
Three Louisiana State University alumni donate significant gifts to the LSU Museum of Art permanent collection.

Learn about the added benefits of becoming a member of the LSU Museum of Art, including our recent association with the North American Reciprocal Membership Program (NARM).
THE LSU MUSEUM OF ART IS CELEBRATING its First Birthday in the Shaw Center for the Arts. As much as we may have planned for the physical and programmatic future, we could not have predicted what this year was to bring.

Topping the list for the museum’s firsts are our many new programs and exhibitions. When the museum galleries opened in March of 2005, they highlighted ten percent of the permanent collection – 400 pieces from the museum’s collection of almost 4,000 works of art – the largest installation in the history of the museum. Two traveling exhibitions showcased incredible collections: African Gold: Highlights from the Glassell Collection, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Currents of Change: Art and Life Along the Mississippi River, 1850-1861, organized by The Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Then after much planning and two hurricanes, the very special installation of C.C. Lockwood’s photography and Rhea Gary’s paintings appeared in our LSU MOA exhibition Vanishing Wetlands: Two Views. More than 400 people attended the opening night, including LSU Chancellor Sean O’Keefe, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Rita Palm, and featured artists C.C. and Rhea, who signed copies of their book, Marsh Mission, for visitors.

Other highlights from this past year on the Paula Garvey Manship Floor included special gallery presentations of new acquisitions: Conrad Albrizio: New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal Sketches and Imperial Chinese Jade from the Dr. James R. and Ann A. Peltier Collection. John Singer Sargent’s fabulous portrait of Mrs. Burekhardt and Her Daughter Louise greeted our visitors throughout the fall, on loan from a private collector during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

New partnerships with our neighbors inspired new programs: River Views and Vibes on first Thursdays with the Baton Rouge Symphony, Second Saturdays in the summer months with our partners in the Shaw Center, downtown museum store shopping sprees and trunk shows with artists and designers, educational programs for summer camp students, special educational tours, a speaker series, joint Rural Life Museum/LSU Museum of Art student memberships, and a downtown walking tour multi-attraction museum ticket and brochure.

A special thanks for this first year of support in our new space goes to our sponsors: Shell, Hibernia National Bank, Alfred C. Glassell, Jr., Merrill Lynch, Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry, the Stanford Group Company, AmSouth, Kean Miller Attorneys at Law, Jones Walker LLP, All-Star Automotive Group, Chase, the Office of the Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge, the Persac family, and Michael D. Robinson and Lucy D. Robinson. Their contributions to LSU MOA have been monumental.

A year ago we started our journey with the words, “Join Us. Be Moved,” and you did just that. Spring 2006 brings a freshness and passion for moving on – new experiences, new events, and new partnerships. For starters, this May our first traveling exhibition, Vanishing Wetlands, will be off to a number of excellent venues, both inside and outside Louisiana, including the US Botanic Garden in Washington, DC January 20 through May 31, 2007. And don’t miss William Beecher: A Fantastic Vision, the largest showing of works by this fascinating and prolific outsider artist, and the many other new programs, friends, and opportunities the museum supports in our new downtown neighborhood.

Laura F. Lindsay
Interim Executive Director
William Beecher: A Fantastic Vision

Those works created from solitude and from pure and authentic creative impulses – where the worries of competition, acclaim and social promotion do not interfere – are, because of these very facts, more precious than the productions of professions.”


William Beecher: A Fantastic Vision
Organized by the LSU Museum of Art
March 11 to July 5, 2006
PUBLIC OPENING RECEPTION:
Saturday, March 11, 7:30 pm
MEMBERS’ PREVIEW:
Saturday, March 11, 6:30 pm

William Beecher: A Fantastic Vision is the largest showing of works by the outsider artist William Beecher. The exhibition features 173 intricately and colorfully rendered paintings – a fraction of the almost 700 works completed by Beecher within the last five years of his life. This relatively unknown, yet highly accomplished, outsider artist spent the last years of his life at the Villa Feliciana Medical Hospital in Jackson, Louisiana, where he began painting. Beecher’s substantial art making during this period is explored for the first time in this exhibition.

