Supporting the operation of the Knoxville Museum of Art

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March 3, 2018

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KNOXVILLE MUSEUM OF ART

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The KMA collection continues to experience significant growth thanks to several recent gifts and purchases.

The KMA’s continuing efforts to build its holdings by renowned Knoxville-born master Beauford Delaney (1901-1979) received a boost with the purchase of a 1950 pastel, Yaddo. This pastel depicts the interior of a greenhouse at the famous Yaddo artist’s retreat in Saratoga Springs, New York, where the artist participated in a two-month fellowship in the fall of 1950. The composition reflects Delaney’s growing interest in reducing the visible world into brilliant geometric color shapes. The artist’s presence at Yaddo apparently had a profound effect on his development. He confided to Henry Miller that the stay “enlightening and has released several sides of my own being to me.” According to Delaney biographer David Lemming, the experience at Yaddo was also pivotal for the artist in “moving his painting toward the more abstract form of expressionism that now interested him,” and encouraging him to leave New York and follow his close friend writer James Baldwin to Paris in 1953.

The KMA’s digital art holdings took a leap forward with the KMA Collectors Circle’s purchase of ECHO, by Daniel Carmen. The Collectors Circle is a membership program that provides opportunities for direct encounters with the art world and by becoming involved in the development of the museum’s collection.

Carmen is a Spanish-born multidisciplinary artist who produces vibrant electronic sculptures often made of discarded consumer parts. As the artist explains, “such detritus becomes a mirror of ourselves—circuit boards, and tubes rewire our tissues, nervous systems, brains, etc.—but above all these technologies die, just as we do. In its obsolescence, technology becomes utterly human.” His interest in screens, in particular, stems from their growing public presence in locations ranging from movie theaters to tiny web devices that monitor our every move. Made of flexible LED tiles that appear to peel off the wall, ECHO features an abstract generative animation that occasionally is disrupted by new patterns. The artist designed the work so that its patterns shift according to real-time seismic data across the globe fed to the work through links to online sites. The result is an ever-changing abstract composition that captures the echoing murmurs of the planet’s shifting tectonic plates. References to abstract painting and Meso-American textiles also inform the work’s design.

The Knoxville Museum of Art celebrates the art and artists of East Tennessee, presents new art and ideas, serves and educates diverse audiences, enhances Knoxville’s quality of life, and contributes to the city’s economic development, and operates ethically, responsibly, and transparently as a public trust.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I had the pleasure recently of hearing author and filmmaker Alexandra Cousteau discuss her Project Blue Planet, the oceanographer, talk about our collective obligation to be good stewards of the planet and pass along a better world to those who come after us. She pointed out a truth that hadn’t quite occurred to me before: the right thing for the future can often be the right thing for the present. By thinking long-term and building toward something we might not even be around to enjoy, we create a better present. Cousteau was speaking in support of the great work of the Legacy Parks Foundation, an organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of our region’s spectacular natural landscapes, but much of what she had to say applies equally to what the KMA has been doing and hopes to do.

The KMA’s founding mothers and fathers were certainly looking far ahead when, decades ago, they beat the odds and raised enough money to construct a state-of-the-art facility on World’s Fair Park. More recently, the building upgrades and renovations completed as part of the successful 25th Anniversary Campaign represent a huge additional investment in the museum’s landmark quarters. That investment continues with the complete replacement of the building’s aging HVAC system over the next few years, thanks to a designated gift from Jim Clayton and Steve Bailey. The strong foundation of our legacy, the KMA’s endowment, is just about to surpass the $5 million mark as the last installments of pledges to the 25th Anniversary Campaign come in, with ongoing gifts from June and Rob Helfer (who have also donated significant works of art) and the Asian Foundation (which also established a designated art acquisition fund).

Less than a decade ago, the KMA retrofitted its mission and focus to lift up the art and artists of East Tennessee, and soon distinguished itself as a repository and showcase for our region’s visual culture and its dialogue with the wider currents of world art. Every year the museum builds for the future by adding significantly to its holdings. That legacy was greatly enriched last fall by the purchase of an important pastel by Knoxville-born Beauford Delaney, supporting the museum’s strategic goal of celebrating the lives and achievements of Beauford and his brother Joseph (the latter will be the subject of a major fall 2018 exhibition), a project supported by a growing roster of community partners.

