Help us Celebrate a Telfair Milestone!

As we enter 2011, Telfair Museums is proud to celebrate its 125th anniversary. The oldest public art museum in the South, the Telfair opened its doors to the community in 1886.

The Telfair Academy, the first of the museum’s three sites, is a renovated former mansion designed by British architect William Jay during the English Regency period. Built from 1818-1819, the structure was originally the home of Alexander Telfair, son of Revolutionary War patriot and Georgia governor Edward Telfair.

In 1875 Alexander’s sister Mary, heir to the family fortune and last to bear the Telfair name, bequeathed the house and its furnishings to the Georgia Historical Society to be opened as a museum. After significant renovation by German-born architect Detlef Lienau, whose adaptations included the addition of the Sculpture Gallery and the Rotunda, the building opened to the public in 1886 as the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Telfair Academy contains two nineteenth-century period rooms and houses nineteenth- and twentieth-century American and European art from the museum’s permanent collection including paintings, works on paper, sculpture, and decorative arts. Highlights include fine examples of American Impressionism and Ashcan School Realism, with major paintings by Childe Hassam, Frederick Frieseke, Gari Melchers, Robert Henri, George Bellows, and George Luks.
2011 is a milestone year for Telfair Museums. 125 years ago, the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences opened its doors for the first time to the citizens of Savannah. Since that celebratory opening on May 3, 1886, the Telfair has operated continuously, providing our community with access to art and educational experiences that, until recently, were available only by traveling to other cities.

Savannah’s Telfair Academy (and later the Owens-Thomas House and the Jepson Center, and now known collectively as Telfair Museums) was something to celebrate. Created through the generosity and vision of Mary Telfair, the Telfair Academy became the very first art museum in the South, joining an elite group of art museums founded in the nineteenth century and predominantly located in the Northeast or upper Midwest.

Since Mary Telfair bequeathed her home and financial assets, but no collection of art, to establish the Telfair for the Savannah community, the first directors of the museum, Carl Brandt and Gari Melchers, were tasked with building a collection. Over the next three decades, Brandt and, after his death in 1906, Melchers scoured artist studios and exhibitions in Europe and America to build a contemporary collection of international scope. So, not only was the Telfair the first art museum in the South, it was one of the first contemporary art museums in the United States. To this day, Telfair Museums continues this tradition of collecting and exhibiting the art of our time, and with the construction of the Jepson Center in 2006, we have a state-of-the-art museum facility that enables us to continue this vision well into the twenty-first century.

Over the course of 2011, we will celebrate our 125th anniversary with a series of three exhibitions highlighting the history of the museum and its collections. To begin our year-long celebration, we have created a small focus exhibition (p. 5) based on one of our major works, George Bellows’ Snow-Capped River, which was acquired for the Telfair by Gari Melchers shortly after its completion in 1911. The show reunites this work with three related Bellows paintings—A Morning Snow, Hudson River, 1910, from the Brooklyn Museum of Art; Floating Ice, 1910, from the Whitney Museum of American Art; and Up the Hudson, 1908, from the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Painted within a few years of one another, all four of these works depict the same subject matter, New York’s Riverside Park.

Opening this summer, our second 125th-anniversary project will also focus on our collection. Our director of collections and exhibitions, Holly Koons McCullough, and her staff will select works from each decade of the Telfair’s history to tell the story of the evolution of the permanent collection. This show will highlight the museum’s major acquisitions since 1886 and explore the evolving tastes and collecting interests of the Telfair’s directors and curators throughout its history.

Our third project will celebrate one of the final acquisitions of Carl Brandt, La Parabola by Cesare Laurenti, before the painting travels to Italy for exhibition in 2012. This wonderful painting, which captures in two panels the progression of life, was originally presented in an equally wonderful frame, which was either sold or discarded at some point in its history. We have commissioned a frame restoration professional who, through examination of early photographs, will reconstruct the original. During Brandt’s tenure, the purchase of a major work was often followed with a great gathering of museum members for the unveiling of the new acquisition. In September, we will again unveil La Parabola, now properly presented in its new frame, as the final celebration of our 125th year.

I look forward to joining with all of our members to celebrate this significant anniversary. I hope to see you often at the Telfair in 2011.

