



LAUREN ROGERS  
MUSEUM *of* ART

# LRMA News

SUMMER 2024



# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Laurel, Jones County, and our region of the piney woods of Mississippi are indebted to William Mason for his ingenuity and experimentation to invent Masonite in 1924. Originally called Mason Fibre Company, Masonite changed the trajectory of our local economy as it led us out of the Great Depression. To celebrate this centennial milestone, we are pleased to organize *Improving Nature: Engineered Wood in Art & Design* on view through August 4 in our Lower Level Galleries. The exhibit pays homage to Masonite but also celebrates a variety of wood materials that have been manipulated, bent, shaped, and formed over the past 200 years into works of art. We are especially grateful to Masonite Corporation for their sponsorship of this exhibition.



Mason Fibre Company, c. 1925

The summer is always a busy time at the Museum as education programs and events abound. Free Family Art, Drop-In Drawing, Art Camp, classes, a teacher workshop, and our annual Laurel Housing Authority programs fill most of June and July. Again this year, Free Family Art will include a partnership with the Laurel-Jones County Library who will provide a children's book reading. New for this summer is a jazz concert series at 6:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of July, August, and September. We are grateful to local musician John Milham for organizing this special series for us which will feature some of our region's top jazz talent.

We have been fortunate since the Museum's founding to have patrons and stakeholders to provide financial support to grow our endowment. Susie and Lampkin Butts were recognized in March for their recent major gift to the Eastman Memorial Foundation to ensure our future. In their honor, we have named our Stairwell Gallery for them and their family as a small token of our appreciation of their unwavering support of LRMA and our educational mission.

The 2023-24 year marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the LRMA Guild of Docents and Volunteers. This important organization provided 4,196 hours of support and service to the Museum this past year. We

recognized the Guild at their annual appreciation lunch in May where we also feted past presidents of the organization over the last 50 years. Rosalind Jones completed a successful term as president of the Guild of Docents & Volunteers in May. She is a champion and tireless worker for the Museum and the Guild, and I am grateful for her leadership this past year. I am pleased to welcome Elizabeth Schaffenburg as the new Guild president and know she will carry the torch well for this important organization. My congratulations to Docent of the Year Claude Musick and Volunteer of the Year Jan Smith, both of whom were recognized at the luncheon. The Guild will have their annual membership coffee in August; if you or someone you know are interested in joining this amazing group, please let us know.

As we embark on our new membership campaign, I must recognize the 2023-24 membership support which provided more than \$268,000 this past year, a new LRMA membership record! This issue of our newsletter includes our annual membership listing for this past year and is a small way for us to thank the families, individuals, and businesses that donate to us through our membership campaign. We certainly appreciate your support!

Our membership campaign is successful each year thanks in large part to Holly Green, our Director of Development for the past ten years, who will be leaving the Museum in June. Holly has been a member of the LRMA staff for more than 22 years in a variety of capacities, but her legacy will be her work and dedication to our fundraising program. From spearheading our annual gala auction, to the annual membership campaign, to grant-writing, to our corporate sponsorship program, to being our in-house editor for our publications and mailings, Holly has been a true ambassador for the Museum, and we will miss her.

– George Bassi



Susie and Lampkin Butts (left) were honored for their major gift to the Museum with a painting by Oxford artist Charlie Buckley.

# IMPROVING NATURE

## ENGINEERED WOOD IN ART & DESIGN

MAY 28 - AUGUST 4, 2024 LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES

Exhibition generously sponsored by



Inspired by the 100th anniversary of the invention of Masonite in Laurel in 1924, *Improving Nature: Engineered Wood in Art & Design* features historical and contemporary works created with wood technology. Masonite improves upon nature in that it is less likely than wood to crack and warp, and artists have taken advantage of those characteristics in using the material to produce artwork and furniture. Designers and artists have also used technologies like laminating and steam bending to produce shapes and forms that nature cannot. The exhibition is part of an ongoing series that uses the strengths of the Museum's collection and Laurel's history to make connections to contemporary art. *Improving Nature: Engineered Wood in Art & Design* features artwork from three centuries that show what can be achieved when nature and science come together.