The term outsider art loosely refers to works by artists who are self-taught or those who are impervious to being taught within the mainstream of classical, Western art history. Louisiana boasts one of the largest populations of outsider artists, including Clementine Hunter, Sister Gertrude Morgan, and George Rodrigue (who began his career as an untrained artist). Although a relative unknown, William Beecher is among this group of Louisiana outsider artists whose visual creations are untouched by formal training. His works are additionally categorized under the subset of outsider art known as psychotic art or schizophrenic art, since he made all of his works while receiving treatment for the disease at the Villa Feliciana Medical Hospital. Although created in a short period of time, Beecher’s artworks reveal an artistic development, individual style, unique narrative, and an array of personal symbolism, which can be described as no less than impressive. Beecher’s paintings are inviting. The recognizable elements in his engaging, but busy compositions are imbued with a sense of fantasy and personal interpretations. His wide range of identifiable subjects includes figures, animals, and

fantastic creatures engaged in myriad activities, usually placed outdoors in clearly identified natural settings. Beecher defined his landscapes and animate and inanimate objects with black outlining, which is often filled with diverse and extensive patterns, formed by consistent wavy and often tortuous repeated lines in a host of shapes and sizes.

In today’s nomenclature, Beecher’s profile situates him as a self-taught artist. Without the barriers of classical learning, self-taught artists can respond spontaneously to their inner impulses without being encumbered by any presumed knowledge in their field. Thus, their imagery often reflects an adventurous self-confidence seen through enthusiastic and innovative styles. Many acclaimed mainstream artists have sought inspiration from the unfiltered and unencumbered vision of self-taught artists. Only in recent decades, however, have self-taught artists found public recognition within 20th-century American art.

Like Beecher, self-taught artists frequently emerge from quiet corners in our own back yards. Lamentably, their life’s work, or large portions of it, often slips easily into oblivion after the artist’s death. This exhibition of Beecher’s works at the LSU MOA places the Baton Rouge community at the forefront of the discovery of William Beecher, an artist who is sure to be ranked amongst the top outsider artists.

The LSU Museum of Art acknowledges the collaboration of the Department of Health and Hospitals, State of Louisiana, for lending the museum these artworks so that Beecher’s fantastic vision can be appreciated by a wide audience. The LSU Museum of Art also recognizes the assistance of LSU Assistant Professor Darius A. Spieth, author and former director for special projects at the New Orleans Museum of Art, Alice Rae Yelen, and Shelby Gilley, art dealer and owner of Gilley’s Gallery.

Natalie A. Mault, Curatorial Assistant

**Current Exhibitions**

**Conrad Albrizio: New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal Sketches**
Organized by the LSU Museum of Art
Ongoing through 2006

This exhibition features a series of 22 drawings by Conrad Albrizio for the fresco murals painted at the New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal.

**Collecting Passions: Highlights from the LSU Museum of Art Collection**
Organized by the LSU Museum of Art
Ongoing through August 13, 2006

The exhibition features British, American, and Louisiana paintings as well as New Orleans silver, Chinese jade, Creole furniture, and Newcomb pottery and crafts. The exhibition is accompanied by a case-bound, illustrated, 160-page color catalogue, for sale in the LSU MOA Museum Store for $24.95.

**Future Exhibitions**

**Paths to the Press: Printmaking and American Women Artists**
Organized by the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Kansas State University
Open July 22, 2006 through January 7, 2007

**Paths to the Press: Printmaking and American Women Artists** is the first major exhibition to survey women artists’ contributions to printmaking in the United States during the first half of the 20th century. Paths to the Press features 100 works by 80 female artists, including Mary Cassatt, Louise Nevelson, and Elizabeth Catlett.

THREE LSU ALUMNI RECENTLY donated significant gifts to the LSU Museum of Art permanent collection: a print by former LSU faculty member Caroline Durieux, additions to the Dr. James R. and Ann A. Peltier collection of Chinese jade, and a collection of photographic portraits by Yousuf Karsh. All acquisitions of artwork are reviewed by the LSU MOA Accessions committee, chaired by Michael D. Robinson. Members include Sue Turner, LSU MOA Advisory Board chair, Natalie Fielding, LSU MOA Advisory Board member, and Dr. Marchita B. Mauck, professor and associate dean, LSU School of Art.

Museum staff Dr. Laura F. Lindsay, interim executive director, and Frances Huber, registrar, work with the committee making recommendations on permanent collection acquisitions and other management matters.

Ms. R. Elizabeth Williams, who received a B.A. from the College of Agriculture in 1936 and an M.A. in 1957, has given a print, entitled *Rejected Angels*, by former LSU faculty member Caroline Wogan Durieux. Durieux

**Recent Acquisitions**

was born in New Orleans and attended Newcomb College, where she studied with Ellsworth Woodward. In 1917 she entered the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. Durieux moved to Mexico City with her husband in 1926. In Mexico, she worked with the Mexican muralists, including Diego Rivera, and began making prints of satirical drawings. Durieux returned to Louisiana in 1930. From 1938 to 1943, she directed the Federal Art Project for Louisiana. She then taught art at LSU until her retirement in 1964. The newly acquired print strengthens the museum’s extensive collection of works by Caroline Durieux.