Steven High
Director/CEO, Telfair Museums
Encompassing more than sixty landscape paintings, this exhibition offers a glimpse of the pre-settlement Southern wilderness as late eighteenth-century naturalist William Bartram would have experienced it during his famed travels through the region. Philip Juras’ work combines direct observation with historical, scientific, and natural history research to depict, and in some cases re-imagine, landscapes as they appeared in the 1770s. Juras, a landscape painter based in Athens, Georgia, spent years researching Bartram and revisiting important sites the naturalist wrote about in his celebrated Travels of 1791. Juras’ paintings recreate Bartram’s lost Southern frontier for contemporary viewers in much the same way that nineteenth-century American landscape painters like Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran brought the Western frontier to the consciousness of the rapidly industrializing East. Juras’ work explores many of the important and imperiled ecosystems that remain in the South today, providing viewers with a rare glimpse of the southern frontier before its essence was irrevocably altered by European settlement.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue that places Juras’ work in the context of Bartram’s legacy and the American landscape movement. Distributed by the University of Georgia Press, the catalogue features essays by the artist as well as Dorinda DaUlmayer, Director of the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program at the University of Georgia; Holly Koons McCullough, Director of Collections and Exhibitions at the Telfair; and Janisse Ray, lauded poet and environmental advocate.

Winged Creatures: Birds, Moths, and Butterflies by John Abbot and Floyd Robbins
February 4 – April 24, 2011 / Jepson Center

Although the natural landscape of the southeastern United States has changed vastly as a result of European settlement, the region’s wildlife has provided consistent inspiration to naturalists and artists over the centuries.

Decades before John James Audubon would commence work on his famed volume Birds of America, British-born naturalist John Abbot (1751-c. 1840) immigrated to eastern Georgia and began creating spectacularly detailed and remarkably lifelike watercolors of the birds and insects native to the area. These illustrations numbered over 5,000 by the time of Abbot’s death, and significantly advanced the work of early ornithologists and entomologists by allowing them to better study and classify these winged creatures of Georgia.

This tradition of observing and vividly documenting the wildlife of the Southeast is continued today, 200 years later, by self-taught woodcarver Floyd C. Robbins. A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Robbins has lived and worked in the South Carolina Low Country for over thirty years. Using knives, band saws, wood-burning tools, and paint, Robbins painstakingly creates arrestingely lifelike carvings of game birds. Robbins’ woodcarvings are prized by collectors in the region and around the country for their elegance and their fidelity to nature.

Winged Creatures will consist of approximately thirty watercolors by John Abbot and twenty carvings by Floyd Robbins. Its focus on the natural world relates to the concurrent exhibition of landscape paintings by Philip Juras, featured on the page opposite.

Related Programs For Juras, Abbot and Robbins

- **Director’s Circle Dinner**
  - February 2, 6 pm
  - Jepson Center
  - For more information and reservations, call Amy Branch at 912.790.8864.

- **Members’ Reception**
  - February 3, 6 pm / Jepson Center and Telfair Academy

- **Artists and Naturalists in Georgia: Philip Juras and John Abbot Programs**
  - Examining the intersection of art and nature in exhibitions by artists Philip Juras, John Abbot, and Floyd Robbins, the Telfair will present a series of educational programs further exploring this important relationship. The timely series also anticipates the worldwide observance of Earth Day on April 22—held annually to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the earth’s environment.

- **Workshop: Nature Photography**
  - (Ages 16 - Adult)
  - April 9 & 16, 1-4 pm / Jepson Center
  - Workshop will consist of approximately thirty watercolors by John Abbot and twenty carvings by Floyd Robbins. Its focus on the natural world relates to the concurrent exhibition of landscape paintings by Philip Juras, featured on the page opposite.

- **Art Lecture**
  - April 14, 7 pm / Jepson Center
  - Philip Juras will give a talk on the landscapes featured in William Bartram’s Travels.

- **Gallery Talk**
  - April 13, 12:30 pm / Jepson Center
  - Historian Vivian Rogers-Price will present a lecture on artist John Abbot.