*continued on page 4*



Gebrüder Thonet (Austrian, 1853–1921), No. 3 Bentwood Rocking Chair, 1885, beech

# IMPROVING NATURE

ENGINEERED WOOD IN ART & DESIGN

MAY 28 - AUGUST 4, 2024 LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES

*continued from page 3*

Steam-bent furniture from America and Europe demonstrate wood technologies of previous centuries. This includes a Windsor arm-chair, a bentwood rocking chair by the German-Austrian furniture-maker Michael Thonet, and ornate rococo-revival style furniture from the New York makers John Henry Belter and Joseph Meeks. In the 20th century, plywood allowed furniture designers like Charles and Ray Eames flexibility in producing modern shapes, and wood turners and sculptors including Michael Shuler and Floyd Shaman used laminated wood to produce beautiful artworks. Contemporary artists Adrien Segal and Joshua Abarbanel use wood technology to great effect, adding cutting-edge processes to their practice. Other artists in the exhibition include Mississippians Critz Campbell and Eric D. Charlton, Skokomish (Twana) artist Dennis Allen, and Chicagoan Norman Teague. These artists, as well as The Towers in Natchez, Mississippi, and the Museum for Art in Wood in Philadelphia, are lenders to the exhibition.



Dennis Allen (Twana [Skokomish], born 1935), *Bear and Raven Bentwood Box*, hand-carved bentwood yellow cedar, acrylic, courtesy of the artist and Stonington Gallery



Michael Shuler (American, born 1950), *Bowl*, 1994, segmented/laminated Brazilian tulipwood, holly, cocobolo, The Center for Art in Wood Museum Collection, donated by Neil & Susan Kaye, 2011.06.04.001.14. ©Museum for Art in Wood. Photo: John Carlano

# The Power of Photography

AUGUST 27 – NOVEMBER 17, 2024 LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES

Exhibition generously sponsored by

Morgan Stanley

THE GLENWOOD GROUP  
AT MORGAN STANLEY



The *Power of Photography* exhibition will feature a selection of 120 iconic images from 120 different photographers that celebrate the photograph's unique capacity for sensibility. The exhibition was curated by pioneering collector and gallerist Peter Fetterman, who runs one of the leading fine art photography galleries in the world with a special emphasis on humanist photography. Works in the exhibition include *The Afghan girl*, *Sharbat Gula*, *Pakistan* by Steve McCurry, as well as other portraits of Muhammad Ali, Audrey Hepburn, and Maya Angelou, to name a few. Other works show still lives and streetscapes by artists such as Minor White and Henri Cartier-Bresson. The exhibition was organized by Photographic Traveling Exhibitions, Los Angeles, CA.



Neil Leifer (American, born 1942), *Muhammad Ali vs Sonny Liston*, 1965 (Printed Later) Signed and numbered in ink on recto. Type-C Photographic Print, Edition #317/350

## MARSHALL BOULDIN AT 100: MISSISSIPPI DELTA WATERCOLORS

THROUGH JULY 21, 2024 CHRISTIAN GALLERY

Marshall Bouldin (1923-2012) of Clarksdale, Mississippi, was among the elite in portraiture. Recognized internationally for his perceptive eye, disciplined brush, and imaginative backgrounds, he was described by the *New York Times* as one of America's foremost portrait artists.

Over his more than 50-year career, Bouldin painted more than 800 portraits, and his commissions read like a roster of "who's who" in government, business, and education.

In the early 1970s, Marshall Bouldin left portraiture and oil painting for a brief period to explore watercolor. In 1973, LRMA hosted its first exhibition by Bouldin which included numerous watercolors. In celebration of the artist's 100th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his first LRMA exhibition, we are pleased to host an exhibit of Bouldin's watercolor paintings that primarily celebrate the diverse Mississippi Delta landscape. We are grateful to Bouldin's family for their assistance in organizing this exhibition.