LSU MOA also received four additional Chinese jades from Dr. James R. Peltier, a 1950 alumnus of LSU, and his wife, Ann. A magnificent carving of a pillow in the shape of a crouching boy from the Qing dynasty, Qianlong reign (1736-1795), symbolizes fertility and the birth of sons, and was used as a headrest for short naps. Five powerfully rendered dragons pursue the flaming pearl of knowledge on a bowl from the Ming (16th-17th centuries) dynasty. A massive jade mountain from the Qing dynasty portrays a rocky landscape with horses. A miniature mountain such as this would have adorned a scholar’s desk, providing an object of contemplation and reflection. The fourth jade given by the Peltiers, a medieval carving from the Song to Ming dynasties (13th/14th century), illustrates a story of filial piety from an ancient Confucian chronicle. Here, a boy wears a deerskin as camouflage to stalk a doe to obtain milk as food for his elderly mother. These and other jades from the museum’s and the Peltiers’ collections will be on display in a special exhibition at LSU MOA from September 15, 2006 through February 25, 2007. Watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

The last of our recent acquisitions, a portfolio of works by renowned Canadian photographer Yousuf Karsh, was given to the museum by Dr. Richard and Mrs. Judy Smith. Dr. Smith is a 1966 alumnus of LSU Medical School. Yousuf Karsh was born in Mardin, Turkey. At the age of 16, he went to live with his uncle George Nakash, a photographer in Quebec. Karsh worked in his uncle’s studio and later apprenticed with portrait photographer John Garo of Boston. Karsh returned to Canada in 1932 and established a studio in Ottawa. He began photographing dignitaries and celebrities in 1936, after his work caught the eye of the Canadian Prime Minister. He then went on to produce some of the most recognizable portraits of the 20th century. His best known work is of Sir Winston Churchill, from 1941, which brought Karsh to international prominence and is included in LSU MOA’s portfolio. Other portraits given by Dr. and Mrs. Smith are of Muhammed Ali, Pablo Casals, Marc Chagall, Jacque Cousteau, Albert Einstein, Robert Frost, Ernest Hemmingway, Helen Keller, Joan Miro, Georgia O’Keefe, Pablo Picasso, Albert Schweitzer, George Bernard Shaw, Jean Sibelius, Peter Lorre, and Edward Steiken. The Smiths plan to give the museum additional photographs from their collection, which includes works by important 20th-century photographers such as Ansel Adams, Brett Weston, and Albert Eisenstaedt. This gift will form the basis of a 20th-century photography collection for LSU MOA and will provide many exciting opportunities for exhibition and study.

Frances R. Huber
Registrar

Caroline Durieux (American, 1896-1989),
Gift of R. Elizabeth Williams in honor of Jon S. Emerson.
Photography: LSU MOA.

Jade Mountain with Relief Scene of Two Horses,
China, Qing dynasty, 18th century, nephrite.
New Benefit for Members

The LSU Museum of Art is pleased to announce that as of January 1, 2006, the museum has become a participating member in the North American Reciprocal Membership Program (NARM). This new benefit allows LSU MOA members at the Patron level and above to receive reciprocal membership privileges at over 150 museums, gardens, and historical sites throughout North America. Refer to our website, www.lsu.edu/fsmoa for a complete list of participating sites.

Membership privileges include:
- free admission during public hours
- the same discount on gift store purchases as offered to affiliate members of the organization
- the same discount on on-site purchases of concert and lecture tickets as offered to affiliate members

To receive your reciprocal privileges at participating sites, you must present your LSU MOA membership card with the GOLD NARM sticker.

Reciprocal privileges do not include mailings from any participating museums except the museum with whose member the affiliation is.

If you have any questions or if you need a new membership card, please contact LSU MOA Director of Development Kelly Lastraper at 225.389.7212; klast@lsu.edu.

Thank you!

Attention Members — Keep in touch and stay informed!

To receive notices about programs and events in a timely manner, make sure we have your current e-mail address. If you are not receiving e-mail notices from the LSU Museum of Art, please send your current e-mail address to klast@lsu.edu and we will update our records.

Remember to send us any corrections to your contact information as changes occur, so we can keep our database as accurate as possible!