- **Art and Nature Family Day**
  - April 16, 10 am-1 pm / Telfair Academy
  - Public programs are presented free of charge, thanks to project funding provided by the City of Savannah.
Domain: Drawings, Etchings, and Lithographs by Curtis Bartone

February 4 – June 26, 2011 / Telfair Academy

Curtis Bartone’s drawings and etchings focus on the uneasy relationship between human beings and the natural world. In particular, Bartone’s work addresses the concept of wilderness, which is typically presented as a distorted fiction rather than a mysterious, pristine reality. The artist fuses Italian Renaissance painting, seventeenth-century Dutch still life, and nineteenth-century scientific illustration with a twenty-first century aesthetic to create works that explore our attempts to tame, control, and consume our surroundings. The varied flora and fauna presented in Bartone’s art are often drawn from his personal experience of the natural environments of far-flung countries including Iceland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Zambia, and New Zealand. Filtered through art history and mass media, his works synthesize seemingly disparate elements, revealing connections, beauty, and order amidst apparent disharmony.

Bartone was born in 1965 in Erie, Pennsylvania. He received a B.F.A. from the Columbus College of Art and Design and an M.F.A. in painting from Northwestern University in Chicago. He relocated to Savannah in 2001 to teach printmaking at the Savannah College of Art and Design, but since 2006 has devoted himself full-time to his art. The landscape and wildlife of the Low Country environment, and the contrast with the rampant development and, in some cases, destruction of the marshes and woodlands, have become an integral theme in his work.

Bartone is represented by Byron Roche Gallery and Printworks Gallery—both in Chicago, Illinois. His work has been included in numerous group exhibitions internationally, and in solo shows at Byron Roche, the Morris Graves Museum of Art in California, SPACE Gallery in Savannah; Gallery Stokes in Atlanta; Listagil Gallery in Akureyri, Iceland; the Elmhurst Art Museum in Illinois; and the University of Illinois in Chicago; among other institutions. Bartone has been the recipient of the Gil Society Studio Residency Fellowship in Akureyri, Iceland; two Illinois state art council grants; and a grant from the Vogelstein Foundation in New York. His work is included in the Telfair’s permanent collection.

Members’ Reception
February 3, 6 pm / Jepson Center and Telfair Academy

George Bellows and Riverside Park:
Celebrating a Telfair Masterpiece

February 12 – May 1, 2011 / Jepson Center

George Bellows’ Snow-Capped River of 1911, which depicts a view of the Hudson River and the Palisades from Manhattan’s Riverside Park, is one of the Telfair’s most important and beloved paintings. The work was acquired for the Telfair directly from Bellows by artist Gari Melchers, who served as the museum’s fine arts advisor from 1906-1916.

In celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the creation and acquisition of Snow-Capped River, the Telfair will reunite the painting with a small group of Riverside Park compositions by Bellows to which it is closely related. This direct comparison will result in an enhanced understanding and appreciation of this pivotal work within the museum’s collection. The comparative works will be on loan from noteworthy public New York collections including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, and Brooklyn Museum.

In each of these paintings, Bellows’ devotion to portraying contemporary urban life is clearly felt. Yet the artist’s particular interest in Riverside Park as a nexus of human activity, the natural world, and maritime commercial enterprise is evidenced in multiple paintings of this subject. In addition to showcasing Bellows’ increasingly vivid color palette, these paintings reveal the artist’s remarkably painterly, even abstract treatment of the Palisades in the distance, demonstrating his bold and progressive approach to the subject.

Lecture by Charles Brock
February 17, 6 pm
Jepson Center

Charles Brock, Associate Curator of American and British Paintings and curator of the forthcoming Bellows retrospective at the National Gallery of Art, will give a lecture on George Bellows. The lecture is free to Telfair members, sponsored by the Telfair Academy Guild.
Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960s
March 4 – May 29, 2011 / Jepson Center

Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960s explores and investigates the origins and development of a “psychedelic sensibility” in contemporary art of the past forty years, from Op Art of the early 1960s to abstract and visionary representations from the present day. Although the term “psychedelic” was first coined by a doctor in 1956 to refer to experiences produced by psychotherapeutic drugs, it acquired broader cultural significance during the 1960s. The advent of color television, the production of fluorescent paints, and the Op Art movement’s experimentation with optical mixing to achieve dazzling color effects combined to introduce a new visual language of extreme color and kaleidoscopic space into contemporary culture. By the end of the decade, the psychedelic aesthetic was exemplified by light shows, lava lamps, posters and buttons, record album covers, fashion, and stage design for TV shows.

