



PERSPECTIVES

Quarterly stories for A&H members & donors

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Volume 2 | Issue 3

In This Issue

- 2 | Membership Updates
- 3 | Upcoming Exhibitions
- 4 | Education Updates
- 5-6 | Founder's Spotlight
- 7 | Event Highlights
- 8 | Calendar of Events



Dear Friend of the A&H,

It's been a busy Summer at A&H! Here are a couple of upcoming events I can't wait for...

Book Club - I'm very excited to host our new A&H Members-Only Book Club! This will take place every other month in our Cottage at Lake Lily. The first one is on August 14 (*How to Enjoy Art: A Guide for Everyone*), and the next meeting is October 9. I'm a voracious reader, and I was looking for ways to connect directly with you – our members, so Book Club seemed like the perfect fit! Right now I'm reading *Old in Art School: A Memoir of Starting Over*, by Nell Painter. This will most likely be an upcoming book club selection.

Summer Art Auction - Get ready for this annual opportunity, August 25-26, to add to your collection (or start one!) while helping to fund the things you love about the A&H! There will be a variety of sizes, styles and price points. The works will be online at artandhistory.org/auction very soon.

Weekly Historic Tours - Previously we offered a tour of our National Historic Landmark campus once a month on Thursdays, but we're expanding to two Thursdays and two Saturdays monthly, plus a monthly tour in Spanish!

I look forward to seeing you soon. As always, please reach out if I can be of service!

Sincerely,
Jessi VanPelt
Director of Advancement (and art & history super fan!)
[407-539-2181 x 260 / jvanpelt@artandhistory.org](mailto:jvanpelt@artandhistory.org)

A&H Member Perk

A&H members receive \$5 off in the gift shop at the Polk Museum of Art in Lakeland. (Admission is free.) Here's the featured exhibition currently showing through October 30:

Rodin: Contemplation and Dreams / Selections from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Collections, at the Polk Museum of Art

Celebrated as the greatest sculptor of the 19th century, Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) revived for the modern world a new appreciation for the ageless beauty of bronze sculpture, mastering and modernizing a technique long associated with ancient Greek art. At the same time, with works like *The Thinker* and *The Gates of Hell*, he breathed new emotional and psychic life into the human figure as never seen before in sculpture. The largest installation of sculptures in the Museum's history – with more than 40 of Rodin's works filling the Museum's main galleries – this incredible exhibition brings one of art history's most famous and most renowned French masters to Florida. *Rodin: Contemplation and Dreams* has been organized and made possible by the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation.



Contributors to this issue of Perspectives: Katie Benson, Jennifer Cohen, Dan L. Hess, Danielle Thomas, and Jessi VanPelt.

On the cover: *The Three Graces (Milk Bath)* by Jessica Caldas, in the Maitland Art Center gallery. Photo by A&H Marketing Manager Hannah Miller.



A&H CAMPUS HOURS

**Maitland Art Center
Maitland History Museum
Telephone Museum**
Wednesday-Sunday 11am-4pm
Waterhouse Residence Museum
Saturday & Sunday 11am-4pm
Grounds: Chapel / Main Garden
Tuesday-Sunday 11am-4pm

A&H Wedding Spotlight



Sara & Jen, wedded January 2022

Upcoming Exhibitions by Chief Curator Dan L. Hess

In Between: Painting the Post Immigrant Experience
October 8, 2022 – January 22, 2023 in the Maitland Art Center galleries

The post immigrant experience, like the American experience, is a multi-faceted story, often with great areas of overlap and interconnectedness. This exhibition presents the work of three very intelligent, talented, and committed painters – Mär Martinez, Leo Cordovi, and MJ Torrecampo.

Exhibition artist Mär Martinez is a first generation Syrian-Cuban American, and Leo Cordovi was born in Cuba, immigrating to the US when he was 15. Florida is home to 65% of the entire Cuban American population of the US, with roughly 1.4 million Cuban Americans calling Florida home. MJ Torrecampo is a Filipino American who was born in the Philippines. There are an estimated 106,000 Filipino Americans living in Florida. What we can see from these numbers is that the post immigrant experience is a major story line that runs through the Floridian experience and the American experience.

MJ Torrecampo states: "As a result of moving back to Florida to be closer in proximity to my parents, my work grapples with how to coalesce the disparate aspects of Filipino and American culture—at times swinging back and forth between the two like a pendulum."