Marshall Bouldin, *Sycamore in Snow*, watercolor, 1972

# EDUCATION

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Free and open to the public | *no reservations required*

### Free Family Art

Wednesdays · May 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
2:00 p.m. - Story Time with the Laurel and  
Jones County Public Library  
Cost: Free!

Join us each week for unique hands-on art activities inspired by our collection and exhibitions. No reservations are needed for this free make-and-take art program for families. And don't miss story time with librarians from the Laurel and Jones County Public Library at 2:00 p.m.



Free Family Art activity in May

### DROP-IN DRAWING

Thursdays in June and July  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Cost: Free!

Join artist and LRMA Outreach Coordinator Kelly Rosa for a fun and informal drawing experience in the galleries. Drawing prompts will change weekly. All supplies provided and all ages and experience levels are welcome.

## CHILDREN'S CAMPS

*(advance registration required)*

### MINI MASTERS: SUMMER ART CAMP

Monday – Thursday · July 8 - 11  
9:30 a.m. – noon (Session 1)

or

1:30 – 4:00 p.m. (Session 2)  
Museum Annex

Grades: entering 2nd through 6th  
\$55 members / \$70 non-members

Campers will become mini masters while experimenting with art media and techniques used by famous artists. While learning about art history, they will expand their creative horizons through painting, collage, sculpture.

### CLAY CREATIONS: SUMMER POTTERY CAMP

Monday – Thursday, June 17 – 20  
(Session 1)

or

Monday – Thursday, June 24 – 27  
(Session 2)

9:30 a.m. – noon

Carriage House Studio

Grades: entering 2nd grade  
through 6th grade

\$55 members / \$70 non-members

Instructor: Jeremy Brooke of  
Bullfrog Pottery

Students will discover the basics of hand-building and throwing on the wheel. From learning the fundamentals to exploring underglazes and textures – participants will do it all! No prior experience is necessary, and all supplies are included.

## FAMILY WORKSHOPS

### SUNDAY STUDIO: CERAMIC GARDEN FLOWERS

Sunday, June 9 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
\$25 members / \$30 non-members (price per project)  
Instructor: Jeremy Brooke

In this family workshop, participants will “play with clay” to shape and glaze their own unique flower. Between steps, families will enjoy a flower-themed scavenger hunt through the Museum. After the class, pieces will be fired and fashioned into custom ornaments for your garden.



## ADULT CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

(advance registration required)

### ONE-NIGHT WORKSHOPS: CERAMICS

Friday, July 19 – Clay Wind Chimes  
Friday, August 16 – Ceramic Vases  
Friday, September 13 – Party Platters  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. · Carriage House Studio  
\$35 members / \$40 non-members  
Instructor: Jeremy Brooke

In each of these workshops, participants will use various clay types and unique surface decoration techniques to create beautiful pieces of art for inside or outside their home. No previous ceramic experience necessary and all materials and tools provided.



Clay Wind Chimes

### ONE-NIGHT WORKSHOPS: WATERCOLOR

Friday, June 28  
Friday, July 26  
Friday, August 23  
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. · Carriage House Studio  
\$25 members / \$30 non-members  
Instructor: Laura Jones

Looking for a creative night out? Join us for a relaxed and fun guided painting experience. From the set-up to the supplies to the step-by-step instructions, everything you need to confidently create your own original piece of art will be provided. No experience is necessary.



One-Night Watercolor Workshops

## EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

### Improving Instruction: *Engineering Instruction to Meet the Needs of All Learners*

Thursday, June 13 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Led by award-winning educator Casey Watts of the Laurel Magnet School of the Arts, this workshop will demonstrate the concept of art integration in education. Through hands-on projects and interactive lessons inspired by our very own Museum collections and featured exhibition *Improving Nature*, educators will gain an understanding of what art integration is, the benefits it provides, and how to implement an art integrated curriculum into their own practice. Participants of all artistic skill levels will learn to create differentiated, thematic units in order to teach concepts to fidelity while accommodating all types of learners. Enjoy creating while learning methods that make the process of teaching easy and fun!