Although psychedelic culture began to decline by the mid-1970s, one of its legacies is an aesthetic sensibility that has continued to evolve over the years and, more recently, has gained favor in growing numbers among contemporary artists. The artists featured in the exhibition exhibit a psychedelic aesthetic sensibility, employing extremes of color and light that did not exist prior to the birth of the psychedelic era. The show includes dizzying Op Art works by artists such as Frank Stella, Philip Taaffe, and Victor Vasarely, visionary figurative works by artists including Alex Gray and Fred Tomaselli, and new-media digital creations by Jeremy Blake and Ray Rapp, among other contemporaries.

Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960s is organized by the San Antonio Museum of Art with generous support from SAMA Contemporaries, Jerry Gore, and the Toby Devan Lewis Philanthropic Fund of The Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland.

The exhibition is curated by David S. Rubin, The Brown Foundation Curator of Contemporary Art at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

Below: Michael Velliquette, Breakthrough, 2007; Cut card stock and glue on paper; 48 x 48 inches; Collection of Guillermo Nicolas, San Antonio, TX.
January

10 Adult Studio Art Classes
JC, through March 3

26 2 pm
Lecture by English Buildings Curator Lee Prosser
TA

15 10:30 am-2:30 pm
Workshop: How to be Awesome with Matt Hebermehl Ages 6-12
JC

20 10:00 – 11:30 am
Toddler Third Thursday: Ready, Set, Action!
JC

20 Pulse: Art and Technology Festival
JC, through January 29

23-29 FREE WEEK
JC

28 Philip Juras: The Southern Frontier Landscapes Inspired by Bartram’s Travels
TA, through May 8

29 2 pm – 5 pm
Pulse Family Day
JC

February

2 6 pm
Director’s Circle Dinner for Winged Creatures and The Southern Frontier
JC & TA

3 4:30-6 pm
Youth Studio Art Classes
JC, through March 10

2 6 pm
Members’ Reception for Winged Creatures and The Southern Frontier
JC & TA

4 Winged Creatures: Birds, Moths, and Butterflies by John Abbot and Floyd Robbins
JC, through April 24

4 Domain: Drawings, Etchings, and Lithographs by Curtis Bartone
TA, through June 26

4 6:30 pm
Savannah Black Heritage Festival
W.W. Law Lecture by Pearl Cleage
TA

5 10:30 am - 12 pm
Family Art Lab: Colors and the Act of Painting
JC

12 10 am-4:30 pm
Adult Workshop: The Art of Stained Glass (Part I)
JC

17 10:00 – 11:30 am
Toddler Third Thursday: Artists and Explorers
JC

17 6 pm
Lecture by Charles Brock
Members’ Reception to follow
JC

18 Fourth Annual Savannah Book Festival
TA & JC, through February 20

19 10 am-4:30 pm
Adult Workshop: The Art of Stained Glass (Part II)
JC

24 A Night at the Telfair Art Auction and Party
JC

26 7 pm
31st Annual Telfair Ball: A Night at the Telfair
TA & JC

March

3 6 pm
Lecture by Curator David S. Rubin
Members’ Reception to follow
JC

4 6 pm & 6:45 pm
Living History Program:
A Visit from Lafayette
JC, every Thursday in March

4 Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960s
JC, through May 29

April

2 10:30 am - 12 pm
Family Art Lab: Time Travel with Philip Juras
JC

9 & 16 11-4 pm
Adult Workshop: Nature Photography
JC

10 10 am - 12 pm
Artist Lecture: Philip Juras
JC

13 7 pm
Artist Lecture: Philip Juras
JC

16 10 am - 1 pm
Art and Nature Family Day
JC

21 10:00 – 11:30 am
Toddler Third Thursday: Meet Miss Mary Telfair
JC

24 11 am-3 pm
Jepson Gospel Brunch
JC

May 2011

3 10:30 am - 12 pm
Family Art Lab: Tye Dyeing with Philip Juras
JC

4 6 pm & 6:45 pm
Living History Program:
A Visit from Lafayette
JC, every Thursday in March

4 Psychedelic: Optical and Visionary Art since the 1960s
JC, through May 29

5 10:30 am – 12 pm
Family Art Lab: Tune in to Symmetry
JC

10-11 The Artful Table:
Dining by Design
Telfair Museums and Savannah Theater

27 11 am-3 pm
Jepson Gospel Brunch
JC

June 2011

125 YEARS
art + history + architecture

Look for special events and programs throughout the year to celebrate this milestone!

