DEAR members,

It’s hard to believe that it’s been a little more than one year since the global pandemic forced Telfair to close its doors and rethink its operations in March 2020. When our museums reopened last June with new hours and new safety protocols, we were a pioneering force in Savannah’s tourism and cultural landscape—few organizations had tried what we were about to do, and even fewer knew what to expect.

One year later, with public confidence high, growing visitation, and numerous studies showing museums like ours are among the safest places to gather, I am so grateful for the hard work of our staff and board to ensure Telfair remained open and continued to offer the outstanding exhibitions and programs our community has come to expect. It’s a lasting testament to the dedication of hundreds of individuals including donors and members like you that we are here and thriving today.

Amid the changes, one standout example of perseverance and creativity was the successful execution of the 2021 Telfair Ball. Ball chairs Julia and Malcolm Butler went above and beyond in organizing a series of elegant, socially distanced dinner parties to bring to life our signature annual fundraising event. Six groups of faithful Telfair supporters graciously offered to co-host, curate, and underwrite the costs of the parties at their homes and other chosen venues. My wife, Alison, and I had the honor of attending many of the parties and were consistently charmed by the warmth and generosity of all the hosts and guests—thank you!

At the Jepson Center, we’re sad to say farewell to the remarkable exhibition Picasso to Hockney: Modern Art on Stage, our partnership with the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas. But we are excited to follow it with the fabulous Curators’ Choice show, a greatest hits of Telfair Museums’ permanent collection. The exhibition and its accompanying Telfair Museums: Curators’ Choice publication, generously funded by the Telfair Academy Guild and on sale in our gift shop, spotlight the museum’s collecting strengths in American Impressionism, the Ashcan School, self-taught art, photography, decorative arts, and more. Stop by the exhibition and consider the rich history of our institution as we look ahead to a better and brighter year.

Benjamin T. Simons
Executive Director/CEO
Curators’ Choice is a unique opportunity to celebrate select pieces from Telfair Museums’ exceptional permanent collection. These highlighted objects—which include a striking sugar basket created by the English female silversmith, Hester Bateman, and Frederick Carl Frieseke’s riotously colorful painting The Garden Umbrella—speak to the museum’s storied history and collecting practices.

The exhibition—and the accompanying Telfair Museums: Curators’ Choice publication generously funded by the Telfair Academy Guild—notably spotlight the museum’s collecting strengths in American Impressionism, the Ashcan School, self-taught art, photography, and decorative arts. Artworks will be placed in novel juxtapositions, sparking connections between objects from disparate periods and mediums. The works selected also reflect Telfair’s commitment to raising the voices of historically underrepresented artists.

Curators’ Choice April 30–February 13, 2022 | Jepson Center

Through more than 30 artworks, Telfair’s curators have considered the institution’s long journey, which started in 19th-century Savannah. The oldest public art museum in the South and the first U.S. museum founded by a woman, Telfair was established in 1883 through the bequest of Mary Telfair. A modest collection of over 200 pieces has since grown to over 7,000 works of art in diverse mediums, such as paintings, sculptures, decorative arts, and works on paper. The museum’s grounds have also expanded over the years to comprise a total of three distinct and vital sites: the Telfair Academy; the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters, bequeathed to the museum in 1951; and the contemporary Jepson Center for the Arts, opened in 2006.

Organized by Telfair Museums and curated by Anne-Solène Bayan, Assistant Curator.

Investment is provided by the City of Savannah, the Georgia Council for the Arts, and Terra Foundation for American Art. Additional support provided by Inge A. Brasseier.
Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections

June 18–September 12 | Jepson Center

On a desk of the private study collection of the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, an old stuffed parrot guards a small library and a vast, yet obsolete ornithology collection. An excited young scientist reads a story on the origins of the desiccated animal for the purpose of entertaining a group of visitors: it may have been the last “speaker” of a dead Indigenous language from colonial Venezuela, or a German prince’s precious gift to the naturalist Alexander von Humboldt. There is no clear understanding which of these versions, if any, might be true.

