

MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS PRESENTS ART CONNECTS

On view, August 7 through September 19, 2021, this collaborative exhibition features works of art from the Museum's collection selected by individuals and organizations that call the River Region "home."



William Wegman (American, born 1943), *Audience*, 1990, Polaroid Polacolor ER print on paper, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama, Association Purchase, 1996.2; Selected by Sarah Walker Thornton, Artistic Director, Cloverdale Playhouse

Montgomery, AL, July 22, 2021 – *Art Connects: Works from the Vault Curated by the Community* is just that—a collaborative exhibition shaped by local voices, comprised of works of art from the MMFA's permanent collection not often on view, selected by representatives from various local organizations and individuals who call the River Region "home." The wide-ranging selections, grouped within diverse themes, provide fresh perspectives on the Museum's collection, offering innovative contexts and connections among works of art from different periods, genres, and materials. *Art Connects* also engages the community in a new way. Each work of art is accompanied by a personal statement, revealing why it was selected and demonstrating how we all react and respond to art in different ways.

Organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, this innovative project brings together the voices of more than 50 community members, including local artists, educators, representatives from corporate and nonprofit organizations, leaders in the military and cultural sectors, and government officials, including Mayor Steven L. Reed. The works of art in

the exhibition were selected because they speak to enduring ideas and concerns such as the environment, social change, spirituality, and tradition.

Curator Jennifer Jankauskas explains, "Members of the community embraced this project so enthusiastically. It was wonderful to see how various works of art affect people in such personal and different ways and to be able to present our collection from a new perspective." Laura Bocquin,

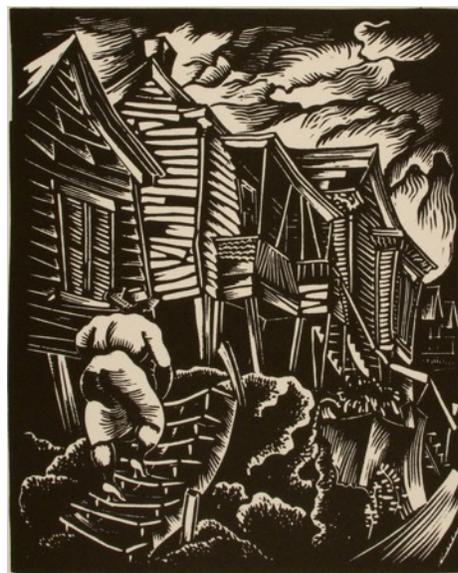
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

One Museum Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117
334.625.4333 | @MontgomeryMFA | mmfa.org

Community Arts and Engagement Coordinator agrees, adding, “Just as each individual brings unique vitality to our city’s essence, this exhibition beautifully demonstrates the strength of a diversified unity.”

Director Angie Dodson states, “Bringing more of the community into the life of the Museum and bringing the Museum more into the life of the community is priority work for us. This exhibition enlarges our constellation of community-centric projects and programs and is just one of a wide array of access points that we are developing to broaden and deepen our connection with the community we are called to serve.”

Local community members were also crucial for their support in presenting the exhibition. The MMFA is grateful to sponsors Laura and Barrie Harmon, PowerSouth, and Winifred and Charles Stakely with additional support from co-sponsors The Honorable and Mrs. Truman M. Hobbs, Jr., Nancy and Marty Lee, and Mrs. Mary Lil Owens and Mr. Bill Little.



Hale Woodruff (American, 1900–1980), *Coming Home*, 1931–1946; printed 1996, from the portfolio, *Hale Woodruff: Selections from the Atlanta Period, 1931–1946*, linocut on heavy laid paper, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts, Montgomery, Alabama, Gift of Lyn and E. T. Williams, Jr., New York, New York, and Naples, Florida, 2011.8.3, © 2021 The Estate of Hale Woodruff / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York, NY; Selected by Steven L. Reed, Mayor, Montgomery, Alabama

RELATED PROGRAMS

While we are glad to welcome visitors back to the Museum, we also maintain our commitment to supporting and keeping connected with those who are not yet ready to return to the Museum or those who’ve come to value their online access to the Museum. With that in mind, we have designed the following in person and virtual programs to accompany the *Art Connects: Works from the Vault Curated by the Community*.

Opening Reception

Thursday, August 5; 5:30-7 PM

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

Free; Cash Bar

MMFA Curator Jennifer Jankauskas will lead a gallery talk at 6 PM.

Local Artists Live: Kirk Curnutt

Saturday, August 14; 10 AM

Instagram

Free

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in studios of local artists? Each month, artists broadcast live on the Museum’s Instagram—opening their studio spaces to share artwork, reflect on inspirations, and offer a live Q&A with the audience!

Creative Conversations: Art Connects

Wednesday, September 8; 5:30 PM

Facebook Live

Free

MMFA Curator Jennifer Jankaukas and MMFA Community Arts and Engagement Coordinator Laura Bocquin will lead a discussion around the process of bringing the community-curated exhibition *Art Connects* to life. Several participants in the project will also share their experiences contributing to the exhibition and being engaged members of the River Region community.

Local Artists Live: Bill Ford

Saturday, September 11; 10 AM

Instagram

Free

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in studios of local artists? Each month, artists broadcast live on the Museum's Instagram—opening their studio spaces to share artwork, reflect on inspirations, and offer a live Q&A with the audience!

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: we request that all Museum visitors over the age of five **wear a mask or face covering** during their visit. **Social distancing is encouraged** and indicated by signage throughout the Garden and the Galleries. Following CDC and ADPH guidelines, we have increased the frequency that we **clean and disinfect high-touch areas**. Additionally, hand sanitizer is readily available for visitors. 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.

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 through 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. And, as of late September 2018, MMFA visitors can now relax and recharge in the serenity of our stunning new 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 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 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: *Art Connects: Works from the Vault Curated by the Community*

WHEN: August 7 through September 19, 2021

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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