February 17
George Bellows Lecture & Members’ Opening Reception
JC

June 23
125th Anniversary Exhibition:
Twelve Decades of Collecting
JC

Fall 2011
Unveiling of Laurenti’s La Parabole Frame Restoration
TA
The 31st Annual Telfair Ball promises to be new and exciting. This year, a special event will be added on Thursday, February 24, in the Jepson Center. Wonderful artwork by local and regional artists will be on view in the museum beginning February 10. On Thursday night, a silent art auction will set the tone for a fabulous weekend. Tickets for the party are $50 each for Telfair members and $85 for non-members (includes a first-time one-year membership). The evening will include an open bar and hors d’oeuvres. For more information or to purchase, please visit www.telfair.org or call 912.790.8866.

On Saturday, February 26, A Night at the Telfair will begin with cocktails at 6 pm and a silent auction in the Jepson Center. The live auction will commence at 7:15 pm in the Jepson Center, followed by a delicious dinner prepared by Savannah’s Trish McLeod and served in the beautiful Telfair Academy.

Tickets for the 2011 Telfair Ball are $350 each for Director’s Circle members. For more information or to purchase, please call 912.790.8864.

The Artful Table: Dining by Design Featuring Ryan Gainey
March 10-11, 2011 / Telfair Museums & Savannah Theater

The Telfair Academy Guild is proud to announce that Ryan Gainey of Atlanta will be this year’s guest lecturer at The Artful Table: Dining by Design. Known for his exuberance, wit, and love of the sumptuous and unique, Gainey is sure to please with a lecture that is informative, instructive, and highly entertaining.

Gainey is a gardener, arranger, gala planner, pottery and tableware designer, author of The Well-Placed Weed and The Well-Set Table, and a regular contributor to Flower magazine. He has been featured in many well-known magazines such as Veranda and House and Garden, as well as books including House Beautiful Outdoor Living and Gardening and Weddings Southern Style.

Help us kick-off this festive event at the gala preview party on Thursday, March 10, at 6:30 pm. Enjoy the cuisine of favorite local restaurants and caterers; bid on the popular “Tiny Tables” as well as a new feature this year, “Artful Chairs,” painted by area artists; savor the vignettes featuring this year’s exciting theme, created by talented local designers; and meet Ryan Gainey “up close and personal.”

On Friday, March 11, at 10:30 am, Gainey will speak at Savannah Theater on the theme of “Dining by Design.” Luncheon will be served at Telfair Museums immediately following the lecture. Bus transportation between the theater and museums will be provided. The event will also include a raffle with wonderful prizes, including two pieces of Ryan’s beautiful tableware. For ticket information, call 912.790.8869 or visit the museum’s website at www.telfair.org. Thanks to Piggly Wiggly Carolina Company for its generous sponsorship of this year’s event.

Member Group Events
Telfair members may join the museum’s member groups to enjoy special programs and activities. Additional fees apply. Please call 912.790.8866 for more information or to join.

Telfair Academy Guild
January 10, 10:15 am
Lecture: The Lost Leonardo

February 14, 10:15 am
Lecture: Reading an English Country House

March 14, 10:15 am
Lecture by Holly McCullough

April 11, 10:15 am
Lecture by Holly McCullough

Friends of the Owens-Thomas House
January 13, 11 am
Exploring the English Country House (Part I)

February 17, 11 am
Exploring the English Country House (Part II)

April 26, 5:30-7:30 pm
Annual Meeting and Garden Party

Friends of African American Arts
February 10, 11 am
FAAA Annual Educational Lecture by Kyle Coleman: Life and Art of Romare Bearden

William Jay Society
January 13, time TBA
Friend-raiser

February 16, time TBA
Matt Hebermehl Event

April 14, time TBA
Savannah Fun Tours Scavenger Hunt

Save the Date!
August 6, time TBA
An Evening in Monte Carlo

The Learning Center, through February 10
January 18, 6 pm
Lecture by English Buildings Curator Lee Prosser

February 17, 11 am
Exploring the English Country House (Part II)

March 14, 10:15 am
Lecture by Holly McCullough

April 26, 5:30-7:30 pm
Annual Meeting and Garden Party

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Art and Technology Festival
January 20-29, 2011 / Jepson Center*

Telfair Museums’ Pulse: Technology and Art Festival returns for its third year in 2011 at the Jepson Center and partner locations. The all-ages event includes art, workshops, lectures, and performances by international and regional artists working in new media.