A more recent, made-in-Knoxville triumph and the world’s largest figural glass installation, Richard Jolley’s Cycle of Life, will be feted this spring with a splendid color-illustrated book, thanks to generous support from the Baileys and Pilot Flying J. That legacy has been further enhanced by Nancy and Stephen Land and Jupiter Entertainment, who created and donated content video illuminating this masterwork’s meaning and materials, viewable on site at permanent iPad stations or anywhere on a smartphone. And yet another boost to the KMA’s legacy, an exceptional group of temporary art gifts by artists of international significance, comes from Chicago as the gift of collectors Helen and Russell Novak. A mutual Knoxville friend, Marilyn Liberman, introduced the Novaks to the KMA and we thank her for helping us cultivate these generous new donors. We are grateful for the extraordinary gift of paper and paint.

Legacy building also continues in less visible but no less important ways. We are building future audiences by reaching tens of thousands of young people through museum visits and classroom programs. We are particularly proud of the KMA’s involvement in the Great Schools Partnership Community Schools Program, which brings enrichment and opportunities to students and their families in economically-disadvantaged areas. Volunteers make an invaluable investment in the museum’s future by serving in a variety of capacities on a day-to-day basis. As we do every seasonal gift, last fall we celebrated at the annual Clarion Award Luncheon those who have done the most to build the KMA’s legacy and honored the sustained and exceptional support of Melissa and Randy Burleson (p. 7) – KMA member, every volunteer, every donor who supports the work of the KMA is creating a better present and building a better future. I thank you, and future generations thank you.
In 2015, Chicago collectors Helen and Russell Novak made the single largest and most important gift of art to the KMA's contemporary print collection in the museum's history. Press Ahead: Contemporary Prints Gifted by Helen and Russell Novak represents the official unveiling of this remarkable gift. The exhibition features 38 works by leading contemporary artists from around the world including Roger Brown, John Buck, Christo, Lesley Dill, Jim Dine, Helen Frankenthaler, Red Grooms, Sol LeWitt, and Barbara Takenaga William T. Wiley, and by younger artists such as Brad Brown, Enrique Chagoya, Tom Huck, Jiha Moon, and Hans Schabus. Some artists are leading printmakers while others work primarily in other media, but became interested in collaborating with master printers in order to realize their ideas in print-based formats. The KMA's selection includes great examples of each artist's work, prints produced in small editions, and those representing a broad range of printmaking techniques and formats (including sculptural and book format prints).

The Novak's collection includes thousands of contemporary prints acquired over a period of more than 30 years. The collection is noteworthy for its size and breadth, and because of Russell Novak's close ties to such prominent master printers Jack Lemon and Bud Shark, who run two of the country's premier print studios—Landfall Press and Shark's Ink, respectively. Each year, Lemon and Shark would send the Novaks limited edition print portfolios, out of which the couple selected certain prints to be matted and framed for display. The collection has grown to a point at which framed works fill the walls of their home and of Russell's corporate office space housing the accounting firm of Novak/Costello.

The Novaks chose to donate works to the KMA rather than area Chicago museums for several reasons. First, they became interested in the KMA thanks to Helen's childhood friend, Knoxville educator Marilyn Liberman, who introduced Helen to the KMA. Marilyn also alerted the KMA about the Novaks and their collection, especially after learning that Helen had expressed interest in placing portions of the collection with suitable museums. The Novaks soon realized their gift to the KMA could eventually become a centerpiece for the museum's works on paper collection. Their interest in placing the works at the KMA was heightened by the museum's long association with contemporary printmaking (the Dulin Gallery's print competition ran from the early 1960s until the late 1980s), and the presence in Knoxville of the UTK School of Art's Printmaking Program (ranked #2 in the country in 2017 by U.S. News & World Report).

In this way, Press Ahead celebrates the Novak's generosity, and underscores the important role of their gift in enabling KMA visitors to explore contemporary printmaking and the exciting range of expressive possibilities and technical approaches it encompasses. For a full listing of the Novak's gifts, please visit knoxart.org.

