Artists on Location

June 2, 2012
7–10pm

Plein Air Exhibition and Sale at the KMA
Featured artist is Lori Putnam from Nashville
www.knoxart.org
WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This summer the Knoxville Museum of Art continues to present the best of our own local traditions in the context of national and international artistic developments. One gratifying discovery as we have developed this programming has been the extent to which artists from Knoxville and East Tennessee have contributed to a substantive way to the dialogue with the wider forces that have shaped artistic currents in the wider world.

The most exciting new development at the KMA along these lines is the addition of what is sure to become an iconic work by Anna Catherine Wiley, who ranks among the finest of all American Impressionists. Soon you can enjoy this newly cleaned and reframed masterpiece in Higher Ground: A Century of the Visual Arts in East Tennessee, the museum’s ongoing installation dedicated to the art of our region. You can read on the facing page about the outpouring of support from friends of the museum that made this exceptional purchase possible. Suffice it to say here that this new acquisition makes a convincing claim for the artistic importance of East Tennessee to the development of the visual arts in the United States. That is something we should all celebrate, and I am quite convinced that the same thing is happening right now, a full century later.

One of this summer’s feature exhibitions, Streetwise: Masters of 60s Photography, beautifully illustrates the complexity of the dialogue between local concerns and national trends. This exhibition highlights the work of a group of eight American photographers who focused their lenses on the social and political changes that transformed the nation during a turbulent period.

The KMA was fortunate to acquire a work by Danny Lyon, one of the photographers represented in the exhibition, from a series he shot right here in Knoxville, placing him in the distinguished company of photographers such as Henri Cartier-Bresson, who was also inspired by local color. The museum is also pleased to introduce the powerful work of Brooklyn-based artist Beverly Serrums, known internationally for her unique multimedia installations, with an exhibition organized by our colleagues at the Hunter Museum of American Art in Chattanooga.

One of the best things about summer at the KMA is the hum of activity in June and July around the Summer Art Academy, which provides art instruction to hundreds of young people each year (you can find a complete schedule at www.knoxart.org.) And our hard-working docent program continues to provide guided tours of museum exhibitions on the second Sunday of each month.

We continue to look forward to the unveiling of Richard Jolley’s monumental installation in the Great Hall in the spring of 2014. We have begun raising funds to get the Clayton Building ready for the world to come to Knoxville, and are also looking beyond this milestone in our history to think about expanding our landmark facility to offer a richer visitor experience. As always, as a KMA member, you are key to the success of all the museum’s endeavors. We need your continued support, involvement, and interest to keep the museum moving toward an exciting future.

The Knoxville Museum of Art celebrates the art and artists of East Tennessee, presents new art and new ideas, serves and educates diverse audiences, enhances Knoxville’s quality of life and economic development, and operates ethically, responsibly, and transparently as a public trust.
Beverly Semmes, a Brooklyn-based artist, is known internationally for her unique multi-media installations. She works in contradictions, challenging the conventional definitions of craft and “women’s work” by creating completely non-functional pieces out of traditional materials such as clay and fabric. Treading the line between fantasy and reality, she evokes visions of fairy tales with her massively lush silk and velvet dresses; pieces that evolved from costumes the artist designed for her photographic and video works. Semmes’ ceramic and crystal pots defy the time honored symmetry and beauty expected in pottery and glass.


KMA Sponsor:

Media sponsors include AT&T Real Yellow Pages, Digital Media Graphix, Kurt Zinsar Design, WBIR.
This exhibition highlights the work of a group of eight American photographers who focused their lenses on rapid social and political changes that transformed their nation during the turbulent 1960s. The featured images present a realistic, sometimes dire, view of America ranging from the "outlaw culture" of bikers and chain gangs, Boston’s red light district known as the Combat Zone, Black Panthers, the gritty streets and neighborhoods of New York, politically charged South, and fringe communities and sub-cultures around the country.


Intent on redefining the nation based on what they saw, the photographers showcased in Streetwise were concerned with exposing a more realistic and challenging view of an America undergoing change. The underlying message was clearly that a nation in flux and a defiant intent to capture the underground side of society. Many of the photographers featured in Streetwise spent time with their subjects and wanted their images to represent the view of a participant rather than an outsider observer.

The exhibition includes a 10-minute video highlighting the significance, influences, cultural context and legacy of 1960s street photography. The video features images and interviews, helping build connections to the pivotal impact these photographers had on shaping views of the nation then, and now.

Streetwise: Masters of 60s Photography is organized by The Museum of Photographic Arts, San Diego. Major funding for Streetwise is provided by The National Endowment for the Arts.