*Activities will align to state standards and .5 CEU credits will be offered.*

# PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## Music in the Museum

### SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Thursday, July 25

Thursday, August 22

Thursday, September 26

6:00 pm

Join us for a summer music series curated to highlight the artful styles and sounds of some of the most iconic jazz instruments. All performances are free and open to the public and provide a unique opportunity to enjoy world-class music in our intimate gallery setting.



# BLUES BASH 2024



LAUREN ROGERS  
MUSEUM of ART

**FRIDAY · JUNE 7**

**6:30 - 10:00 pm**

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy the sounds of the All-Star Blues Band on the Museum's front lawn. No tickets needed!

**FREE · LIVE MUSIC · FOOD TRUCKS**

*Food and beverages available for purchase.*

Blues Bash is generously sponsored by



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OF COMMERCE



# GUILD



Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the guild were past presidents (front row, l-r) Evelyn Jefcoat, Pat McLean, Barbara Sauls, Katie Sullivan, Nancy Guice, Jean Johnson, (back row, l-r) Catherine Nowicki, Kathy Ellzey, Janet Blouin, Mary Anne Sumrall, Diane Dudley, Read Diket, Pam Oglesby, Marilyn Biglane, Rosemary Norton, Rosaline Jones, Becky Dalton, and Cynthia Sheppard.



Guild members recognized for more than 50 and more than 100 hours of service in 2023-24



2024-25 Guild Officers are Vice President Darlene Montgomery, Treasurer Trisha Keyes, President Elizabeth Schaffenburg, and Secretary Sammie Sue Hendrix



Volunteer of the Year Jan Smith and Docent of the Year Claude Musick



## ANNUAL GUILD

# Membership Coffee

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 27  
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

*Are you interested in volunteering  
at the Museum?*

*Please encourage all potential members  
to attend and learn more about the Guild.*

Contact Angie Jolly with names  
and addresses at  
601.649.6374 or [info@LRMA.org](mailto:info@LRMA.org)



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*The Lauren Rogers Museum of Art provides exposure to the visual arts through focused collections, diversified exhibitions, and educational programs; encourages awareness of the aesthetic and cultural values of the visual arts; and seeks to enhance the quality of life in Laurel and Jones County, the state of Mississippi, and the Southern region.*

LRMA is a private, non-profit organization operating for the benefit of the public.

**HOURS OF OPERATION:**  
Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.  
Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.  
Closed Mondays

ADMISSION IS FREE.

LRMA is supported by Memberships, Donations, The Eastman Memorial Foundation, Jones County, Laurel Arts League, Mississippi Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts. This publication is funded in part by a grant from The Mississippi Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts.

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**HOW MUCH IS DEDUCTIBLE?**  
If you have questions concerning the deductible limits of your Museum contributions for IRS purposes including fund-raising events (i.e. Gala), please call the Museum Office.

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## Opportunities for Supporting LRMA

*Our donors are our greatest asset and many offer support to the Museum in multiple areas. If you are looking for ways to support LRMA, allow us to offer the following opportunities.*

Our **Membership Campaign** for 2024-25 begins at the end of May so be on the lookout for your renewal letter and please give generously! Encourage someone to join for the first time or purchase a gift membership for someone. Membership is a key part of our fund-raising efforts as it makes up approximately 20% of our annual operating budget.

**Corporate partnerships** range from sponsorships for events including **Blues Bash** and **Heritage Arts Festival** and underwriting for traveling exhibitions. There is a wide range of options, with varying price tags.

