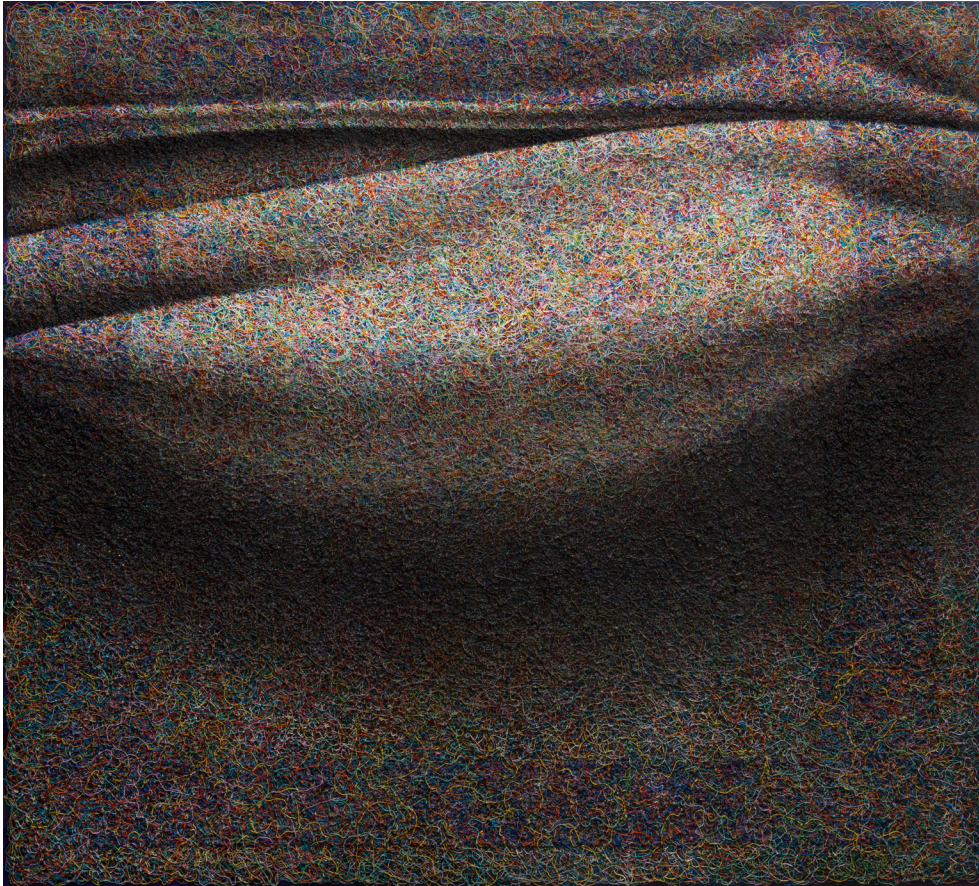
Lithograph on white wove paper, edition of 250;
9 3/4 x 12 inches

2020 purchase with funds provided by KMA Collectors Circle

Acquisitions rotate on and off view throughout the year.

Check back frequently for new and exciting changes in *Higher Ground* and *Currents*.

OTHER RECENT ACQUISITIONS



Antonio Santin (Madrid 1978; lives and works
in Brooklyn)

Cajón Desastre, 2018

Oil on canvas

70.8 x 78.7 inches

2021 gift of Sherry and Joel Mallin



Fuller Potter (New York City 1910-1990 Westerly,
Rhode Island)

Untitled I, circa 1960s

Oil on paper

8 x 12 inches

2020 purchase with funds provided by
KMA Collectors Circle

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



Ted Burnett (Knoxville 1908-1982 Knoxville)
Three Chieftains, circa 1955
Casein and mixed media on board
24 x 21 inches
2020 purchase with funds provided by
KMA Collectors Circle



Joseph Delaney (Knoxville 1904-1991 Knoxville)
Sunday School Lesson, circa 1942
Sepia tone with gouache, pen, and ink on paper,
18 x 24 inches
2020 purchase with funds provided by
KMA Collectors Circle

THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER EXHIBITION SPONSORS!



Undercurrents: Recent Acquisitions of Contemporary Art

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- Debbie & Ron Watkins



A View of the City: Knoxville

Under Construction: Collage from the Mint Museum August 20-November 7, 2021

Featuring nearly 70 works by more than 30 international artists, *Under Construction* explores the growth and influence of the collage technique from the 1950s to the present.