KMA Sponsor:

Photographic Arts, San Diego. Major funding for Streetwise: Masters of 60s Photography is provided by MoPA Photo Forum Museum purchase with funds provided by Mr. Christopher Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Mr. Jeff Green, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Graves, Mr. and Mrs. George Hackett, Mr. and Mrs. George Lacasse, Mr. and Mrs. Richard F. Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. Vincent (Vince) Legendre, Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Levesque, Mr. and Mrs. Reed Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Elmore, Mr. and Mrs. M. Thomas Luce, Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Mahler, Mr. and Mrs. Mark McElroy, Mr. and Mrs. William W. Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Bill H. McElroy, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Martin, Mr. and Mrs. David Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. David Posner, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Moore, Mr. and Mrs. George Young.

Welcome New KMA Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the Knoxville Museum of Art. These members joined the museum in 2011 and will now reap the many benefits of their KMA membership. In addition to a great discount on unique items in the KMA gift shop and on Alive After Five tickets, members receive reciprocal benefits to more than 60 other museums across the southeast, invitations to member-only events and previews, a subscription to our KMA Canvas newsletter, and invitations to unique fundraisers.

Thank you to all the existing KMA members and to our newest members. We value your support and look forward to seeing you soon at the KMA!

For more information call 865.525.6101 ext. 246 or e-mail education@knoxart.org.

Summer Art Academy classes will expand your child’s creativity and his or her knowledge of art. Each week offers a new and exciting age-appropriate art class that will nourish and challenge your child. Classes are held at the Knoxville Museum of Art. Morning classes are offered each week for children ages 3-12 years old. Afternoon classes are offered for children ages 13 and up. Tuition for the half-day class is $85.00 for members and $100.00 for non-members. Classes start Monday, June 4, and continue each week through August 3. Tuition for the half-day class is $85.00 for members and $100.00 for non-members (unless specified otherwise), and includes workshop supplies, instruction, and guided tours. Workshops and scholarships are offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For a list of classes, go to www.knoxart.org.

The Knoxville Museum of Art thanks the following sponsors for their support of Summer Art Academy.

Media sponsors include A&T Fuel Yellow Pages, Digital Media Graphix, Kurt Zinner Design, and WEB.

(top) Bruce Davidson, Time of Change (two women at lunch counter), 1962, gelatin silver, 8 3/8 x 11 inches, courtesy of the artist and Howard Greenberg Gallery (middle) Danny Lyon, Leslie, Downtown Knoxville, 1965, gelatin silver, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, collection of the Museum of Photographic Arts; Museum purchase with funds provided by MoPA Photo Forum (bottom) Lee Friedlander, Texas, 1965, gelatin silver, 8 1/2 x 11 inches, collection of the Museum of Photographic Arts; Museum purchase with funds provided by MoPA Photo Forum.
The Rogers Foundation has a long history with the Knoxville Museum of Art. The foundation was one of the original grantors to the KMA, and the museum’s Hall & Rogers Gallery bears the family name. Dr. Frank Rogers, founding radiologist at Baptist Hospital, was a Renaissance man who had a passion for history and antiquities. He passed away in 1977 and his widow, Ginny, continues to be a dear friend to the KMA. She is an active member of the Knoxville community, and continues to serve on the Rogers Foundation board. Ginny has a very creative spirit as shown in the colorful cottage she calls home and in the watercolor abstracts she paints. She is loyal to all lucky enough to call her friend – fun, vivacious, caring, and a Tennessee girl with a volunteer spirit.

Formerly known as the Speedwell Heritage Foundation, the Rogers Foundation was formed in 1987 when the Rogers’ Speedwell home and property were sold. The foundation’s philanthropy supports organizations that show fiscal responsibility.

In 2005 The Rogers Foundation was the recipient of the James L. Clayton Award, which is presented annually to the individual, family, foundation, or business whose support of the museum has been both uncommonly generous and sustained. On this occasion the Rogers Transportation Fund, which facilitates visits by school groups to the museum, was named in honor of the foundation. The Rogers Foundation has also helped support the fund for the Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer lecture series that celebrates Sarah’s life and passion for the visual arts, and recognizes her many years of tireless, enthusiastic, and dedicated service to the Dulin Gallery of Art and the Knoxville Museum of Art. Most recently, The Rogers Foundation sponsored Liquid Light: Watercolors from the KMA Collection. Other exhibitions they have sponsored include: Mary Lee Bendolph, Gee’s Bend Quilt’s and Beyond; Joseph Delaney; and Southeastern Craft Innovations.

The KMA Docent Program

Do you have an interest in art? Do you find yourself easily talking to groups? Perhaps you would like to consider becoming a docent. The KMA is looking to expand its docent program.

If you love art and would like to find out more about what it takes to be a KMA docent, please contact Krishna Adams, assistant curator of public programs at 865.934.2037 or at kadams@knoxart.org.

The Knoxville Museum of Art expresses deep gratitude to The Frank and Virginia Rogers Foundation for its generosity for over two decades.

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