This long-obscured anecdote inspires Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections, a traveling exhibition that reflects on the birth of modern collections, their origin stories, and the art institutions that sustain them. The unknown truth of the story invites speculation and encourages the formation of alternative narratives surrounding the works on view. The exhibition collects stories of fabrication, chance, and deceit that live silently, yet dynamically, between the layers of modern history.

The internationally recognized contemporary artists featured in the exhibition, including Morehshin Allahyari, Daniel R. Small, Carlos Motta, and Michael Rakowitz, perform as artist-scholars, opening a critique of material culture, iconography, and political ecologies. Their practices examine not only the objects and the systems of distribution that facilitate their circulation but also the disciplines and subjects of study that perpetuate boundaries. The works shed light on myths, simulations, fake currencies, war games, and the slow violence of systematic racism that historically underpin collecting practices. In conjunction with the Telfair Museums-organized exhibition Progressive Regression: Examination of a 19th Century Museum, on view at the Telfair Academy, there is a call for a renewed consideration surrounding human agency in how our histories and futures may be reimagined.

Related Programs:
Opening Panel Discussion
June 17, 6pm | via Zoom
Join David Ayala-Alfonso, curator of the exhibition Never Spoken Again, for a discussion of this exhibition that questions the underpinnings of modern collections. Ayala-Alfonso will be joined by two featured artists from the exhibition for this panel. Register at telfair.org/magazine.

Free Family Day
August 21, 10am–5pm
Jepson Center and Telfair Academy
Free admission for Savannah and Chatham County residents. See

Never Spoken Again: Rogue Stories of Science and Collections is curated by David Ayala-Alfonso and produced by Independent Curators International (ICI). It is the result of a new series of programs, pioneered with the support of the Hartfield Foundation, aimed at providing opportunities to alumni of ICI’s Curatorial Intensive as they move through the stages of their career, and reflecting ICI’s commitment to fostering and championing new curatorial voices who will shape the future of the field. Never Spoken Again is made possible with the generous support of ICI’s Board of Trustees and International Forum, with additional support from SAHA. The presentation at Telfair Museums has been organized in collaboration with Erin Dunn, associate curator of modern and contemporary art.

ICI
Investment is provided by the City of Savannah and the Georgia Council for the Arts.

CLOCKWISE: Ulrik López; Summon Song I [DETAIL], Mayan screaming vase, 2018–2019; object replicas, fabricated archeological site, and sound; courtesy the artist, with support from the Foundation for Contemporary Arts Emergency Grant. Michael Rakowitz; The invisible enemy should not exist–Seated Nude Male Figure, Wearing Belt Around Waist (IM77823) (Recovered, Missing, Stolen Series), 2018; middle Eastern packaging and newspapers, glue, cardboard; courtesy of the artist and Barbara Wien Gallery. Carlos Motta; Corpo Fechado-The Devil’s Work, 2018; installation view; courtesy of the artist and P·P·O·W Gallery.
New Acquisitions

Telfair Museums recently acquired artwork from the estate of the late David Hillenbrand (1947-2019), who is remembered for being an inspiring leader, longtime donor, and devoted board member. Hillenbrand was an avid collector with an abiding interest in 20th-century American and European art. The works acquired from his estate include a sculpture by French artist Hans Arp (1887–1966) and five prints by well-known names including Ellsworth Kelly (American, 1923–2015), Claes Oldenburg (American, B. 1929), Christopher Wool (American, B. 1955), and Pierre Soulages (French, B. 1919).

The new acquisitions are welcome additions to Telfair’s holdings of 20th- and 21st-century art and help flesh out the narratives of major artistic movements including abstract expressionism, pop art, and minimalism. Additionally, the artists and works fit into the lineage established by The Kirk Varnedoe Collection, a gift of works on paper in 2006 by top-tier artists in honor of the late Savannah native, scholar, and MoMA curator (1946–2003). Other incredible recent acquisitions include a photograph from Elaine Mayes (American, B. 1936) from her trailblazing Autolandscape series and two works by local artists including a mixed-media sculpture by John Mitchell (American, B. 1942) and a photograph from the series Late Night Polaroids by Emily Earl (American, B. 1985).