Organized by the Mint Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina, it examines not only classic collages by Charlotte native Romare Bearden (1911-1988), but also the technique's role in inspiring artists and other forms of art during recent decades.

Collage, in which materials from different sources are cut, torn, and layered to create new meanings and narratives, experienced a renaissance after World War II thanks in large part to Bearden. With its seams and splices intentionally left visible, collage reveals how the artist has disrupted the usual appearance of images to create new associations and new meanings.

The technique emerged among Cubist artists working in Paris during the opening decades of the twentieth century. They incorporated pieces of cardboard, newspaper, sheet music, wallpaper, and other painted and drawn elements into their work. This approach allowed them to explore new possibilities for representing reality and space in pictorial terms. The use of the technique soon became widespread throughout avant-garde circles. The Constructivists, Dadaists, Futurists, and Surrealists all used collage for different purposes, from visually representing societal chaos in the wake of World War I, to capturing the speed and energy of modern life, to exploring the bizarre realm of the subconscious mind.

KMA members are welcome to attend the exhibition opening on Friday, August 20, 2021 5:30-7:30 pm. Additional programs surrounding *Under Construction: Collage from The Mint Museum* can be found at knoxart.org.

Later in the twentieth century, Pop artists mined mass media imagery to comment on consumerism and modern life. In the 1960s, Romare Bearden began to explore the medium's potential, becoming one of its best-known practitioners and using it to create scenes based on his experiences growing up in the South, living in New York, and traveling to such places as New Orleans and the Caribbean. As is evident in many of the works in *Under Construction*, Bearden's legacy continues to serve as a powerful touchstone for younger artists as they use new ideas, materials, and tools to define the medium's voice in the Digital Age.

Complementing more than a dozen works by Bearden are examples by Radcliffe Bailey, Sam Gilliam, Kojo Griffin, Robert A. Nelson, Man Ray, Kristina Rogers, Tim Rollins and K.O.S., Howardena Pindell, Robert Rauschenberg, and James Rosenquist.



Sam Gilliam (Tupelo, Mississippi 1933; lives and works in Washington, D.C.)

Composition Around Violet, 1982

Mixed media

65.5 x 46.875 x 2.25 inches

Gift of Charles Gorsey in memory of Edith Gorsey

Sam Gilliam rose to prominence in the 1960s for his innovative use of stained canvases he hung loosely upon the wall rather than mounted on stretchers and framed. His intention was to enable his creations to exist simultaneously as painting and sculpture. In works from the 1980s, including *Composition Around Violet*, Gilliam returned to stretched canvases but departed from traditional rectangular forms, as seen in this work, with its notched corners and rounded edges. Here, he layered a wide range of different colored canvas fragments, each with its own unique palette, texture, and shape, to create a dynamic, colorful composition.

Gilliam added the small panel in the lower right-hand corner when he was visiting Charlotte to work on his installation *The Illustrious Kites Made in Boxing Styles* at Mint Museum Randolph in 2004.

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FARGO**

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**Alexandra Rosen
& Donald Cooney**

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Hei & Stanley Park

EXHIBITIONS



Anne Lemanski (Bad Axe, Michigan 1969; lives and works in the Blue Ridge Mountains, North Carolina)

Blue Go-Go: Skeleton, 2015

Collage

54.625 x 41.5 x 1.75 inches

Promised Gift of Lorne Lassiter and Gary Ferraro

This collage is based on the inside cover of the "Giant Golden Book of Mathematics." The images it comprises appear to have been excised from either this book or one very similar to it, as they all deal with aspects of science and the natural world, ranging from a skeleton and a gyroscope to various birds, animals, insects, constellations, and star-shaped forms. On one hand, the combination of these elements suggests the interconnectedness of the natural world; on the other, their strange intermingling inspired the viewer to seek new meanings and connections between them.

Eva Pennink (Amsterdam 1911 - 2008 Amsterdam)

Untitled (Figures and Record Player), unknown date

Paper collage

17.125 x 17.125 x 1.25 inches

Anonymous Donor

Although she began her career as a noted model and fashion photographer in the 1930s, towards the end of her life, Eva Pennink turned to collage as her primary form of creative expression. Cheekily combining sources from art history and contemporary culture, Pennink created juxtapositions of figures and objects that appear provocative and humorous. The Mint Museum held the first museum exhibition of her collages in 1975.



