

MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts debuts new sculptures by
Patrick Dougherty and Jamey Grimes in the John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden
On View March 20, 2020 through March 2022

Two new sculptural installations that celebrate nature.

Montgomery, AL – From March 2 to March 20, with the help of a team of volunteers, artist Patrick Dougherty returns to Montgomery to weave together hundreds of locally gathered saplings into a magical architectural wonder. Dougherty does so without the use of nails, rope, or glue, relying instead on the natural tendency of the sticks to snag and tangle together.

Likening his process to those used by birds in constructing their nests or beavers in building dams, Dougherty joins and blends his materials in a way that stirs our imaginations and brings forth the wonder of our natural world.

For more than 30 years Dougherty has created fanciful and architectural installations worldwide. Using each particular site as inspiration, his massive “stickworks” incorporate interior rooms, inviting up-close and personal exploration from both inside and outside the structure.

Community members can help Dougherty construct this sculpture! Weekday and weekend volunteer slots are available in four-hour shifts from March 5 through March 20. Opportunities can be tailored to needs and abilities. For more information about this exciting

opportunity and to volunteer, contact Elisabeth Palmer at 334.625.4362 or epalmer@mmfa.org.

A second work inspired by nature is *Teraxacum*, 2020, created by Alabama artist Jamey Grimes. Named for the Latin name of the common dandelion, Grimes uses geometric forms made of aluminum to represent a 10-foot diameter dandelion in its seed pod form. Extending off the plinth, individual seeds will tumble across the reflecting pool.

Grimes' interpretation of the dandelion brings forth our complicated relationship to this plant; we treat it as both a nuisance (a weed) and an object of wonder (blowing the seeds and making a wish). In the garden, the oversized *Teraxacum* is a captivating and whimsical interpretation of this flowering plant

Grimes studied both art and biology, and his large-scale sculptural installations are a blend of these two interests. His sculptural works prompt us to consider our physical and emotional connection to the natural environment.

MMFA Curator Jennifer Jankauskas says "Both Patrick Dougherty and Jamey Grimes use nature as a springboard to create delightful sculptural installations. Although playful, their works challenge us to consider our relationship to the world around us." MMFA Director Angie Dodson added, "While we were sad to see the first of the Caddell Sculpture Garden's inaugural sculptures leave, we are delighted to welcome these two wonderful new works to the mix. And, we are eager to share them with the community—the Dougherty both during its creation and after its completion and the Grimes after it is installed."

The MMFA is incredibly grateful for the generosity of sponsors Laura and Barrie Harmon and John Caddell and co-sponsor Warren Averett, Barganier Davis Williams Architects Associated, and Valley Bank with additional in-kind support by Warren Barrow for Patrick Dougherty's installation. We also appreciate the aid of multiple City of Montgomery Departments including Maintenance, Lagoon Park Trails, and Urban Forestry for all of their efforts in bringing this project to fruition. We are equally thankful to sponsors Dr. and Mrs. Barry L. Wilson, PowerSouth and Servis First Bank, and co-sponsors Gage and Mark LeQuire for enabling us to bring Jamey Grimes' *Teraxacum* to the River Region.

The Artists

Patrick Dougherty

North Carolina-based artist Patrick Dougherty earned a B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina in 1967 and an M.A. in Hospital and Health Administration from the University of Iowa in 1969. Later, he returned to the University of North Carolina to study art history and sculpture.

In 1982, Dougherty's first stickwork sculpture was a part of the North Carolina Biennial Artists' Exhibition, sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of Art. His work quickly evolved from

single pieces on conventional pedestals to monumental scale environmental works, which required saplings by the truckloads. In his career to date, Dougherty has built over 250 of these works worldwide, to wide acclaim.

Dougherty has received numerous awards including the 2011 Factor Prize for Southern Art, North Carolina Artist Fellowship Award, Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, Henry Moore Foundation Fellowship, Japan-US Creative Arts Fellowship, and National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship. Princeton Architectural Press published a major book about Patrick and his work in 2009.

Jamey Grimes

Artist Jamey Grimes attended Birmingham-Southern College to complete undergraduate degrees in Biology (B.S.) and Painting (B.F.A.), with a Mathematics Minor; he received an M.F.A. in Sculpture from The University of Alabama.

Grimes' collaborative interests focus on incorporating technology into sculptural installations, and his subject matter draws on scientific observations of the natural world. Grimes has shown his artwork in more than 100 exhibitions in almost 20 states. Exhibition locations include Austin Peay State University, TN; Lowe Mill ARTS and Entertainment, Huntsville, AL; the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, AL; the Meridian Museum of Art, MS; Wiregrass Museum, AL; Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, MI; FAT Village in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; and the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts, DE. Grimes has permanent installations of his work at the Pinellas County Health Department in Largo, FL; the Fairmont at Millennium Park, Chicago, IL; and Pinnacle Bank in Nashville, TN.

In 2019, Grimes was awarded the South Arts State Fellowship for Alabama. He is an Alabama State Council on the Visual Arts Fellowship Recipient and was the Arts Council of Tuscaloosa's 2014 Visual Arts Educator of the Year.

The John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden

Since its opening in late 2018, MMFA visitors can now relax and recharge in the serenity of our stunning new three-acre John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden.

Designed with the flexibility to accommodate changing displays, the garden provides an innovative venue for the siting of art in the dynamic natural landscape. Transformed by season, time of day, and even weather, the Caddell Sculpture Garden is a place for the community to gather and be a part of an outdoor gallery space, a site for open-air educational programs, a unique venue for special events, or even just an inspiring space for quiet reflection.

Related Programs

On Friday, March 20 at 6 PM come to meet the artists and to celebrate their installations with a reception in the Garden. For more information about this free event, visit <https://mmfa.org/visit/events/?start=2020-03-20>

MMFA Background

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts was founded in 1930 by a group of local artists as place for both exhibiting art and space for art education. The original intentions of our founders—to exhibit and teach—continue to inspire and inform every action and activity here at the Museum which, since 1988, has shared the 277-acre Blount Cultural Park with our partners across the lake at the celebrated Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Today’s MMFA visitors stroll art-studded grounds and permanent collection galleries. They see compelling changing exhibitions and learn about art by playing in our interactive gallery, Artworks, making art in its bustling studios, or by participating in other engaging events and programs.

While the Museum’s collection is still home to the art of many of the regional artists who first established it, over time, it has become known for its strength in American art and Old Master Prints. Recent, important acquisitions of art made by African American and Asian artists and works inspired by images and themes related to the experiences of these groups represent the breadth and depth of the lives and concerns of those who now call Montgomery and the River Region home. Through the exhibition of this work as well as the programs and events that help connect our communities with it, the MMFA is recognized as a leading arts and cultural resource here in the state and Southeastern region.

The MMFA is a department of the City of Montgomery and is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery, with additional funds form the Montgomery County Commission and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

General Information

What: Two new sculptures at the John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden by Patrick Dougherty and Jamey Grimes

When: Celebration: March 20, 2020
On view: March 20, 2020 through 2022

Where: Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park
One Museum Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117