Sugar

July 30–December 12 | Jepson Center

“A most precious product, very necessary for the use and health of mankind”

—William of Tyre, 12th century

Explore the sweet cultural habits of Savannahians in this fun exhibition dedicated to the consumption of sugar in the port city. Using furnishings and portraits from Telfair Museums’ permanent collection, this unique display gives visitors a glimpse into humans’ connection to sugar and its complicated history. Porcelain and silver were shipped from Europe and beyond into the Port of Savannah, providing the elite of this city with purchasing options far surpassing those of any inland towns of the 19th century.

Featuring practical items such as tables, chairs, and tongs, and elaborate decorative pieces. The show highlights everyday objects once used here in Savannah for the enjoyment of baked confectionaries, syrupy fruit compotes, and sweetened drinks. Tables are set, complete with linen, and “populated” by the people who inhabit the portraits hung within the gallery. Indulge your own sweet tooth! Enjoy the beautiful silver, porcelain, period furnishings, and portraits on display in this exhibition.

Organized by Telfair Museums and curated by Cyndi Sommers, Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts.

Related Programs:

Director’s Circle Exhibition Preview
July 28, 5:30pm | via Zoom
Lecture by Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts Cyndi Sommers.

Opening Lecture
July 29, 6pm | via Zoom
Join Cyndi Sommers, Telfair’s Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts, for a fascinating look at the history of sugar, the social and societal change brought about by this product, and how it impacted the decorative arts. Register at telfair.org/magazine.

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Opened by Hester Bateman (English, 1708–1794); Sugar Basket, 1748; silver, cobalt glaze; gift of Frank A. Rizza, M.D. and family, 2012.15.40.a-b. Unknown Maker (Bohemian); Compote, c.1857; bequest of Margaret Grae Thomas, OT1951.76.5.a-b. Grosjean & Woodward (American, 1850–1862); Cake Basket [DETAIL], c.1860; silver; museum purchase with funds provided by the Gari Melchers Collectors’ Society, 2015.1.5

ABOVE: Ellsworth Kelly (American, 1923–2015); Blue/Green, 1970; 2 color lithograph on special Arjomari paper; bequest of Dr. David M. Hillenbrand, 2021.4.2; © Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery

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ABOVE: Ellsworth Kelly (American, 1923–2015); Blue/Green, 1970; 2 color lithograph on special Arjomari paper; bequest of Dr. David M. Hillenbrand, 2021.4.2; © Ellsworth Kelly Foundation, courtesy Matthew Marks Gallery
Telfair Museums is pleased to announce that Savannah-based artist Kelly Boehmer (American, B. 1980) has been selected to create a site-specific installation in the Jepson Center’s Barnard Street windows for the 2021 iteration of Boxed In/Break Out. Embedded will pack a visual punch—featuring Boehmer’s highly constructed, saturated, and expressive fabric sculptures. Boehmer references iconic art historical works such as Jan van Eyck’s The Arnolfini Portrait (1434) that serve as evocative foundational imagery to provoke viewer responses between her viscerally crafted scenes and our own complex emotional baggage. Dr. Kimberli Gant, McKinnon Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art at the Chrysler Museum, and guest judge, noted how Boehmer’s work also offers a mirror to our present day moment: “The theme of tragedy with absurdity of politics, economics, and society is both hilarious and incredibly tragic.”

This exhibition is organized by Telfair Museums and curated by Erin Dunn, associate curator of modern and contemporary art.

Related Program:
Artist Talk
July 15, 6pm | Via Zoom
Savannah-based artist Kelly Boehmer will discuss her expressive fabric sculptures, chosen for the Jepson’s Barnard Street windows. To register, visit telfair.org/magazine.

Free Family Days and Weekends
Investment is provided by the City of Savannah.

Juneteenth Free Family Weekend
Telfair Museums’ annual observance of Juneteenth includes a virtual lecture and a weekend of free admission and related activities at the Jepson Center.

Juneteenth Lecture
June 15, 6pm | Via Zoom
Telfair presents its 2021 Juneteenth lecture by Anthony Cohen. A noted historian and speaker, Cohen is noted for walking the Underground Railroad, including the route of his great-great grand uncle, who fled slavery in Savannah, Georgia for freedom in Canada in 1849. Register at telfair.org/magazine.