**Planned gifts** can represent a way to continue support and create a legacy of generosity for the future. There exists a variety of ways to accomplish such a gift – a **will**, a **charitable remainder trust**, **charitable lead trust**, or **life insurance**. Ideas about a planned gift should be discussed with your accountant or attorney who can advise you about the tax advantages of a planned gift in your particular situation.

The **Museum's black-tie Gala** is held the first Saturday in December and is our single largest fund-raiser. You must be an LRMA member at the **Sponsor (\$100) level or higher** to receive an invitation and purchase tickets. Additionally, there are opportunities to underwrite an Auction item, and of course, spirited bidding is encouraged!

**Gifts to one of the Museum's endowment funds** are welcomed and include the Education Outreach Endowment, Special Exhibition Endowment, and Collections Enhancement Fund. **Naming opportunities** exist, as well, for large gifts for the Stairwell Gallery and Lower Level Galleries.

**Tribute or Memorial Gifts** are also graciously accepted and appreciated.

# COLLECTIONS

## NEW ACQUISITION

The Museum is thrilled to announce the acquisition of a monumental painting by noted African American artist Benny Andrews. Born in Plainview, Georgia in 1930, Andrews studied painting and earned a BFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. After moving to New York, he developed his signature process of combining oil painting and collage to produce expressive figurative works. An accomplished artist who focused on the lives of real or imagined Black subjects, Andrews was also an educator, administrator, and activist. He helped found the Black Emergency Cultural Coalition, which campaigned for the increased representation of African American artists in New York art museums in the late 1960s and 70s, and he worked to establish arts education programs in prisons. He was an art professor at Queens College for three decades, and in the 1980s was the director of the visual arts program for the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Museum's new acquisition, *Time for Church*, portrays a woman dressed in her Sunday best seated among colorful flowers. By combining lace and other fabric with paint on canvas, Andrews extends the figure and her environment into three-dimensional space, reinforcing her human presence. It is an excellent demonstration of the artist's belief that "We are entitled to have representations of people that look like us and talk and feel like us."



Benny Andrews (American, 1930-2006), *Time for Church*, 1999, Oil with painted canvas, lace collage and staples on cotton canvas

## COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

Eugène Boudin exhibited in the first Impressionist exhibition in 1874. *Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors, and Engravers*, etc. opened in a Parisian photography studio as a defiant response to the Paris Salon. This first exhibit of 31 artists including Monet, Renoir, Degas, Morisot, Pissarro, Sisley, Cézanne, and Boudin is considered the beginning of modern painting and a pivotal moment in art history.

Boudin, the son of a ship's captain, was born in Le Havre in 1824 and spent most of his life on the Northern coast of France. He focused on the seashore and rural life in northern France by painting *plein-air*. The LRMA painting *Entrance to the Port at Dunkirk* is of a typical seaport, Dunkirk, which today is best known as a World War II battle site.

Boudin was considered an important transitional figure by Monet and his compatriot Impressionist artists, who saw Boudin as the link between themselves and the great French Realists such as Corot and Millet.

In celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the "birth of Impressionism" the Musée D'Orsay in Paris and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC have organized the exhibit *Paris 1874: The Impressionist Moment*. The exhibit is on view in Paris through July 14 and will be on view at the National Gallery in Washington September 8, 2024 – January 19, 2025.



Eugène Boudin, *Entrance to the Port at Dunkirk*, 1889, oil on canvas, 98.31, gift of Sara Lee Corporation, Millennium Gift to America

# AROUND THE MUSEUM



South Mississippi region of Poetry Out Loud was held at LRMA in February.



Quilter Martha Ginn and Curator Kristen Miller Zohn at Art Talk in March



Chalkfest in April on 5th Avenue



Volunteer Doncella Middleton with barn quilt activity at Chalkfest in April



Outreach activity in April at Fishers of Men after-school program



Laurel Arts League City-Wide Art Contest winners with Laurel Mayor Johnny Magee

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Send your email address to [info@LRMA.org](mailto:info@LRMA.org) if you would like to receive membership e-blasts with updates on events and art classes.

  
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