The first thing visitors will take away from this exhibition is the strength and diversity of the art represented. The show features relatively young artists who show a maturity beyond their years when it comes to the realization of their subject matter. All three have incredible courage and confidence in their attempts to, through their work, find answers to difficult questions such as: What are the global and cultural influences that have brought me to

this moment? And, how can I gain the intimate understanding of my own personal identity that I need to make sense of my world while being acted upon by all these external factors?

Join fellow friends of the A&H in exploring the artists' answers to these questions, and maybe even asking these questions of ourselves.



Leo Cordovi, *Untitled*, acrylic on paper



Mär Martinez, *Praying with My Eyes Open III*, oil on board



MJ Torrecampo, *Propagation*, oil on canvas



Chief Curator Dan L. Hess with Mär & Leo in their studio



MJ Torrecampo in her studio



Mär in studio

Education Updates: Reaching More Children with Art

by Education Manager Jennifer Cohen

In April, we launched our newest monthly outreach initiative, Little Creatives & Me – stories, songs and art for babies and toddlers under the age of 3, along with their very special (adult) person, in our Main Garden. I love telling our families that the studios were built nearly 100 years ago for artists to live and work together as a community. Our founder J. André Smith wrote that this place is like a “small happy village,” and it’s in this joyful sprit that we introduce colors, shapes and playful art projects to the newest little creatives in our community each month.

Every program is themed, and we draw inspiration from Maitland’s history and from our garden. One program was inspired by André’s writings of rural Maitland in 1940: “one is more apt to meet a chicken on the street than a professor.” On this day, we had chicken stories, created “fork print” chickens, and even sang some chicken songs. We have created such a wonderful bonding time for families, and I love hearing how this program is making an impact too:

Thanks again for such a lovely event. It was so well thought out! Henry really enjoyed it and has been showing everyone his art all day. We would love to come to the next one! -Katy, mom of a little creative

Another of our outreach programs making an impact on the community is our Printmaking for All workshop. Over the summer, we’ve had the opportunity to partner with the Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida by bringing our printmaking program to almost 180 youth! Printmaking is a fine art easily accessible for children to experience, with wonderful results.

Coordinated with the Boys & Girls Club Area Art Director, we begin each program by showing the children photos of the Art & History Museums, talking about why museums are important, and then introducing the children to André Smith – painter, architect and master printmaker. After our talk, we take the participants through a guided drawing lesson of creating their own etched plate, and then walking them through magic of pulling prints. Smiles, looks of accomplishment and pride spread across the children’s faces in the time we are together.

At the most recent workshop, I could see a 9 year old boy having a hard morning, but in the one hour we were together, I could see his day getting brighter. It’s a wonderful experience not only for the children, but also for our education team when we see how we can make a difference through art in someone’s day, even if it’s just for a short time.

We are grateful to the generosity of the Maitland Women’s Club for supporting this program, which enables us to provide this program free of charge to the Boys & Girls Club of Central Florida. If you would like to underwrite one of our upcoming outreach programs, like Little Creatives or a community-wide family day, please contact Jessi VanPelt at jvanpelt@artandhistory.org.



Little Creatives



Printmaking for All workshop participants

Founder’s Spotlight: André Smith’s Summer Home

by Exhibitions Manager Katie Benson

From the moment I was first hired, I was immediately swept into the curiosities and wonders of the A&H campus. During each shift, a new relief sculpture unveiled itself from behind a palm, or a sidewalk guided me towards a previously unnoticed courtyard. Quickly, my fascination shifted from the designs of the campus towards the man who created it, Jules André Smith.

Seeking to learn more, I tasked myself with numerous research projects. I learned about Smith as an artist, an architect, and a theater set designer. I traveled to Europe through Smith’s watercolors and drawings, and witnessed the realities of war through his recordings of World War I. Likewise, I ventured through Smith’s journeys into the experimental arts and flew through the surrealist imaginings of his Art and the Subconscious. I seemed to have explored the majority of Smith’s artistry, but like with most historical figures of interest, there remained an air of mystery to the life and true personality of this great creative.

Among these mysteries was Smith’s Connecticut home, where he spent his summers to escape the Florida heat. The home was built by Smith, with the assistance and support of Atilio and Florence Banca, who were family to him. The Bancas lived and worked at the Research Studio, and also summered with Smith in the Connecticut home, which was built on Banca family land.

In transcriptions of interviews with Florence Banca, the home was described as bearing great resemblance to the A&H campus, even though it was built before the conceptualization of the Research Studio. An opportunity through a research project on the friendship of Zora Neale Hurston and Smith (more on that later) recently afforded an opportunity for A&H’s Executive Director Danielle Thomas and I to visit the home.