LSU Museum of Art Members’ Preview Night and Special Behind-the-Scenes Event

On Thursday, January 12, enthusiastic members of the LSU Museum of Art enjoyed a sneak preview of the museum’s latest exhibition, Conrad Albrizio: New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal Sketches, two days before the public opening. The sketches were purchased with funds from the Paula Garvey Manship Endowment, Lucy D. Robinson, and Michael D. Robinson. Members were treated to a tour through the Conrad Albrizio exhibition by Curatorial Assistant Natalie Mault. Mault explained the results of LSU MOA’s research regarding the Albrizio studies for the fresco murals at the New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal. She introduced members to Albrizio’s artistic method and explained the curatorial investigation needed for defining his works.

Members at the Sustaining and Benefactor levels of the Endowment Society Members were treated to an additional behind-the-scenes look at works by Conrad Albrizio from the LSU MOA collections that are not on display in the exhibition. Mault presented a lecture on Albrizio’s studies for the State Capitol murals. In addition, these members were offered a preview and introduction to works from the upcoming exhibition William Beecher: A Fantastic Vision.

Make your move. Join the LSU Museum of Art today and be invited to the next Members’ Preview Night, Saturday, March 11 at 6:30 pm! The preview event includes members’ only tour of William Beecher: A Fantastic Vision. To become a member contact Kelly Lastraper, director of development, at 225.389.7212; klast@lsu.edu.

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1. Linda Bowsher viewing Conrad Albrizio’s studies for the State Capitol murals.
2. John Turner, Jerry Fischer, and Nadine Carter Russell at the LSU MOA behind-the-scenes event.
3. Shelby and Marie Gilley, owners of Gilley’s Gallery, were thanked by Laura Lindsay for their part in making the Albrizio exhibition possible.
4. cherry and Mary Joseph discuss the works with the exhibition curator, Natalie Mault.
5. Michael Simmons, Jacob Palmer, and Robyn Munson at the members’ preview night.

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**Education News**

**For Teens Who Are All About the Drama**

LSU MOA’s Dramatic Art program is available again for teens interested in drama and volunteering at the museum over the summer. Teens aged fourteen and up will participate in an intensive two-week day camp with a talented drama coach. This experience will instruct teens on how to present fun and exciting dramatic tours to kids’ summer groups.

- Remember, teens must be:
  - fourteen or older
  - able to attend the full two weeks of training at the beginning of the summer
  - able to volunteer one day per week for most of the summer
  - comfortable speaking to groups
  - able to provide own transportation and lunch.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact LSU MOA Education Curator Lara Gautreau at 225.389.7207; lgaut@lsu.edu.

**Gallery Talks**

**Outsider Art and William Beecher’s Fantastic Vision**

Saturday, March 25, 2 pm
Free with museum admission.
Location: LSU MOA, fifth floor, Shaw Center for the Arts

What is outsider art? Why is William Beecher considered an outsider artist? Why is Beecher’s art important to the art world? Darius A. Speith, assistant professor of art history at LSU, will answer these questions and more as he introduces museum visitors to this sometimes confusing, but always interesting, segment of art history. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

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**Volunteer Opportunities**

Join the Volunteer Support Organization (VSO) for the LSU Museum of Art and provide valuable assistance to the museum staff and the public! Volunteers are trained to work in a range of visitor services functions, including special events hosting, LSU MOA Museum Store sales, and public relations assistance. The museum needs volunteers to work in collection management and general administration. The museum’s education curator also trains docent volunteers to engage the public in tours of the permanent collection and changing exhibitions.

Summer is just around the corner! Make a difference and spend your days with us at the museum as a volunteer. Contact Renée Bourgeois, events coordinator, for more information:
225.389.7206; renee@lsu.edu.
For one-of-a-kind gifts and artist creations, visit the LSU MOA Museum Store in the Shaw Center for the Arts at 100 Lafayette Street. Store hours are 10 am – 5 pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday, 10 am – 8 pm Thursday, and 1 pm – 5 pm Sunday, closed Monday. LSU MOA members receive a 10% discount on Museum Store purchases.

Not sure what to get Mom for Mother’s Day this year? Look for the LSU MOA Museum Store Jewelry Trunk Show and Sale, coming in early May.

Special Event
The LSU MOA will present a lecture and film screening by celebrated California documentary filmmaker and art car maker, Harrod Blank. Blank will appear in conjunction with the Annual Baton Rouge Art Car Parade that rolls through the downtown streets on April 1, 2006. Blank will showcase the newest version of his film *WILD WHEELS* on Saturday, April 1, 2006, at 12 noon in the Manship Theatre. The parade will follow at 3 pm.