Featured 2011 artists include Zachary Lieberman, co-designer of the award-winning assistive device, the EyeWriter. He will present a lecture on January 20, interactive installations, a coding workshop, and a live demonstration of EyeWriter. Craig Kapp, creator of ZooBurst—a series of augmented, reality pop-up books—will lead a workshop for educators.

The museum will also present an installation of solar-powered and kinetic works by German sculptor Bjorn Schulke, a series of works created through computer-assisted fabrication by Savannah-based sculptor Andrew Scott, and an interactive game by Andrew Hieronymi, who will present a weekend workshop on physical game design incorporating the Arduino microcontroller. Ranjit Bhatnagar, featured on NPR’s Science Friday, will present a series of “junk electric guitar” workshops for teens.


The program culminates with a Family Day on January 29, featuring local artists and robotics teams from Georgia Tech Savannah, and a concert by Pulse 2010 favorites the Wittles. Pulse closes with a concert by Adam Matta, a champion beatboxer who incorporates technology in performance.

*Most events take place at the Jepson Center. Please check our website at www.telfair.org for a full schedule.

2011 Pulse programs are presented free of charge, thanks to project funding provided by the City of Savannah. Additional Sponsors: Connect Savannah, Georgia Tech, and Springhill Suites by Marriott.

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**Adult**

**Studio Art Classes**
January 10-March 3
8-week session: Members: $160
Non-members: $200

**Alla Prima Oil Portraiture—Level I**
Mondays / 10 am-1 pm
Instructor: Sandra Colquitt

**Principles of Figure Painting II**
Wednesdays / 10 am-1 pm
Instructor: Carl Faugerasse

**Drawing from Antiquity**
Thursdays / 10 am-1 pm
Instructor: Carl Faugerasse

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**Workshops**

**Silver Point Workshop**
January 13 / 3-6:30 pm
Instructor: Jeannine Cook
Members: $45, Non-Members: $50
Telfair Academy and Jepson Center

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**Spring Preview**

Acrylic Essentials
With Amiri Farris

The Art of Encaustic
With Kathryn Bevier/Enkaustikos wax paints, Jan Clayton Pagrasis, Christine Sajeczi, and Carmela Alifii

Figure Drawing in Dry Point
With Jamie Kutner
New Living History Program!

After rave reviews of the Hidden History Tour offered last October, the Owens-Thomas House will present another living history program, A Visit from Lafayette, on Fridays throughout the month of March. Featuring artist Alexandre Santana as the Marquis de Lafayette, the program—performed by Owens-Thomas House interpreters and volunteers—will bring to life the people who stayed at and visited Mrs. Maxwell’s boarding house (today’s Owens-Thomas House) during Lafayette’s visit in March 1825. The Frenchman, an American Revolutionary War hero, toured the country from 1824-1825 with considerable fanfare and sometimes controversy. A great lover of freedom, Lafayette criticized American leaders for maintaining slavery.

Look for other living history programs throughout the year.

The program is offered on Fridays at 6 pm and 6:45 pm during the month of March. Cost is $10 for members, $15 for non-members, and $25 for admission and a Telfair Pass. It pays to join! Please call 912.790.8880 to reserve your space or email sommersc@telfair.org.

Lecture by English Buildings Curator
Lee Prosser  February 16, 6 pm / Telfair Academy

William Jay’s Owens-Thomas House grand staircase and bridge inspire thousands of visitors each year, including Robert Redford—who prominently featured the spectacular architectural element in his recent film The Conspirator. On February 16, Historic Royal Palaces Buildings Curator Lee Prosser will give an English context to the house’s staircase, showing examples of England’s finest and most interesting stairs. A reception will follow the lecture.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Owens-Thomas House, this special program is $20 for members and $25 for non-members. Tickets may be purchased at www.telfair.org or by calling 912.790.8880. It pays to join!

2011 W.W. Law Lecture:
Pearl Cleage

February 4, 6:30 pm / Telfair Academy

On Friday, February 4, the museum will host the 2011 W.W. Law Lecture by the Atlanta-based writer and award-winning playwright Pearl Cleage, as part of the 2011 Savannah Black Heritage Festival.

This year’s event will feature a preview of the Savannah Book Festival, which is hosting a reception with the Black Heritage Festival, in collaboration with Telfair Museums. For more information, visit www.savannahblackheritagefestival.com.