Howardena Pindell (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 1943; lives and works in New York City)

Autobiography: East/West (Gardens), 1983

Acrylic, gouache, tempera, postcards

30.5 x 40.5 x 8.5 inches

Gift of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters: Hassam, Speicher, Betts and Symons Funds

Howardena Pindell experimented with various forms of collage throughout her career, from her provocative works made up of hole punches in the 1970s to the dynamic curving forms of her Autobiography series from the early 1980s, which includes The Mint Museum's East/West (Gardens). Pindell created the series after a severe accident in 1979 left her with short-term memory loss. The East/West works in Autobiography utilize postcards collected during her global travels, reconfiguring images from places that she visited into compositions that recall flashes of memories, perhaps echoing the way in which the brain works to piece together information.

Gardens were sources of inspiration and solace to Pindell when she encountered racism and prejudice during a trip to Japan. She wrote, "what nourished me and gave me energy was the extraordinary beauty I found in the traditional Japanese way of organizing space, images, and color, and the brief refuge of peace found in the Japanese gardens resplendent with the changes of the seasons."

Under Construction: Collage from The Mint Museum is organized by The Mint Museum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

L'Amour du Vin 2021

March 4-6

L'Amour du Vin was the museum's last in-person event held in 2020 as well as the first in-person event held in 2021.

Thank you to presenting sponsor Lexus of Knoxville, partner Blackberry Farm, and chairs Simonne and Taylor Wortham for a successful 2021 event. Held in March, L'Amour du Vin featured Chef Cassidee Dabney, Executive Chef of The Barn at Blackberry Farm®, artist Crystal Wagner, and the wines of the Spire Collection.

Other high level sponsors include: Natalie and Jim Haslam, All Occasions Party Rentals, Ann and Steve Bailey, Bandit Lites, Brewington Family, Melissa and Randy Burseson, Dominion Group, Amanda and Jason Hall, June and Rob Heller and The Trust Company of Tennessee. Special thanks to all sponsors, volunteers, donors, and special guests. A full list of sponsors is available at knoxartfoodandwine.com.

All funds raised support the operation of the KMA.

Photos by Ben Finch & Juicebeats Photography.



LLOYD & LINDSAY RUSSELL, WHITFIELD & BRITANY BAILEY, AND FLYNT & CARTER GRIFFIN



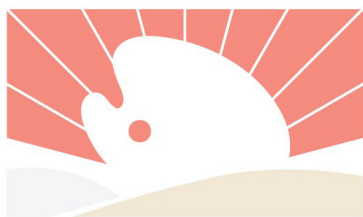
TAYLOR & SIMONNE WORTHAM



DOUG & MELISSA WHITE AND STEVEN & STEFANIE HESS (LEXUS OF KNOXVILLE)



REGINA & TERRY TURNER



ARTISTS ON LOCATION

A PLEIN AIR PAINTING EVENT

April 19-24, 2021

The Guild of the Knoxville Museum of Art's annual *plein air* painting event welcomed 24 artists from across the country to paint outdoors in and around the Knoxville area. The public was invited to watch artists in action and attend a reception for the opportunity to purchase original paintings of Knoxville and East Tennessee.

Thank you to featured artist Kevin Menck, chairs Carol Coode and Sandy Steer, and all sponsors, donors, and volunteers.

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CURATOR SPONSORS

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KNOXVILLE
MUSEUM OF ART



Save the date for next year!

April 23, 2022



KICK-OFF TO SUMMER

June 18, 2021

Kick-Off to Summer was a huge success! Featuring the high-energy, nonstop fun of The Atlanta Showstoppers with hors d'oeuvres prepared by Chef Holly Hambright of Holly's Eventful Catering.



DINO CARTWRIGHT & MOODY ALTAMIMI



Many thanks to the following sponsors...

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June & Rob Heller

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Caroline and Don Spencer

Dorothy and Caesar Stair

John Trotter

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF SUMMER ART ACADEMY!



The Knoxville Museum of Art's annual Summer Art Academy offers quality educational opportunities that ignite the children's imaginations through art. Despite reduced class sizes and mask policies this year, teachers and students alike enjoyed 7 weeks of creativity, learning, and fun. We can't wait to see everyone again next year!

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in volunteering with Education Programs, then please contact Chelsea Lloyd at clloyd@knoxart.org or (865) 525-6101 ext. 246.