Designer Claire Sanchez displays her colorful handbag collection.

Trunk Show Success
The LSU MOA Museum Store held its first trunk show on Friday, December 9, 2005. Visitors and museum members were provided refreshments by Dillon-Poche Catering & Concessions, and were able to meet and greet four Louisiana-based artists whose innovative designs are featured in the museum store. Among the featured designers were Claire Sanchez, with her stylish, contemporary purses; Beatrix Bell, whose earrings, necklaces and bracelets were ideal for the holiday season; Moira Evanco, whose designs included purses, children’s clothes, and purple and gold jewelry; and Misty Taylor, the museum’s assistant registrar, with uniquely crafted jewelry in a variety of stones and crystals. The abounding success of this show has sparked plans for a future trunk show around Mother’s Day. Keep an eye out for this and other shimmering sales!

Ford Thomas has been a designer for more than 25 years. His one-of-a-kind furniture has been exhibited in national galleries and widely published both nationally and internationally. His works include church appointments, residential furniture, and commercial work for retail and restaurants. Thomas’ designs are usually constructed in natural woods with traditional joinery. Each piece is hand crafted with careful attention to detail and craftsmanship. He is recognized for his high quality finishes. Thomas believes that form and function must be closely woven into one, stating that “In designing, I strive to create forms that are pleasing through proportion and simplicity.” Each piece is signed and dated with the knowledge that it will serve many generations to come.

Thomas lives and works in Baton Rouge and is married to Genny Nadler. Ford and Genny have three children. For additional information regarding Ford Thomas’ furniture, please contact Benchworks at 225.802.5659; gnadler1@cox.net.

Stop by the LSU MOA Museum Store at the Shaw Center for the Arts to find a variety of Ford Thomas’ wooden clocks, picture frames, and other intricate designs.

Purple Tag Anniversary SALE
In celebration of our one year anniversary, join us at the LSU MOA Museum Store for the PURPLE TAG ANNIVERSARY SALE, March 3, 2006. Select items will be labeled with a purple tag and prices will be reduced 25%. Store hours will be extended to 10 am – 7 pm for your shopping convenience.

Museum Store
The LSU MOA Museum Store sells an array of boutique gifts for all family members, and exclusive jewelry, glass, ceramics, sculpture, and furniture by regional artisans.
Make Your Move.
Join the LSU Museum of Art Today!

Annual membership in the LSU Museum of Art provides major support for museum exhibitions, educational programs, and the research, conservation, and expansion of the permanent collection.

LSU MOA members receive free admission to the museum, a 10% discount on Museum Store purchases, the quarterly newsletter Art Talk, and an LSU MOA lapel pin. Members also receive a 15% discount on meals at the Capital City Grill for both locations (Lafayette Street Park, Shaw Center for the Arts and 3535 South Sherwood Forest Boulevard), a 10% discount on meals at Tsunami, and a free upsize on coffee purchases at PJ’s Coffee, Shaw Center for the Arts.

Membership Levels and Benefits

All memberships include the benefits outlined above and those indicated by the levels below:

- **Student $15**
  Single student membership (with verification of full-time enrollment).

- **Individual $40**
  Membership for one adult.

- **Dual /Family $60**
  Membership for up to two adults and children under 18.

- **Patron $100**
  Dual/Family benefits plus invitations to special receptions and events and four guest passes.

- **Sustaining $250**
  Patron benefits plus one gift from the Museum Store and an invitation to a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum.

- **Benefactor $500**
  Sustaining benefits plus complimentary exhibition catalogues and invitations to opening receptions of all major exhibitions.

- **Endowment Society $1,000**
  Benefactor level benefits plus invitation for two to the Endowment Society annual party and recognition in the museum.

- **Corporate Benefactor $5,000**
  Dual/Family memberships for five adults, corporate recognition in the museum’s quarterly newsletter, and invitations to opening receptions of all major exhibitions.

- **Corporate Philanthropist $10,000**
  Dual/Family memberships for ten adults, corporate recognition in the museum’s quarterly newsletter, and invitations to opening receptions of all major exhibitions.

For more information contact Kelly Lastrapes at 225.389.7212, klast@lsu.edu.

Return form and payment to:

LSU Museum of Art
Development Office
Shaw Center for the Arts
100 Lafayette Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
225.389.7200 (general)
225.389.7210 (Museum Store)
Internet: www.lsu.edu/lsumoa