Fourth Annual Savannah Book Festival  February 18-20, 2011

The Savannah Book Festival is a free, world-class literary event which will bring over thirty-seven popular and critically acclaimed authors—and thousands of readers—together in historic downtown Savannah. Audiences hear authors talk about their lives in letters while enjoying the extraordinary surroundings of three of Savannah’s most beautiful structures—the historic Telfair Academy, the Telfair’s contemporary Jepson Center, and the lovely sanctuary of Trinity United Methodist Church. Come hear from some of this year’s most compelling authors, including Tobias Wolff, Lee Smith, Karl Marlantes, Robert Goolrick, Lisa Genova, Beth Hoffman, and Sandra Brown. For a full listing of the festival’s fabulous weekend events, visit savannahbookfestival.org.

Exploring the English Country House

An exciting partnership has been launched between Telfair Museums’ Friends of the Owens-Thomas House and The Learning Center at Senior Citizens, to begin on Thursday, January 13, 2011. This two-part course, inspired by Tania Sammons’ work at Attingham, will explore the evolution of the Great Houses of England—from fortified castles to the power houses built for display in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, such as Castle Howard, Chatsworth, and Harewood House. Emphasis will be placed on the architectural splendor, decorative richness, and collected treasures that make them a typical British phenomenon. Names like Bess of Hardwick; Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire; Princess Mary, the Princess Royal; Lord and Lady Curzon; and Debo, the present dowager Duchess of Devonshire, will resonate throughout the course as the workings of the house and the heritage they represent are discussed. Special focus will be on the eighteenth-century interiors of Robert Adam and their influence on William Jay, a tangible link to our Savannah past. Part I will be held at The Learning Center on Bull Street at Washington Avenue. Part II will be held at the Telfair. Call 912.790.8880 or email sommersc@telfair.org for details.

Plans for a September 2011 trip to England to visit the studied houses are in the works. In addition to private visits and behind-the-scenes peeks, the trip will include special sessions handling silver at Dunham Massey and archives and silver at Chatsworth.
Shop online @ TELFAIR.ORG

1 Fisk And Fern / $32
Lovely hand screenprinted tea towels

2 Food Face / $12
Great for the picky eaters who might accidentally get some in their mouths

3 2011 Wall Calendar / $20
Features the paintings of artist Elizabeth Knight, whose art is musing, moody, and original just like the city of Savannah!

4 Abstract Sterling Silver Necklace / $45
Earrings / $48
3-D pendant on chain designed by Ann Carol

5 Glass Pencil holder / $18
Handmade by artists in the USA.

6 Things to Draw Book / $16.95
Entertain and provoke the imagination of anyone ready to pick up a pencil.

7 Philip Juras: The Southern Frontier Book / $24.95
Showcases stunning reproductions of Philip Juras’ oil paintings

8 Solitaire Game / $78
Hand-rolled Venetian glass marbles with a dark wood base—fun for one!

9 The Art of Kahlil Gibran Book / $29.95
Features Telfair Museums’ collection of work by and about Gibran.

10 Snack & Stack Utensil Set / $17.95
Snap together this 3-piece set featuring a spoon, fork, and spreader.

“Your museum shop is one of the best I have ever seen and I have seen many!”  Kristi Seli-Edina, MN
Help us Celebrate a Telfair Milestone!

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The Telfair Academy, the first of the museum’s three sites, is a renovated former mansion designed by British architect William Jay during the English Regency period. Built from 1818-1819, the structure was originally the home of Alexander Telfair, son of Revolutionary War patriot and Georgia governor Edward Telfair.

In 1875 Alexander’s sister Mary, heir to the family fortune and last to bear the Telfair name, bequeathed the house and its furnishings to the Georgia Historical Society to be opened as a museum. After significant renovation by German-born architect Detlef Lienau, whose adaptations included the addition of the Sculpture Gallery and the Rotunda, the building opened to the public in 1886 as the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The Telfair Academy contains two nineteenth-century period rooms and houses nineteenth- and twentieth-century American and European art from the museum’s permanent collection including paintings, works on paper, sculpture, and decorative arts. Highlights include fine examples of American Impressionism and Ashcan School Realism, with major paintings by Childe Hassam, Frederick Frieske, Gari Melchers, Robert Henri, George Bellows, and George Luks.