

# MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## THE MONTGOMERY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANNOUNCES FLIMP FESTIVAL

The long-standing annual celebration of creativity, imagination, and whimsy returns Saturday, May 7.



Flimp Festival 2021; Photograph by Rob Dabney

**Montgomery, AL, April 18, 2022** – The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) is excited to invite families from across the River Region to the Museum’s John and Joyce Caddell Sculpture Garden for our annual celebration of art making, music, movement, and whimsy. This year’s event will take place on Saturday, May 7, from 10 AM to 2 PM—in the event of inclement weather, activities will be moved indoors.

Outdoors, visitors will enjoy many art activities for all ages along with family-friendly grooves performed live by MEOWAcademy and regional musicians Calliope Pettis and Wanda Wesolowski. This year, in partnership with MGMWERX, visitors will have the opportunity to explore an augmented reality world in the Sculpture Garden’s tree grove featuring virtual flimps, or flower imps, inspired by Geneva Mercer’s *Flimp Fountain* in the MMFA’s permanent collection. The outdoor fun continues with dazzling glitter temporary tattoos applied by the local art educators and artists from

Abrakadoodle. Additionally, families can find inspiration from our community; local artists Tara Cady Sartorius (mixed-media), Pacrates (mixed-media painter), Tori Nicole Arts (painter), and Queen Opulence (jewelry maker) will each be engaging with visitors while demonstrating their artistic styles, with works available for purchase in the Museum Shop.

Inside the building, we are excited to announce the reopening of the Museum’s interactive gallery, ArtWorks, closed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Visitors will enjoy family-friendly activities, including the MMFA’s ongoing series, Baby+Me, a program designed for parents and toddlers ages ten months to three years old that includes story time and art making.

MMFA Director Angie Dodson states, "As we continue to get our next-normal legs under us, we are delighted to have Flimp's creativity-, imagination-, and humor-sparking activities on offer! We are also excited that this year's wonderfest of whimsy marks the grand reopening of ArtWorks where folks—big and small—can, again, flex their creative muscles every Tuesday through Sunday! This is both a wonderful welcome back for visitors who've grown-up or are raising their kids in ArtWorks, and it is also a joyous, first-time welcome for those who've welcomed their first kiddos into their lives during the pandemic."

The Museum's new cafe, Verde, features delicious foods made from fresh, seasonal, and local ingredients; That's My Dog and Frios will also be on-site to provide food and cool treats perfect for the season. The first 100 families to enter the Garden will receive a colorful bag with art-making materials, complete with coloring books and crayons to make more art at home.



Musician Calliope Pettis performs at Flimp Festival 2021; Photograph by Rob Dabney

Support for the Flimp Festival is provided by lead sponsor HMMA, sponsor MAX Credit Union, and co-sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Bruce S. Reid. Annual support for events at the MMFA is provided by lead sponsors Lamar and MGMWERX, with additional support from sponsors Gene and Ray Ingram and Margaret and Jimmy Lowder, and co-sponsors Confero, Mary Lil Owens and Bill Little, Renasant Bank, and Synovus Bank.

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## ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

### Demonstrating Artists

**Tara Cady Sartorius** is an artist and art educator interested in connecting people through design, materials, words, and images. A founding member of the Flimp Festival back in 1990, Tara believes that the pursuit of knowledge should be motivated by curiosity, which resonates throughout Flimp! At this year's festival, Tara will lead an activity as Flimp's featured artist, guiding participants through creating their own floral head garlands from fresh flowers and other whimsical materials.

Artist **Pacrates** spent his youth appreciating and making art, especially drawing and doodling, but it was not until recent years that he began to consider himself an artist. At Flimp, Pacrates will create art using oil and cold wax, developing whimsical abstract forms inspired by his imagination.

**Tori Nicole Arts** creates artwork that embodies balance and is often inspired by Native American and African American cultures and human consciousness. For Flimp, she will use vibrant washes of oil paints to develop a visually soft, yet strikingly realistic, nature painting.

Jeweler **Queen Opulence** makes bold, unique metal and gemstone jewelry—each piece wound and formed by hand, which she will demonstrate at Flimp for visitors. Every necklace, ring, bracelet, or pair of earrings has its own feel, shape, and meaning.

## Local Partners

**Abrakadoodle** is all about creativity for kids and, since its founding in 2002, has delivered the very best in visual arts classes, summer art camps, holiday art camps, art parties, and art events to more than one million children in schools, community sites, and studios for kids around the world!

**AL Partnership for Children** develops and strengthens systems, forges strategies, and increases public awareness for all early childhood programs in Alabama.

**Autism Society of Alabama** provides services and resources for children, teens, and adults living with autism spectrum disorder and their families through education and advocacy.

**MGMWERX** was created under a Partnership Intermediary Agreement between DEFENSEWERX and the Air Force Research Laboratory with the goal of aligning with the education initiatives of Air University to enhance the production of high-quality, innovative research and ideas by bringing nationwide resources to the area.

## Performing Musicians

**MEOWAcademy**, located in Montgomery, Alabama, and serving the River Region, is a place for youth to discover the joy of music and learn new skills through piano, guitar, voice, and drums lessons.

**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 together.

**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.

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## FOR YOUR SAFETY | COVID-19

The MMFA remains committed to serving our members and visitors in a safe and responsible manner, especially during the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. According to your comfort level, all Museum visitors are welcome to mask and encouraged to practice social distancing during their visit. If you are feeling ill or have recently been exposed to COVID-19, please [refer to CDC quarantine guidelines](#) before visiting the Museum.

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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.

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>WHAT:</b>	Flimp Festival
<b>WHEN:</b>	Saturday, May 7, 2022; 10 AM–2 PM
<b>WHERE:</b>	Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts Wynton M. Blount Cultural Park One Museum Drive Montgomery, AL 36117
<b>INFORMATION:</b>	mmfa.org 334.625.4333 @MontgomeryMFA
<b>HOURS:</b>	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
<b>ADMISSION:</b>	Free! With ample, free parking.

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## MEDIA CONTACT

Stephen Hayes: shayes@mmfa.org | 334.625.4347