FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANNOUNCES MAJOR FUNDRAISER

The biennial Art Auction provides crucial support for the Museum’s curatorial and educational programming.

Montgomery, AL, September 7, 2021 – The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts’ 15th biennial—and final—Art Auction will soon commence, and the MMFA plans to bid farewell with grandeur and style! Set against the backdrop of the Lowder Gallery, Art Auction 2021 officially opens to the public for silent bidding on Saturday, September 11th, with opportunities to bid in person during normal Museum hours through October 14 until noon.

Featuring art sourced from artists and galleries across the Southeastern United States, including Atlanta, GA, Charleston, SC, and New Orleans, LA. The auction includes works by notable artists such as Reynolds Beal, Ashley Longshore, Rhett Thurman, Holton Rower, Billy Solitario, and Yvonne Wells. In addition to works of art there are also six unique experiences donated by local and regional businesses available at auction including two nights at Willow Point Golf and Country Club on Lake Martin for two including meals (Retail: $1,800, Opening Bid: $900) and a cigar and whiskey experience at Sanctuary Cigars (Retail: $400, Opening Bid: $240).

The Gala event, scheduled for Thursday evening, October 14th, will begin in the John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden at 6:30 PM with cocktails and bidding on outdoor art. The evening will continue in the Lowder Gallery, where attendees will enjoy a gallery full of diverse auction items, hors d’oeuvres, and open bars. Gala event tickets will be $65 per person and are available for purchase now through October 1st at mmfa.org/artauction.
MMFA Director Angie Dodson says “Since 1992, the Museum has presented a biennial art auction to, at once, create opportunities for local art lovers to expand their collections and raise funds to support a range of Museum activities including acquisitions, exhibitions, and programs. Here, on the occasion of the 15th MMFA Art Auction, we playfully “bid farewell” to it as an every-other year offering in this exact form. For anyone saddened by this news, fear not—after a rest, opportunities to acquire art will find a new form in the broadened line-up of signature social and fundraising events held here at the Museum over the years. And, other “parties with a purpose”—new and different opportunities to come together around art and socialize in ways that benefit the Museum—are just on the horizon.”

MMFA Board president Cathy Martin adds “One of the many wonders of any MMFA Art Auction is its ease of access to work by regional artists beyond those whose work is featured in the Museum store and at our annual Artists Market. And, the wonders of Art Auction 2021—the stunning selection of just over 100 carefully curated works representing the ever-expanding body of artists and bounty of work created across our region by some of the most fascinating makers of any place or time.”

Bid numbers can be secured at the Museum or by contacting the Development Department at 334-625-4348. The Art Auction catalogue including images and details of each item is available on the auction website at mmfa.org/artauction. In-person bidding is highly encouraged, but proxy bids can be made by contacting the Development Department. All auction items have an opening bid price and a minimum increase amount (indicated in the catalogue and in the gallery).

Art Auction 2021 is made possible by the support and dedication of lead sponsors Laura and Barrie Harmon, Medical Properties Trust, Morgan Stanley, and Rheem Manufacturing Company; sponsors Merrill Lynch, ServisFirst Bank, and Mr. and Mrs. Todd Strange; and co-sponsors Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak PA, Bargainer Davis Williams Architects Associated, AIA, Beasley Allen Law Firm, The Frazer Lanier Company, Jackson Hospital & Clinic, Mr. and Mrs. Rhon Jones, Jordan, Alice, and Gardner in memory of their father, Jim Bargainer, Rushto, Stakely, Johnston & Garrett PA, and Warren Averett.
#003
Bowl
Unknown
Wood, 18 x 17 in.
Retail: $125
Opening Bid: $90
Min. Incr.: $25

#055
Congrats
Michael Banks
Acrylic on Masonite, 18 x 24 in.
Retail: $400
Opening Bid: $250
Min. Incr.: $25

#089
Light Across Acturus Pass, Horn Island, 2019
Billy Solitario
Oil on canvas, 30 x 30 in.
Retail: $4,000
Opening Bid: $2,750
Min. Incr.: $100
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: all Museum visitors over the age of five must wear a mask or face covering while inside 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.

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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 Auction 2021

WHEN: Silent bidding: Saturday, September 11 through Thursday, October 14 at noon
Gala Event: Thursday, October 14; 6:30–9 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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