Juneteenth Free Family Weekend
June 11-13, 10am-5pm | Jepson Center
This special three-day weekend is free for all members of the public. Explore Juneteenth themes in exhibitions at the Jepson Center in a weekend of free admission. The weekend includes a libation ceremony on Saturday, June 12 at 12pm on the front steps of the Jepson Center with drummers and an appearance by the African Spirit (Jamal Toure).

Exploring Science in Art
Free Family Day
August 21, 10am-5pm | Telfair Academy and Jepson Center
This Family Day is free for residents of Savannah and Chatham County only. Come enjoy the exhibitions Never Spoken Again at the Jepson Center and Progressive Regression at the Telfair Academy. Family activities connecting science to art will be offered outdoors at the museums’ entrances, weather permitting, along with take-home art activities for children.

Free School Tours a Virtual Success
Telfair Museums and Savannah-Chatham County Public School fourth-grade teachers adapted to the challenges of the pandemic to continue the annual fourth-grade program during the 2020–2021 school year by going virtual. This year’s program focused on the exhibition Youthful Adventures: Growing Up in Photography. Educators received resources that included a pre-recorded virtual tour, interactive live tours via Zoom by appointment, an educator guide, and studio activities. The variety allowed teachers the flexibility to utilize what worked best for them and their students in their ever changing and challenging roles this year.

Telfair Partners with Savannah Philharmonic
Telfair Museums recently took part in a new and exciting collaboration. The Savannah Philharmonic recorded a segment in its soundtrack of Savannah video series at the Jepson Center in March. The video includes statements from both Telfair and Savannah Philharmonic Executive Directors, introductions by Savannah Philharmonic Artistic Director Keitaro Harada, and solo performances from Sinisa Ciric (violin), Mike Daly (principal horn), and Brad Behr (bassoon) featuring works by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Igor Stravinsky, and Eric Satie. Telfair curators provide commentary on the exhibition connected to the musical selections, which is designed for public use in education and outreach by both organizations. See the video at telfair.org/magazine.

View Free Family Days and Weekends
Investment is provided by the City of Savannah.
6 Melchers Society Annual Meeting
5:30pm | Jepson Center

7 Member Meetup
12–1:30pm | Telfair Square

8 41st Annual Telfair Ball
Dinner Party Series Grande Finale
6pm | Telfair Academy

9 Director’s Circle Art Spotlight Lecture
5:30pm | via Zoom

10 Legacy of Slavery Book Club
6pm | via Zoom

11 Juneteenth
Free Family Weekend
10am–5pm | Jepson Center

14 Member Meetup
12–1:30pm | Telfair Square

19 Art Start
10:30pm | via Zoom

21 Member Meetup
12–1:30pm | Telfair Square

27 WJS Garden Party
5:30pm | Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters

28 Member Meetup
12–1:30pm | Telfair Square

31 Picasso to Hockney
Exhibition Closes
Jepson Center

9 #art912: Embedded Artist Talk
6pm | via Zoom

10 #art912: Embedded Exhibition Opens
Jepson Center

11 Juneteenth
Free Family Weekend
10am–5pm | Jepson Center

12 Juneteenth
Free Family Weekend
10am–5pm | Jepson Center

13 Juneteenth
Free Family Weekend
10am–5pm | Jepson Center

15 Juneteenth Lecture
6pm | via Zoom

16 Art Start
10:30pm | via Zoom

17 Never Spoken Again
Opening Panel Discussion
6pm | via Zoom

18 Never Spoken Again
Exhibition Opens
Jepson Center

21 Exploring Science in Art
Free Family Day
10am–5pm
Jepson Center and Telfair Academy

22 Vehicles of Change
Exhibition Closes
Jepson Center

Events subject to change. For the most current information, visit telfair.org/museum-events
Summer Art Camps
Register at telfair.org/classes or call 912.790.8823.

Digital Photography Camp
One-week half-day camps, 9 am–1 pm
May 31–June 4 (10–12 years)
June 7–11 (13–16 years)
July 8–12 (10–12 years)
July 16–20 (13–16 years)
Members $160 | Non-members $185

This half-day camp will spend most of the morning outside. The program will develop your young person’s skills as a photographer. We believe that all young people are artists. With that in mind, we will approach photography as professionals do, studying the Elements of Art. Keeping a social distance, the camp will meet outside as much as possible during morning hours as we explore our environment in Telfair Square and other nearby locations. We will use DSLR digital cameras and learn about exposure and a few historical methods involving film. Photography is fun and accessible to everyone.

