



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release

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The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Joins the Association of Art Museum Directors' Eighth Annual Celebration of Art Museum Day

Montgomery, Alabama, May 17, 2017—The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts announced today that it will join more than 175 other AAMD member museums across North America to participate in **Art Museum Day** on **Sunday, May 21, 2017, from 2 to 4:30 P.M.**

Art Museum Day is scheduled to coincide with the celebration of International Museum Day, which is designated this year as Thursday, May 18, 2016. To mark the occasion, the MMFA will host a special edition of *Family Art Affair* on May 21, and as always, **admission is FREE**. The Museum encourages guests to share their experiences at the MMFA's Art Museum Day celebration via social media, with the hashtag #ArtMuseumDay.

By providing new opportunities for participation in the diverse range of programs offered by AAMD member museums, Art Museum Day is designed to highlight the value of the visual arts and the important role art museums play in the local community. This year the Museum invites visitors to create their own mini-gallery. Each gallery will contain art inspired by those in the Museum's collection. We also encourage our guests to celebrate the Opening of the ARTWORKS Corridor Exhibition: *Learning Through Art*, an exhibition featuring the work of third and fourth-grade students from Wares Ferry Road Elementary School. The students were enrolled in the MMFA Artist in Residence Program for the 2016-2017 school year. As AAMD has noted in the theme for Museum Day "Art Museums Foster Vibrant Communities."

MMFA Director Mark M. Johnson stated, "Our local celebration of Art Museum Day recognizes the importance of the MMFA's mission, as well as the relevance of our permanent collections and temporary exhibitions to our local community. Art museums are invaluable spaces that bring people in the River Region together to experience the arts of various cultures and generations."

“The arts are shared by people across every time period and every place—creativity is a vital part of what makes us human and what makes our cities and towns better places to live,” said Chris Anagnos, Executive Director of AAMD. “The AAMD greatly appreciates the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts’ participation in Art Museum Day, and the contributions all art museums make to the vibrancy, economy, and strength of their communities.”

AAMD represents 245 art museums across the United States, Canada, and Mexico—from regional museums to large museums in major urban centers. International Museum Day is organized annually around the world by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). AAMD’s Art Museum Day is an opportunity to focus attention on the role of art museums in North America, as part of ICOM’s global celebration.

A comprehensive list of participating AAMD member art museums will be available on the AAMD website (<http://www.aamd.org/>). Note that while AAMD’s Art Museum Day and ICOM’s International Museum Day are formally held each year on May 18, some institutions shift their celebrations to adjacent dates.

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, a department of the City of Montgomery, is supported by funds from the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Association. Programs are made possible, in part, by grants from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Exhibition programs are supported by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

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