THANK YOU TO PRESENTING SPONSOR



16 ANNUAL EAST TENNESSEE REGIONAL STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

NOVEMBER 26, 2021 - JANUARY 9, 2022



The Knoxville Museum of Art is pleased to present the 16th Annual East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition, featuring artwork created by East Tennessee middle-and high-school students. This competition provides the opportunity for students to participate in a juried exhibition and to have their artwork displayed in a professional art museum environment. The Best-in-Show winner receives a Purchase Award of \$500, and the artwork becomes a permanent part of the collection of Mr. James Dodson, on loan to the Knoxville Museum Art's Education Collection along with monetary awards in each of the 10 Categories.

Best In Show

Lily Asbury, 11 Grade

The Days We'll Look Back On and Smile

Acrylic

Cocke County High School

Myra Amason, Art Teacher

KMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2021-2022

* Welcome new trustees! *

On July 1, 2021, **Julia Bentley** began a two-year term as Board of Trustees chair, taking over from immediate past chair **Caesar Stair IV**.

Also starting their service on July 1 are incoming trustees **Moody Altamimi, Melissa Burleson, Carter Griffin, Alan Jones, Reneé Kesler, Tiffany Siler, and Steve Smith**.

We thank departing trustees **Annie Colquitt, Monica Crane, Madeline Griffey, Nazy Hashemian, Hunter Harrison, Susan Hyde, Allison Lederer, Courtney Lee, and John Trotter**.

Bob & Marie Alcorn began a one-year board term as chairs of Collectors Circle, replacing past Collectors Circle chairs **Geoff & Len de Rohan**.

Emily Cox replaced **Karen Mann** as KMA Guild Co-President with **Johnnie Creel**.

Moody Altamimi

Steve Bailey

Julia Bentley

Melissa Burleson

Chris Cannon

Pamela Chips

Emily Cox
(GUILD CO-PRESIDENT)

Johnnie Creel
(GUILD CO-PRESIDENT)

Louis Gauci

Carter Griffin

Kitsy Hartley
(VOLUNTEER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE)

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Collectors Circle
Co-Chairs

Tammy Kaousias
Legal Counsel

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

"Words really can't express how amazing all of you are. There's no way in the world that we could have pulled through this without your continued investment of your time and your tremendous talent. Thank you! Thank you for hanging in there with us through this really rough year and supporting the museum in any way that you could!"

— Chelsea Lloyd, Volunteer Coordinator



[2021 Volunteer Appreciation Video](#)

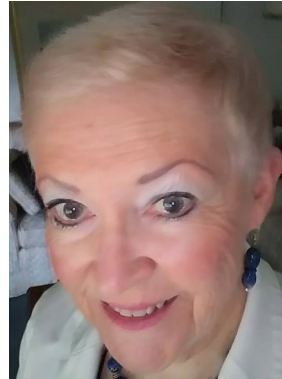
You can watch on the KMA YouTube Channel

Docent of the Year



Carole Wunderlich

Volunteer of the Year



Diana Lopez

Leadership Award



Kitsy Hartley

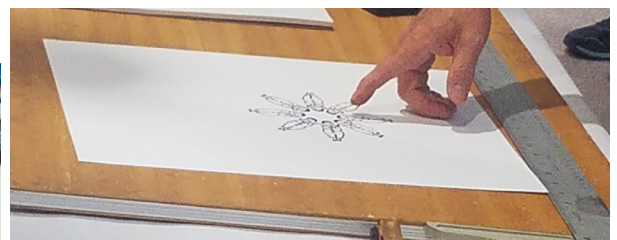
FALL PROGRAMS

We're excited to offer in-person programming this fall!

Look for your favorites like Dine & Discover and Cocktails & Conversation to return along with new programs.

Virtual programming will continue through the KMA YouTube channel. Lectures will be recorded and posted later so that everyone can enjoy them. Look for special programs such as the KMA Guild-sponsored Artist Studio Visits with sculptor Jeanne Kidd (available now) and painter Mike C. Berry (coming soon!).

Dates and details for fall programming can be found at knoxart.org/events/.





Tapestries of Fall Flower Show

Presented by the Knoxville Garden Club

Hosted by the Knoxville Museum of Art

Displays of floral design, botanical arts, photography, horticulture and conservation throughout the KMA

Tuesday, October 19

1-5pm

Wednesday, October 20

10am-4pm

For more information,
please visit theknoxvillegardenclub.org

WELCOME TO THE KMA!

