

MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANNOUNCES FLIMP FESTIVAL

Long-standing annual celebration of creativity, imagination, and humor will take place online, in-person, and at home.



Photograph of an adult chalk artist creating a work in the Museum's parking lot at the 2018 Flimp Festival

Montgomery, AL, April 12, 2021 – The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) is excited to share a reimagined Flimp Festival with families and other social pods across the River Region. This year's event will take place online, in-person, and at home—inviting participants to join in the fun however best fits their comfort level come early May.

Participants are invited to tune in to the Museum's YouTube channel each Sunday in April leading up to Flimp. Local artists Tori Nicole, Winfred Hawkins, and Nathaniel Allen—who have all recently taken part in the Museum's Local Artists Live program on Instagram—will explore their unique approaches to

art-making with MMFA educator Kaci Norman. Each interview will also include a time-lapse video of the featured artist creating original works of chalk art.

On Saturday, May 1, all are invited to celebrate Flimp in the Museum's Caddell Sculpture Garden. Visitors will enjoy outdoor art activities and live performances by regional musicians Calliope Pettis and Wanda Wesolowski. Additionally, nationally renowned chalk artist Jennifer Richardson will be demonstrating her chalk skills in the Education Courtyard. Richardson will be creating a work inspired by the art walk, *A Stroll with Shakespeare: The Boydells and the Bard*, on view now around Newell Lake in Blount Cultural Park. The first 250 groups to visit will receive a free 32-piece chalk set to take home.

Finding inspiration from the local and national chalk artists, children and the young at heart are encouraged to create a sidewalk, patio, or driveway masterpiece at home after Flimp. Participants can

share their art with the greater MMFA community by uploading a photo of the work to Instagram and using the hashtag #Fлимп2021.

MMFA Director Angie Dodson states, “After a year of living, schooling, and working at a distance so much of the time, it's a joy to offer folks an opportunity to break free of the ordinary and engage in activities that spark creativity, imagination, and good humor! We've been careful to craft this beloved wonderfest of whimsy in a way that allows people to participate in a manner that's consistent with their level of comfort, be it online, in-person, or at-home. So, come one and all—let's turn to the arts as an elixir for our pandemic-weary souls!”

Support for the Fлимп Festival is provided by lead sponsor The Caring Foundation of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama.

SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS

Fлимп Chalk at Home: Tori Nicole

Available now on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/montgomerymfa>)

Free

To serve as inspiration for children and the young at heart to create chalk works together at home, local artist Tori Nicole will join Museum educator Kaci Norman for a virtual interview about her work as an artist and what she chose to create for the Fлимп Chalk at Home Celebration.

Fлимп Chalk at Home: Winfred Hawkins

Sunday, April 18, 2 PM

YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/montgomerymfa>)

Free

To serve as inspiration for children and the young at heart to create chalk works together at home, local artist Winfred Hawkins will join Museum educator Kaci Norman for a virtual interview about his work as an artist and what he chose to create for the Fлимп Chalk at Home Celebration.

Fлимп Chalk at Home: Nathaniel Allen

Sunday, April 25, 2 PM

YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/montgomerymfa>)

Free

To serve as inspiration for children and the young at heart to create chalk works together at home, local artist Nathaniel Allen will join Museum educator Kaci Norman for a virtual interview about his work as an artist and what he chose to create for the Fлимп Chalk at Home Celebration.

Fлимп Festival: Chalk Celebration

Saturday, May 1, 10 AM–3 PM

YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/montgomerymfa>)

Free

Celebrate Fлимп in the Caddell Sculpture Garden, where nationally renowned chalk artist, Jennifer Richardson, will demonstrate her talent with chalk. All will enjoy a live performance of whimsical songs and poems by Calliope Pettis and Wanda Wesolowski, play outdoor yard games, and participate in

other art activities. Don't forget to pick up a box of chalk (limited to the first 250 groups) to take home and create your own outdoor masterpieces!

In the event of inclement weather, Flimp will be rescheduled for the following Saturday, May 8 at the same time.

ABOUT FLIMP

Started in 1989, the Flimp Festival is the Museum's annual arts celebration bringing the community and the arts together in fun, whimsical, and creative ways through art-making, music, movement, and chalk art.

ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

Chalk Artist

Jennifer Richardson loves connecting people to the arts through creation, education, and in-person experiences. Her passion for creating chalk art has led Jennifer to participate in Nashville Chalkfest every year since its inauguration in 2015. When she's not covered in chalk, Jennifer puts her MA in art history to use as the Education and Curatorial Assistant at the Nashville Parthenon and provides art lessons to her local community through her art haven, Golden House Studio.

Richardson has competed in more than a dozen competitions and won for her work in the Albany Museum of Art Chalk Fest (Albany, GA; 2019) and Arcadia Chalk Festival (Arcadia, MO; 2019).



Jennifer Richardson

Local Artists

Tori Nicole is a local artist and activist from central Alabama whose works of art are inspired by culture, education, human consciousness, and balance. She holds a BA in psychology and art from Huntingdon College and serves as the Alabama Indigenous Coalition vice president. Throughout her studies and travels, she discovered a love of live painting and has been a featured action painter at several events across the country.

Winfred Hawkins graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design and has been working as a graphic designer since 2007. After suffering a nerve injury in 2012 that affected both arms, Winfred adapted his style to incorporate the use of both hands, using his non-dominant, right hand for sketching while reserving his left hand for work more involved in style and subject matter. This technique results in original characters that reflect his unique mythology and art style.

Nathaniel Allen earned a BFA in Painting at Michigan State University and an MFA in Painting at the University of Mississippi; he is currently the Chair of the Visual Art department at Alabama State University. He creates a wide range of art, from commissioned portraits and mural paintings to book and magazine illustrations and logo designs. He has won various awards in juried art exhibitions and has sequential artwork published in the British horror anthology "Hallowscream."

Musicians

Calliope Pettis is a classically trained vocalist, self-taught multi-instrumentalist, songwriter, performer, and teaching artist. She believes everyone has the ability to create, and enjoys empowering people of all ages to use their unique voices to participate.

Wanda Wesolowski has spent the last decade in Huntsville focused on writing and performing original songs that speak on sensitive matters of the heart. Sharing insights from adolescence with unapologetic sincerity, Wesolowski aims to connect her audience, promising beautifully crafted melodies listeners can't help but sing along to.

FOR YOUR SAFETY | COVID-19

We remain committed to serving our members and visitors in a safe and responsible manner, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To this end: to facilitate **social distancing**, we have limited the number of people allowed in the building. To address **cleaning and disinfection** of our facility, we have implemented new practices in accordance with CDC, EPA, and OSHA guidelines. Additionally, hand sanitizer will be available for visitors, and all Museum visitors over the age of six are required to **wear a mask or face covering** during their visit. Please stay at home if you are feeling ill or have been exposed to COVID-19 in the fourteen (14) days prior to your visit. All Museum staff have their temperature taken each day and are required to wear masks.

MMFA BACKGROUND

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts was founded in 1930 by a group of local artists as a 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 temporary exhibitions and learn about art by creating in bustling studios or by participating in our engaging events and programs. MMFA visitors can also relax and recharge in the serenity of our stunning three-acre sculpture garden.

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 exhibiting this work and offering programs and events that connect our communities with it, the MMFA stands as a leading arts and cultural resource in Alabama and across the 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 from 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:** Flimp Festival
- WHEN:** Flimp Chalk at Home: Tori Nicole; Sunday, April 11; 2 PM
Flimp Chalk at Home: Winfred Hawkins; Sunday, April 18, 2 PM
Flimp Chalk at Home: Nathaniel Allen; Sunday, April 25; 2 PM
Flimp Festival: Chalk Celebration, Saturday, May 1; 10 AM–3 PM
- WHERE:** Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park
One Museum Drive
Montgomery, AL 36117
- INFORMATION:** mmfa.org
334.625.4333
@MontgomeryMFA
- HOURS:**
Galleries, Mondays, Closed
Sculpture Garden, Tuesdays–Saturdays, 10 AM–5 PM
Terrace, and Store: Sundays, Noon to 5 PM
Last entry at 4:45 PM
- ADMISSION:** Free! With ample, free parking.

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MEDIA CONTACT

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