

# MMFA

Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TAKE PART IN A WORK OF ART**

Seeking donations of secondhand clear glass vases for an art installation at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.



Example vases; Image courtesy the artist.

**Montgomery, AL, September 12, 2022** –The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (MMFA) is excited to announce the upcoming installation *BOUNDLESS*, an exhibition that epitomizes the words of 18th-century philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau: “The world of reality has its limits; the world of imagination is boundless.”

Opening November 25, 2022, this exhibition features six artists from across the country who will transform the galleries with colossal works of art. Created specifically for the MMFA, these works break free from the constraints of traditional frames and pedestals by spanning across walls into the spaces themselves, projecting into the galleries, or hanging from the ceilings. As part of *BOUNDLESS*, artist Melissa Vandenberg’s installation, *Gloria*, will use materials—translucent glass, florist vases—sourced from our community.

Vandenberg uses ordinary materials to address and explore ideas of the fleeting nature of power, the construction of identity, and the impermanence of both tangible and abstract notions of what is important. For *Gloria*, Vandenberg will group 900 to 1,500 clear, glass, floral vases into large clusters within the gallery, surrounding them with large drop cloth banners that drape along the gallery walls and guide the audience through the contemplative space. Here, the vases will become a mediation on celebration and mourning (especially in the aftermath of COVID), the female figure, and ideas on what we keep and what is disposable.

### **CALL FOR DONATIONS**

We need your assistance! The MMFA requires more than 1,000 transparent glass floral vases for this sculptural installation by Melissa Vandenberg as part of *BOUNDLESS*. Please check your cabinets,

attics, and garages for vases of any size or shape you are willing to part with—after the exhibition, we will gift all the vases used in the installation to local florists. Please donate and be a part of this significant sculptural installation.

### **How to Participate**

Bring your secondhand clear glass vases to the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts located at 1 Museum Drive in Blount Cultural Park by Sunday, November 6, 2022.



### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Melissa Vandenberg (American, born 1977) is a multidisciplinary artist, educator, and curator living in Eastern Kentucky, where she is a professor at Eastern Kentucky University. She received a BFA from the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit, and an MFA from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Vandenberg has exhibited her work in Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, Iceland, and throughout the US. She is the recipient of numerous grants, including a Kentucky Foundation for Women grant, the AI Smith Fellowship, a Great Meadows Foundation grant, and was shortlisted for the Luxembourg Art Prize in 2016.

Melissa Vandenberg; Image courtesy the artist.

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### **SUPPORT AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

This installation, a part of the *BOUNDLESS* exhibition, is organized by the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. This exhibition is funded, in part, by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Annual support for exhibitions at the MMFA is provided by lead sponsors Alabama Power Foundation and Lamar; with additional support from sponsors Mr. Will Hill Tankersley and Dr. Kristin Tankersley; and co-sponsors AmeriFirst Bank; Balch & Bingham, LLP; Captrust; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin H. Campbell II; Ms. Camille Elebash-Hill and Mr. W. Inge Hill, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. L. Daniel Morris, Jr.; Dr. and Mrs. Alfred J. Newman, Jr.; River Bank & Trust; Valley Bank, and Warren Averett, LLC.

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### **ABOUT THE MMFA**

The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts was founded in 1930 by a group of local artists as a place for both exhibiting art and a space for art education. The original intentions of the founders—to exhibit and teach—continue to inspire and inform every action and activity at the Museum. Since 1988, the

MMFA has shared the 175-acre Blount Cultural Park with 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 the interactive gallery, ArtWorks; making art in the bustling studios, and by participating in other engaging events and programs. In addition, MMFA visitors can relax and recharge in the serenity of the Museum's stunning three-acre John and Joyce Caddell 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 strengths in American art and Old Master prints. Recent, important acquisitions of art made by African American and Asian American 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 call Montgomery and the River Region home. Through the exhibition of these works and the programs and events that help connect our communities with it, the MMFA has become 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

**WHAT:** Secondhand Clear Glass Vase Donations

**WHEN:** Now through November 6, 2022

**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–Sunday, 10 AM–5 PM  
Terrace, and Store: Last entry at 4:45 PM

**ADMISSION:** Free! With ample, free parking.

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

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