Summer Art Club! Painting and Drawing Camps
One-week half-day camps, 9 am–1 pm
June 14–18 (9–12 years)
June 21–25 (12–14 years)
June 28–July 2 (9–12 years)
July 5–9 (12–14 years)
Members $160 | Non-members $185

This half-day camp will spend most of the morning outside drawing and painting from observation. The camp is designed to help upper-elementary and middle school students improve their drawing and painting skills, build a portfolio and begin the process of developing good art-making habits. Keeping a social distance, the camp will meet outside as much as possible during morning hours as we explore our environment in Telfair Square and other nearby locations. Students will focus on measurement, proportion, perspective, use of value, and color to create volume and space.

Adventures in Art
Pre-K–3 years, 3–5pm
June 7–June 11
June 21–June 25
July 5–July 9
July 19–July 23
Members $100 | Non-members $125

This week-long camp will meet indoors for two hours in the afternoon. Stave off the summer doldrums! Exploring Telfair Museums’ three sites and exhibitions has never been so much fun. Each day, participants will tour a new exhibit and learn to create the very same types of art seen in the galleries, finding inspiration with instruction in drawing, painting, and printmaking. Students will immerse themselves in innovative arts lessons taught by professional artists.

Virtual Video Game Camp
Dates tbd (ages 12–14 years)
Instructors: Malcolm and Fern Howard
Members $160 | Non-members $185

Full STEAM ahead! In this weeklong camp, students work remotely through zoom group meetings and pre-recorded lessons with teachers and other students to build their own videogames. Students will explore, play, and learn computer programming from scratch using game-making programs. All games will be displayed in an online gallery.

Crafters’ Class
8–11yrs, 3–5pm
July 20–24
May 31–June 4
June 14–June 18
June 28–July 2
July 5–July 16
Members: $100 | Non-members $125

This week-long class will meet indoors for two hours in the afternoon. Students will explore and learn techniques in a rich variety of crafts that will inspire and develop their desire to be independent makers. It is the ultimate Crafty Kids class packed with a variety of projects: screenprinting, knitting, friendship bracelets, calligraphy, paper crafts, and much more.

Fall Preview Programs
Sketchbooking
Mondays, September 6–11
Landscape Painting
Tuesdays, September 7–12
Still-life Painting
Wednesdays, September 8–13
Figure Drawing
Thursdays, September 9–14
Plein-air Group
Fridays, September 3–November 19
Member Spotlight:
Danzella J. Calloway

My name is Mrs. Danzella J. Calloway, or D’JAC, my brand. The arts have virtually impacted every aspect of my life. From grammar school through high school, college days, marriage, subsequent offspring, as well as friendships. I’m an eclectic artist with beginnings at a very young age. Discovered then, having had a drawing of an album cover of Johnny Mathis (that was my dear mother’s favorite recording artist) that she had shown the likeness to her coworkers. As it goes without saying, my love for the arts only flourished going forward. I was commissioned by family members, friends, coworkers, as well as acquaintances to showcase my abilities. In the early ’90s, I taught arts and crafts in New Haven, Connecticut at the Daxwell Children’s Creative Arts Center, West Hills Elementary Afterschool Program, and New Haven Summer Camp Programs. I enjoyed the pride, happiness, and excitement the children demonstrated in their expressions as they participated and finished their art projects.

As a member of Telfair and Friends of African American Arts (FAAA), I have had the privilege of exhibiting pieces in the FAAA Small Works exhibits for four consecutive years at the Jepson Center. I am grateful to be a member keeping me at 67 years of age, community apprised, actively networking, as well as artistically spotlighted.

My faith, the arts, as well as my Telfair memberships will always hold a special place within my spirit. I thank God for the gift of creativity, and hopefully, my deepest desires of a studio, as well as a website, shall bear fruit, even if for nothing else to support others. Ending with closing remarks that it doesn’t matter the age of persons, dreams can come true.

