



Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release  
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## American Folk Art at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Montgomery, AL, March 30, 2016

A major exhibition of more than 60 works by some of the most admired 19th-century American folk artists will open to the public on Thursday, March 31, with a reception and an illustrated lecture by Dr. Libby O'Connell, an Emmy Award winner with the History Channel.

The reception, which also celebrates several other temporary exhibitions currently on view, begins at 5:30 P.M. The Fleischman Lecture, part of a series endowed in memory of Larry Fleischman, a pioneering historian and advocate of American art, begins at 7 P.M. The Museum will be open until 9 P.M., as usual on Thursdays. The reception, lecture, and exhibitions are open to the public for free.

**Dr. O'Connell's lecture, *The Daily Lives of American Folk Artists***, will explore the work and daily lives of selected artists, focusing on the customs of ordinary Americans in the 19th century, aspects of the artists' personal lives, and ways in which the era informed the artists' careers and expressions. Building upon her early scholarship in social history, Dr. O'Connell's Emmy-award-winning career at the History Channel speaks to her dedication to connecting people to the past.

After the lecture, Dr. O'Connell will be available to sign copies of her book, *The American Plate: A Culinary History in 100 Bites*.

**MEDIA: PLEASE NOTE THAT DR. O'CONNELL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS AFTER THE LECTURE. THE COLLECTOR, MS. BARBARA GORDON, WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.**

*A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America* showcases more than 60 works by some of the most admired 19th-century American artists in this genre, which dominated artistic production in the early years of the American republic. Folk art is not representative of the art exhibited in the few American galleries and museums that existed before 1900, but it incorporates the visual language that most 19th-century Americans knew—portraits, landscapes, shop signs, and domestic furnishings. *A Shared Legacy* will remain on view through June 19.

The exhibition is drawn from the Barbara L. Gordon Collection and is organized and circulated by Art Services International, Alexandria, Virginia. At the MMFA, the show is sponsored by Sandra and Joe McInnes, ARONOV, Doug Lowe, 2015 Junior Executive Board of the MMFA. Co-sponsors are Harmon, Dennis, Bradshaw; River Bank; Aldridge Borden & Company; Carolyn and Dr. Alfred Newman, Jr.

In conjunction with the 19th-century folk art exhibition, the Museum will present *An Alternate Vision: Self-Taught Art of the Twentieth Century from the MMFA Collection*, which will remain on view through June 19. The Museum has collected work by self-taught artists since the early 1980s and has assembled this exhibition to highlight those active in the Southeast. This installation will include recently acquired works by Montgomery native Mose Tolliver (ca.1920-

2006) and West Alabama's Jimmy Lee Sudduth (1910-2007). The exhibition is organized by the Montgomery, Museum of Fine Arts.

**The ARTWORKS Corridor Exhibition of Student Art, *Inspired by American Folk Art Traditions***, includes 58 works by local student artists who nostalgically reflect upon ancestral histories, memorabilia, and traditions. The students' art is inspired by *A Shared Legacy: Folk Art in America*. The ARTWORKS Corridor exhibition continues through May 8.

Two additional exhibitions are view at this time.

*Patriotic Prints* includes *The Kent Bicentennial Portfolio: Spirit of Independence*, which was commissioned by the Lorillard Tobacco Company, New York, and was printed by Ives-Stillman, New Haven, Connecticut, to celebrate the bicentennial of the United States in 1976. Other patriotic prints from the Museum's permanent collection are also in the exhibition, which will remain on view through May 1. This exhibition is organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and is co-sponsored by Renasant Bank .

*Surreal Visions* celebrates artists who reveal new worlds by mining the space between reality and imagination. In the early 1920s, a group of artists and writers in Paris began creating works that aimed to unlock the unconscious and unleash the imagination. These Surrealists were influenced by the thinking of psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud and his contemporaries. The exhibition continues through June 12. It is organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and is co-sponsored by Trustmark.

The Museum is located at One Museum Drive in Blount Cultural Park. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m. The Museum Store is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Sunday 12 noon to 4 P.M. Admission is free and donations are welcome. For more information, call the MMFA at 334.240.4333 or visit the website at <http://www.mmfa.org>.

The MMFA, 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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