Meet Sarah Kaplan, the KMA's New Marketing Manager



Please join us in welcoming Sarah Kaplan to the Knoxville Museum of Art family. Sarah will manage the KMA's marketing and communication strategy, print production, advertising, the *Canvas* newsletter, and the museum's website. As a highly skilled photographer, she executes photo shoots and photo editing for the KMA's social media accounts.

Sarah comes to us from Knoxville Graphic House where she served as Project Manager for five years. She assisted with all aspects of brand management and event marketing for dozens of local businesses, including the KMA. She has extensive experience in social media strategy and analyzing data to create future strategies. Her previous position also included working on design and print production projects while ensuring brand consistency.

"As a child, I moved a lot and lived in seven different states before I was 18 years old. When I came to Knoxville in 2009, however, I fell in love with the area! I moved here to attend the University of Tennessee where I focused on Women's Studies and Philosophy. Over the past 10 years, I have worked with several local businesses and gained crucial hands-on experience in all aspects of Marketing. I have been involved with the Knoxville Museum of Art since 2016; working closely with The Guild, Art House, and KMA gift shop as well as simply enjoying the exhibitions as a regular visitor. During the pandemic, I enjoyed working on my first home with my husband, Aaron, and spending a little extra play time with my dog, Kylo," said Sarah.

SECOND SUNDAY ART ACTIVITY



On the 2nd Sunday of every month, the Knoxville Museum of Art offers families a free virtual art activity project to make at home. Geared towards ages 3-13, Second Sunday Art Activity videos are emailed to KMA Members and can also be found on the KMA's YouTube Channel.

No Strings Attached with Donna Anderson

August 8 PART 3: **Joker Scepter Puppet**

September 12 PART 4: **Paper Mache Masks**

Creative Kids with Tatiana Tikhonova

October 10 PART 1: **Make a Bowl with Paper Mache**

November 14 PART 2: **Salt Paintings**

December 12 PART 3: **Build Your Own Aliens - Clay**

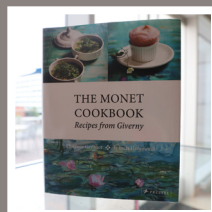
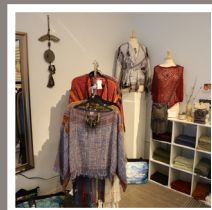
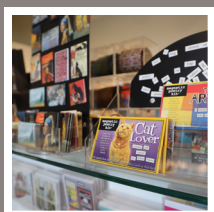
January 9, 2022 PART 4: **Styrofoam Prints**

February 13 PART 5: **Collage Building with Stamping**



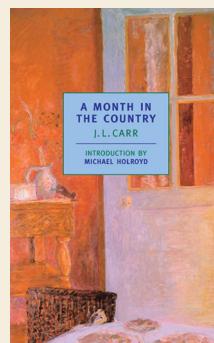
KMA Gift Shop

The KMA Gift Shop is the best place to shop in Knoxville **FOR BEAUTIFUL WORK BY LOCAL ARTISTS!** Always fun and unique items to choose from. KMA members always receive a discount!



JOIN US FOR KMA BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, October 5, 2021



A Month in the Country

By J. L. Carr

A short, spellbinding novel about a WWI veteran finding a way to re-enter—and fully embrace—normal life while spending the summer in an idyllic English village.

In J. L. Carr's deeply charged poetic novel, Tom Birkin, a veteran of the Great War and a broken marriage, arrives in the remote Yorkshire village of Oxgodby where he is to restore a recently discovered medieval mural in the local church. Living in the bell tower, surrounded by the resplendent countryside of high summer, and laboring each day to uncover an anonymous painter's depiction of the apocalypse, Birkin finds that he himself has been restored to a new, and hopeful, attachment to life. But summer ends, and with the work done, Birkin must leave. Now, long after, as he reflects on the passage of time and the power of art, he finds in his memories some consolation for all that has been lost.

Questions? Contact Margo Clark at mclark@knoxart.org



HOLIDAY HOMES TOUR

Congratulations to the Guild of the Knoxville Museum of Art for another successful year of Holiday Homes Tour - The 2020 Virtual Tour!
Special thanks to chairs Barbara Apling and Karen Mann, all sponsors, homeowners, volunteers, and video production partner Z Media Ventures.

PRESENTING SPONSOR



Rembrandt Sponsor



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, December 10, 2021

More information at www.knoxart.org



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