May is Members’ Month

We simply can’t present exhibitions, steward art, and offer educational and family programming without the thousands of individuals and families who choose to support us with membership donations each year. Whether virtually or in-person, we enjoy seeing you and connecting with you. We love hearing your stories, sharing ideas, smiles, and laughter. Thank you for being here for us! To show our appreciation, we’re offering a variety of specials and discounts throughout May. We hope you’ll take advantage of these benefits:

Shop SmART
Members receive a double discount in the museum store. Discount not valid on consignment merchandise.

Sweet Appreciation
Buy one of Chef Ted’s incredible desserts from Joe’s at the Jepson Café and get one free! Your standard 10 percent member discount will still apply to this offer!

You’re TEA-rrific
Ashford Tea Company is offering Telfair members 25 percent off loose-leaf teas and tea accessories in store and online, plus 25 percent off to-go drinks. How TEA-sightful! Visit ashfordteacompany.com and enter code: TEAis4Telfair or show your membership card in store at 406 E. Ogilthorpe Ave.

Sharing is Caring
Celebrate Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Graduation Day, a Birthday—buy a gift membership*, get an extra month free. *Contributing level memberships and below.

For questions or more information, contact Caillé Laundré at laundrec@telfair.org or 912.790.8907.

Friends of African American Arts

FAAA members enjoy social and cultural activities that allow participants to expand their personal networks, foster appreciation for African American art and culture, and experience the remarkable cultural landscape of the Southeast.

For more information, visit telfair.org/faaa.

Spring Annual Members Meeting and Artist Presentation

May 12, 6pm | Via Zoom
Zoom link will be emailed to FAAA members. Telfair’s Friends of African American Arts enters a new and exciting chapter in May with a members’ meeting to elect a new President and officers. All FAAA are encouraged to participate in the short business meeting and stay to enjoy a presentation by FAAA artist member Margie Marie who will discuss her paintings.

Gari Melchers Collectors’ Society

The Gari Melchers Collectors’ Society supports and promotes the expansion of the museum’s permanent collection and provides its members with exclusive programs and educational opportunities to enhance their enjoyment and appreciation of art.

For more information, visit telfair.org/melchers.

Melchers Society Annual Meeting

May 6, 5:30pm | Jepson Center
The Gari Melchers Collectors’ Society will hold its annual meeting in the Jepson Center’s Neises Auditorium. The evening will commence with an election of officers and will be followed by a vote to purchase new art in honor of Courtney McNeill. After the meeting, there will be an optional dinner at the Chatham Club.

Telfair Academy Guild

TAG supports the goals and activities of Telfair Museums through volunteerism. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from September to May, excluding December. Meetings offer a morning coffee gathering or an evening wine reception, followed by TAGtalk with notable guest speakers. Members enjoy social and educational experiences at these meetings and organize annual fundraising and special events.

For more information, visit telfair.org/tag.

William Jay Society

Named in honor of the famed young architect whose talent still endures in Savannah, the WJS is a group of Savannah’s young professionals who share an enthusiasm and appreciation for art. WJS’s mission is to promote the museum’s goals of developing awareness, understanding, and appreciation for art.

For more information, visit telfair.org/wjs.

Annual William Jay Society Garden Party

May 27, 5:30pm | Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters
WJS members free | not-yet WJS members $30
Register at telfair.org/wjs-garden-party-2021.
Join us for another fabulous party in our beautiful parterre garden. Expect delectable treats and dashing décor! Our new board slate will be presented and voted on. Do not miss this annual tradition! Attendance is limited to 65 guests.

Friends of the Owens-Thomas House

Support from the FOT allows us to continue to preserve, interpret, and create programming for this special site. The group enjoys behind-the-scenes access to the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters through garden parties, lectures, and tours. In addition, opportunities to meet and socialize with others interested in architecture, decorative arts, gardening, and history are scheduled throughout the year, as well as local and regional field trips to historic sites.

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WJS members free | not-yet WJS members $30
Register at telfair.org/wjs-garden-party-2021.
Join us for another fabulous party in our beautiful parterre garden. Expect delectable treats and dashing décor! Our new board slate will be presented and voted on. Do not miss this annual tradition! Attendance is limited to 65 guests.