All works are 2015 gift of Helen and Russell Novak in honor of their children, Janet Novak Goldberg of blessed memory and James Alan Novak.
JANUARY

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FREE ADMISSION SPONSORS

JANUARY
Pilot Flying J

FEBRUARY
Royal Entertainment Group

MARCH
Ann & Steve Bailey

APRIL
Pharma Packaging Solutions

FEBRUARY

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March 3, 2018

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For details visit knoxart.org

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THE KMA GIFT SHOP IS THE BEST PLACE TO SHOP FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
Remember that KMA members always receive a discount!

AT THE KMA

January

Education Gallery
Episcopal School of Knoxville

Alives After Five
The Streamliners Swing Orchestra
6-8:30pm

Alives After Five
Mighty Blues and Mike & Doug
6-8:30pm

Second Sunday Art Activity Day
1-4pm

Second Sunday Docent Tour
In English 2pm
In Spanish 3pm

Alives After Five
James Taylor & The Boys with Brian Clay
6-8:30pm

Alives After Five
Waller Colman Band
6-8:30pm

Color Theory for All
Media Workshop - Part 1
10am-12pm
Instructor Margaret Scanlan

Color Theory for All
Media Workshop - Part 2
11am-1pm
Instructor Margaret Scanlan

February

Education Gallery
Episcopal School of Knoxville

Opening Reception
"Press Ahead: Contemporary Prints Gifted by Helen and Russell Novak"
1-3pm

Alives After Five
John Niman
6-8:30pm

Mexican Mandalas Workshop
10am-1pm
Instructor Susan Watson Arbital

Dine & Discover
Beauvais Lyons, Chancellor’s Professor, School of Art, University of Tennessee
6-8:30pm

Alives After Five
"Press Ahead: Contemporary Prints Gifted by Helen and Russell Novak"
5:30-7:30pm

Alives After Five
Fat Friday Mardi Gras with Roux Du Bayoux
6-8:30pm

Second Sunday Art Activity Day
1-4pm

Second Sunday Docent Tour
In English 2pm
In Spanish 3pm

Color Theory for All
Media Workshop - Part 1
10am-12pm
Instructor Susan Watson Arbital

Color Theory for All
Media Workshop - Part 2
11am-1pm
Instructor Margaret Scanlan

March

Education Gallery
Episcopal School of Knoxville

L'Amour de Vin
Wine Auction & Dinner
9:30-11pm

Alives After Five
"Press Ahead: Contemporary Prints Gifted by Helen and Russell Novak"
5:30-7:30pm

Second Sunday Art Activity Day
1-4pm

Second Sunday Docent Tour
In English 2pm
In Spanish 3pm

The BlairXperience
6-8:30pm

Dine & Discover
Chad Airhart, Associate Professor of Art, Carson-Newman University
5:30-7pm

Alives After Five
"Press Ahead: Contemporary Prints Gifted by Helen and Russell Novak"
5:30-7:30pm

April

Education Gallery
Great Schools Partnership Community Schools

Drop-in Figure Drawing Workshop
10:30am-12:30pm
KMA members & non-members $10

Dine & Discover
Stephen Wolfe, Barbara V. and Bernard E. Bernstein Curator, KMA
6-8pm

Alives After Five
"Press Ahead: Contemporary Prints Gifted by Helen and Russell Novak"
5:30-7:30pm

Second Sunday Art Activity Day
1-4pm

Second Sunday Docent Tour
In English 2pm
In Spanish 3pm

Cocktails & Conversation
Kelle Jolly & The Women in Jazz Jam Festival
6-8:30pm

Drop-in Figure Drawing Workshop
10:30am-12:30pm
KMA members & non-members $10

Cocktails & Conversation
Chad Airhart, Associate Professor of Art, Carson-Newman University
5:30-7pm

Alives After Five
"Press Ahead: Contemporary Prints Gifted by Helen and Russell Novak"
5:30-7:30pm

Second Sunday Art Activity Day
1-4pm

Second Sunday Docent Tour
In English 2pm
In Spanish 3pm

Artists on Location
Art Sale and Reception on April 28

Image Transfer Processes Workshop
10am-1pm
Instructor Donna Conliffe

Sarah Jane Hardrath Kramer Lecture
Tina Zinkowe, Former Curator at the Corning Museum of Glass Discussing Richard Jolley’s Cycle of Life and recent developments in contemporary glass. 6pm.
The Knoxville Museum of Art is grateful for Melissa and Randy Burleson’s support and leadership.

