



**Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts News Release**

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**The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Joins Art Museums Across North America, With Great Works of Art and Public Programs**

**Montgomery, Alabama, May 16, 2018**—The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts announced today that it will continue its tradition of joining more than 161 other Museums across North America to participate in the 9th annual Art Museum Day on Sunday, May 20, 2018, from 2 to 4:30 P.M. To mark this national celebration, the Museum is presenting *Family Art Affair*, where visitors can create a mini gallery, and *Jazz Jams*, featuring the David Banks Gospel Jazz Revue, and as always at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, admission is FREE.

Art Museum Day, which is designated this year as Friday, May 18, 2018, and throughout the week, gathers hundreds of institutions from across North America to recognize the arts and the important role that art museums play in their communities. The Museum encourages guests to share their experiences on social media with the hashtag #ArtMuseumDay.

“Art museums are invaluable communal spaces that bring people together to experience the arts across cultures and generations. This celebration is the Museum’s way of introducing Montgomery and the River Region to the artwork of artists not only from Alabama but all across the nation,” said Museum Interim Director Ed Bridges.

The theme for Art Museum Day 2018 is *Hyperconnected Museums*, a recognition of the many ways in which museums serve as central points of connectivity within their communities, both online and in person. Art museums are often anchors for public spaces and neighborhoods, and they partner with school systems and civic organizations in ways that make their towns, cities, and regions better for everyone who lives and works there. For example, the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts hosts all of the Montgomery Public School kindergarteners and fifth graders on tours. Currently on view at the Museum is *The Language of Art*, an exhibition showcasing the works of third and fourth graders at Wares Ferry Road Elementary Schools, where the Museum leads weekly creative lessons. The Museum also looks forward to the opening of the new John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden, providing a new community space. *Hyperconnected Museums* also serve as engines for the creative economy, tapping the human creativity embedded in works of art—whether thousands of years old or as recent as 2018—to inspire new ideas and ways of thinking.

“I am thrilled that the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts is again participating in Art Museum Day, an opportunity to bring communities together to experience great art and special programs both in Montgomery, Alabama and across North America,” said Christine Anagnos, executive director of AAMD. “Art is vital to our lives, a reflection of both the incredible diversity of humanity and the many common elements that unite us.”

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AAMD represents 240 art museums across the United States, Canada, and Mexico—from regional museums in small towns 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.

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.