Friends of the Owens-Thomas House

Support from the FOT allows us to continue to preserve, interpret, and create programming for this special site. The group enjoys behind-the-scenes access to the Owens-Thomas House & Slave Quarters through garden parties, lectures, and tours. In addition, opportunities to meet and socialize with others interested in architecture, decorative arts, gardening, and history are scheduled throughout the year, as well as local and regional field trips to historic sites.
Remembering Preston Russell

Savannah and Telfair Museums lost a larger-than-life citizen and friend on January 25 when Dr. Preston Russell passed away at the age of 79. Preston leaves an enduring scholarly and artistic legacy behind, cementing his well-deserved reputation of Renaissance man. Preston was a career pathologist who practiced at Savannah’s Memorial Medical Center for 27 years. He was also an accomplished writer, avid historian, joke-teller extraordinary, and an established self-taught artist. Preston painted for over 40 years and shared his exceptional talent with this museum by graciously contributing paintings to some of the Telfair Ball’s live auctions. He was also a generous patron of the museum and served as a Telfair trustee from 2003 to 2009, lending his passion for art to both the collections and education committees during his tenure.

As a painter, Preston’s body of work and style often captured iconic scenes of his beloved Savannah, many of which were featured in an exhibition entitled Low Country Memories: Works by Preston Russell curated for Telfair Museums’ Academy Drawing Room in 2012. His paintings evoked beautiful, poignant slices of life— an empty bed and window frame at his home on Gaston Street (reminiscent of Andrew Wyeth), a choir-loft view of worshippers at a Sunday church service, a scene depicting grandmothers in the early 1900s—every image had the capacity to elicit in the viewer a joyful feeling of connection and nostalgia. Many of Preston’s works are featured in homes throughout Savannah, the Lowcountry, and America, as well as in Europe, which was a source of pride for Preston, even so, daughter Lindsay commented that having his work displayed at the Telfair was one of his proudest moments.

Those who knew him understood that Preston had a huge appetite for life and lived it to its absolute fullest. He traveled with Telfair on three occasions; to Fredericksburg, Philadelphia, and Chicago. Having him along on these cultural arts explorations always added an element of fun and unexpected learning opportunities. His gentle, self-effacing, and good-humored presence always made it seem a little more like traveling with family—a favorite uncle, perhaps.

Director’s Circle: A Passport to Deeper Engagement

The Director’s Circle is a group of avid patrons who share a passionate commitment to the arts while contributing vital annual support to Telfair Museums’ mission and ensuring its future.

For over 30 years, Director’s Circle support has enabled Telfair Museums to share the transformative power of art with an ever-widening audience. By joining this community of donors, you help Telfair create art experiences that foster inspiration, enjoyment, and discovery. Your annual sustaining gift of $1,500 or more allows you to enjoy insider access and compelling learning opportunities through an array of exclusive benefits including: exhibition previews, behind-the-scenes tours, early gallery access to major exhibitions, uniquely curated lecture series, and invitations to travel with the museum’s Executive Director/CEO Ben Simons.

We hope you will consider joining this vibrant community of the museum’s most ardent supporters! For more information about Director’s Circle Annual Fund, please contact Catherine Renner, Director of Annual Giving at 912.790.8844 or rennerc@telfair.org.

Travel with Telfair

Open to Director’s Circle and Gari Melchers Collectors’ Society members. For information about eligibility to Travel with Telfair, contact Calli Laundre at 912.790.8807 or laundrec@telfair.org.

TREASURES OF WASHINGTON, D.C. & THE POTOMAC

September 20-24

Join our fabulous art-filled journey to Washington, DC as we explore art, history, and architecture in our nation’s capital. Travelers will be treated to behind-the-scenes glimpses of world-class collections featuring special access tours of some of the most iconic museums and art in the country; the magnificent National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian American Art Museum, National Museum of Art, and National Museum of African American History and Culture. Enjoy a visit to Glenstone Museum, which sits on 230 acres of rolling hills in Potomac, Maryland—an incredibly harmonious tricofa of contemporary art, minimalist architecture, and the serenity of nature. The itinerary also includes an exclusive afternoon tea at the sumptuous estate of heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post, in addition to, a tour of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Our trip concludes with a curator-led tour of the Phillips Collection and a visit to its mesmerizing Rothko Room. There may be a surprise activity or two, as well. Accommodations are at the luxurious Jefferson, named “Best Hotel in Washington, D.C.” by Travel + Leisure in 2019.