The 2017 James L. Clayton Award Luncheon was sponsored by Ann and Steve Bailey, The LAMP Foundation, Schaad Companies, The Trust Company, and All Occasion Catering.

It was a fun evening at the Second Annual Volunteer Preview in October! The Annual Volunteer Preview is a time for volunteers from all departments to socialize together, meet staff members, learn about new projects and programs at the museum, and get an informative update from Curator Stephen Wicks on what exhibitions are coming up next. This preview also included an exciting Emergency Preparedness Simulation exercise where volunteers experienced what to do during an emergency evacuation at the museum.

For more information about being a KMA volunteer, please contact DeLena Feliciano at dfeliciano@knoxart.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

Home Federal Bank has been a long-time supporter of the KMA. With donations dating back to 1989, Home Federal is closing in on 30 years of sponsorship, most of it in support of the museum’s outreach and education programs. The bank has supported the East Tennessee Regional Student Art Exhibition since its inception in 2006. “Home Federal’s generosity has touched the lives of nearly 4,000 students in our region for over a decade,” said KMA Education Curator Rosalind Martin. The KMA has also been the fortunate recipient of gifts from the bank through the Hometown Heros program.

The year 2017 marks a bittersweet time in the history of the organization with the retirement of Dale Keasling. Home Federal’s Chairman, CEO, and President of 25 years. Congratulations to Mr. Keasling, and thank you to Home Federal for its generous and ongoing support.

Home Federal began operations in 1924 and has remained one of the largest community banks in East Tennessee. Currently the bank has over 400 employees with 23 locations in Knox, Anderson, Blount and Sevier Counties. And, for the 102nd consecutive quarter, Home Federal has been given the highest possible rating for stability and security by Bauer Financial, the leading independent authority for rating banks.

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WINTER FAMILY FUN DAY
Saturday, February 24, 11am-3pm
Performances by The Fountain City Ramblers. Art activities, artist demonstrations, raffle prizes, face painting, magic show and food for purchase. Free and open to the public!

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DINE & DISCOVER
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
12:15pm
Beauvais Lyons, Chancellor’s Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28
12:15pm
Koichi Yamamoto, Associate Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4
12:15pm
Stephen Wicks, Barbara W. and Bernard E. Bernstein Curator, KMA
Dine & Discover and Cocktails & Conversation are free and open to the public.

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION
TUESDAY, MARCH 13
5:30-7pm
Tom Huch, Printmaker
TUESDAY, APRIL 17
5:30-7pm
Chad Airth, Associate Professor of Art, Carson-Newman University
Dine & Discover and Cocktails & Conversation are free and open to the public.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES WINTER / SPRING 2018
WINTER / SPRING WORKSHOPS FOR 2018

DROP-IN FIGURE DRAWING
Facilitated by KMA Staff
Mondays, March 19, 26, April 2, 9, 16, and 23
10:30am-12:30pm
$10 per session
Artists of all skill levels and media are welcome to join these self-instructed drop-in figure drawing sessions. Participants under 18 years old must have parents’ permission. Please note – easels are available, but art materials are not supplied.

COLOR THEORY FOR ALL MEDIA
Margaret Scanlan
Saturday, January 27, 9am-4pm
Sunday, January 28, 11am-5pm
Members $150/Non-Member $175 Maximum of 12 students
This exciting two-day class is designed for practicing artists and artisans in any medium where color plays an integral role. This includes, but is not limited to, basketry, book and paper arts, clay, enameling, glass, fiber arts, and painting. Sharpen your instincts and expand your knowledge of color theory through specific, sequential painting exercises and experiments. Refine and define more clearly your color preferences, applicable to your own medium. No painting experience required. We will use acrylic (water-soluble) paints.

MOSAIC MANDALAS
Susan Watson Arbital
Monday, February 5; Tuesday, February 6; Wednesday, February 7
10am-5pm
Members $175/Non-Member $200
This three-day workshop will introduce you to basics of making a mosaic and creating your own personal mandala. Mandalas have a meditative design style that is perfect for multi-media elements and is suitable for all skill levels, from beginner to experienced. The materials fee of $35 provides everything needed; substrate, glass, shells, stone, ceramics, vitreous tiles, and equipment.

MOSAIC KEEPSAKE BOX
Susan Watson Arbital
Monday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 13
10:30am-12:30pm
Members $55/Non-members $65
Explore the ancient art of mosaic with a modern twist. Artist Susan Watson Arbital specializes in mixed-media mosaics combining glass, stone, shells, tiles, beads, ceramics, etc. In this two-session workshop participants will learn the basics of the direct method mosaic construction by creating a lovely keepsake box. Material fee of $15 includes all supplies to complete the project. However, participants are encouraged to bring anything they would like to incorporate in their box decoration e.g., piece of family heirloom, pottery, glass, etc. Bring a friend! All materials and tools provided.

CREATING A UNIQUE BOOK
Donna Conliffe
Thursdays, February 8, 15, and 22
10am-12noon
Member $100/Non-Member $125
Students create a book in the first class. The second class focuses on personalizing the content or purpose of the book. Students will use collected photos, articles, poetry, quotes and/or memorable events they wish to include in their book. In the third and final session, each student will complete the book and create a personalized bookmark.

IMAGE TRANSFER PROCESSES WORKSHOP
Donna Conliffe
Tuesday, April 24
10am-5pm
Member $70/Non-Member $75
Learn several image transfer techniques during this creative workshop. Participants will have fun transforming images by hand and seeing how to incorporate the image on a variety of surfaces. This workshop will benefit anyone eager to explore new techniques and directions.

FUN FOR FAMILIES
SUMMER ART ACADEMY
Information coming soon!
KMA’s Summer Art Academy nurtures an appreciation of art for students ages 3-and-up. The Summer Art Academy introduces students to a variety of materials and artistic concepts to stir up their curiosity and to enhance their natural creativity and critical thinking. Classes for 2018 will be posted on knoxart.org in late March. Be on the lookout!

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS
Margaret Scanlan
is a full-time studio painter from Knoxville, Tennessee. Scanlan is a signature member of the American Watercolor Society, the National Watercolor Society, and the Watercolor USA Honor Society, and her work is exhibited and held in private, corporate, and museum collections in the U.S. and Europe. Her band, Red-Haired Mary, sings and plays Irish and Celtic songs and tunes in the Irish Pub Band tradition, both locally and regionally, throughout Tennessee and North Carolina. Scanlan holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Webster University and a graduate degree from the University of Tennessee.

Donna Conliffe
is a mixed-media artist working in the Knoxville area for the last 18 years. Conliffe’s work is displayed in The District Gallery in Bearden and in the Knoxville Museum of Art Gift Shop.

Conliffe has taught a number of classes at the KMA. She has her MA from Western Michigan University. She attended Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Center and additional local workshops at Arrowmont School of Arts & Crafts, Appalachian Center for Crafts, and Oak Ridge Art Center.

Susan Watson Arbital
is a stained glass artist who has been in the business 36 years. Her love of stained glass, which began as a hobby in Pennsylvania, quickly became her passion. Watson Arbital has studied under many artists across the country. Currently Watson Arbital is avidly exploring the possibilities of multi-media mosaics, combining her well-honed glass skills, with a more recent fascination with stone cutting. Watson Arbital has worked as a master craftsman, training others in her trade and as an instructor of workshops at Dollywood where she was the resident stained glass artist for 20 years.

All classes are held at the Knoxville Museum of Art, which offers a professional setting with easy access and plenty of free parking. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Classes and workshops are taught by professional artists, living and working in the East Tennessee area.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Rosalind Martin at 865.523.6349 or email rmartin@knoxart.org.