MILAN AND NORTHERN ITALY

October 2021

Subject to rescendency based upon status of travel abroad.

Some of the most splendid features of Northern Italy: Art, Food, Culture, and Countryside will transport you and other high-level museum donors through stunning highlights of the sweeping Lake District across the rolling plain of the Po River. In Milan, enjoy visits to the spectacular marble Gothic cathedral, the Brera Art Gallery, and a special private entrance to behold Leonardo’s Last Supper. We will also explore beautiful Lake Como and the medieval Monastery of Pavia. On route to Bologna, we will stop at noble Parma, filled with masterpieces by Renaissance painter, Correggio and Romanesque monuments.

The second part of our program will be based in Bologna, one of Italy’s most engaging cities. The allure of aged red brick, great churches and memorial sculpture, magnificent palaces and civic buildings, first-rate galleries and frescoed halls and miles of arcaded streets are irresistible. Join Elaine Ruffolo, Linda McWhorter, and world-renowned author Ross King for a spectacular program exploring the splendors of Northern Italy! Dates and features will depend on travel restrictions. For details or to reserve a spot, call Linda at 912.236.2840 or email l.mcwhorter@comcast.net.

Upcoming Events:

Art Spotlight Lecture Series:
Pulse Featured Artist David Gumbs

June 9, 5:30pm | via Zoom
Virtual lecture by David Gumbs with Harry DeLorme. E-vite will be sent to DC members for registration.

Exhibition Preview: Sugar

July 28, 5:30pm | via Zoom
Lecture by Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts Cyndi Sommers. E-vite will be sent to DC members for registration.

PICK UP YOUR COPY TODAY!

Showcasing Curator-selected favorites from Telfair’s permanent collection, the Curators’ Choice book makes a perfect addition to a coffee table, or a one-of-a-kind gift! Available at Target, Amazon, and at the Telfair Museum Store.

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Leaving a Legacy at Telfair

What was that moment like when Mary Telfair signed the documents to bequeath her home creating a legacy that would last 125 years and beyond? From the flick of her pen, she initiated a wave of “firsts.” All three of our museum sites house important and beautiful objects with stories and histories of their own, but within our walls we also serve as a place for human experience. Perhaps it was your first time in a museum, first time holding a paint brush, first date, first kiss, first dance as husband and wife, first time listening to a lecture, first time gazing upon a Monet? By making a planned gift, you will ensure that these experiences of joy, connection, contemplation, discovery, and inspiration continue for generations to come.

How to join the Mary Telfair Legacy Society:

From bequests to beneficiary designations on retirement accounts and life insurance, to charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts we’re sincerely grateful for every gift we receive, no matter what size! To make a gift or to learn more about your options, contact Calli Laundré at 912.790.8807 or laundrec@telfair.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Corporate support is essential in ensuring Telfair Museums can offer quality exhibitions, compelling programs, and greater access to the arts for all individuals and families who call Telfair home. Be an inspiration within your company and our local community by investing in Telfair’s many diverse exhibitions, education and outreach programs, annual special events and so much more! Sponsorship packages and benefits can be tailored to fit your company’s unique needs. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Lauren Grant at 912.790.8866 or grant@telfair.org.
Browse our collection of art-inspired scarves. This lovely, lightweight, painterly piece makes the perfect summer outfit accent.

A fine art puzzle is a great way to spend those lazy summer days!

Send a note to a woman who inspires you with these Colorful Geometrics or ICONS Notecards of Inspiring Women assorted note card packs.

Local jewelry designer, Christopher Carpentino, brings Mid-Century Modern flair to this necklace and earring duo. See the entire collection!

Keep a lovely piece of art with you. Perfectly houses pills, jewelry, or tiny treasures.

These windowsill vases by local artist Nancy Waterhouse will fill even the narrowest ledge with summer blooms!

What are the kids going to do this summer? We’ve got it covered with new books, kits, and crafts.

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