It may be surprising to learn that something so similar to the singularly unique A&H campus exists, but it certainly does. Upon turning down the small-town road the house rests on, you are immediately met with a concrete bust—Mayan in style and oh, so familiar. The road proceeds towards an angularly stuccoed home, simply decorated with concrete reliefs and decorative designs. Today, the house serves as residence to Atilio and Florence’s son, Peter, who along with his wife Kathy graciously hosted us in their home.

Upon touring the residence, we saw a mural of a European landscape on the wall, and hung on other walls were drawings of Smith’s travels and paintings of the Connecticut landscape.

As the only child to have lived at the Research Studio, Peter’s childhood memories are filled with the life and heart of the artist’s retreat. Speaking with him provided such insight, and afforded Danielle and I a better understanding of the founder of our museum.

We learned more of Smith’s reclusive nature, despite his desire to inspire others. Peter also recollected the visits of Zora Neale Hurston, and how Smith invited the youth of Eatonville to the Studio to learn about art. We also learned more of his Connecticut life and the town of Stony Creek, where the theater Smith worked at still stands. Peter detailed so much that new mysteries have come to light, such as visits by John Foster Dulles, former Secretary of State, to the Research Studio, among others. Although it seems the mysteries of Smith live on, they only encourage me to learn more and to share the legacy of Jules André Smith.



Katie Benson and Peter Banca



Front of the Banca residence



Front of André Smith's studio



Sculpture welcoming visitors to the site

Upcoming Exhibitions

continued from page 3

Fumecheliga
 September 23, 2022 - February 5, 2023
 in the Maitland History Museum

Florida has been home to thriving indigenous populations well before it received statehood in 1845. In September, A&H will examine these important histories in the Maitland History Museum's exhibition, Fumecheliga. Fumecheliga is Muscogee (or Creek), which is one of the languages spoken by the Seminoles, and translates to "muskmelon place".

In this exhibition, guests will experience Florida's beginnings through the indigenous cultures that inhabited it. From the indigenous Timucua, who lived among the tropical landscape well before it was known as "La Florida", to the unconquered Seminole and Miccosukee who endured through the three Seminole Wars, this exhibition aims to examine the histories of these indigenous peoples and discuss the truths that history hasn't always acknowledged.

This exhibition is being co-curated by Seminole State College professor Dr. Neil Vaz, and A&H's Katie Benson. The artwork of Black Seminole descendant Johnny Montgomery will also be featured.



This engraving of the Timucua by Theodor de Bry shows some accurate information, but the artist also took many artistic liberties. We will be exploring these issues further in the exhibition.



Work by Johnny Montgomery



Phylicia Korchevsky, Jessica Caldas



Mär Martinez, Leo Cordovi, Audrey Hope



Remarks by artist Jessica Caldas



Erica Pajotte, Bryanna Pajotte



David and Desiree VanBurger



Mitsouras family, with Jessica Caldas



Danielle Thomas, Kelly Young, Karina Jimenez



Olivia Mulford, Madeleine Mulford



Jeremy & Lola Cotto

Family Day
 Photos by Laney Mae Velazquez





ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS
MAITLAND

231 W. Packwood Ave. | Maitland, FL 32751

The A&H is a non-profit organization supported by generous individual, business, government and community partners including:



DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Fall 2022 Newsletter

Upcoming at A&H

August

- 4 | Florida Heroes History Trivia (7-9pm)
- 14 | Members-Only Book Club (4-6pm)
- 17 | Little Creatives & Me (10-11:00am)
- 25-26 | Summer Art Auction
- 25 | Art Auction Open House (12-7pm)
- 31 | Last Wednesday: After Hours (5:30-8:00pm) + Gallery Tour (5:30-6:15) + Art Exhibition Panel Talk with Jessica Caldas (6:30-7:30)

September

- 19 | Art School Fall Session begins
- 21 | Little Creatives & Me
- 21 | Second-to-Last Wednesday: After Hours (5:30-8:00pm) + Art History Talk (6:30-7:30)
- 23 | *Fumecheliga* exhibition opens in History Museum
- 25 | *Corpus Delicti* closes in Art Center
- 28 | A&H Annual Meeting

Historic Architecture Tours – now weekly, beginning in September!

1st & 3rd Saturdays + 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 10-10:45am

October

- 7 | Art Exhibition Opening Party: *In Between* (6:30-9:00pm)
- 15 | Free Family Day at the Waterhouse Residence
- 19 | Little Creatives & Me
- 21 & 28 | Paranormal Investigations of the Waterhouse Residence
- 26 | Last Wednesday: After Hours + Gallery Tour with Chief Curator

Advance registration required for many events. Please visit our website to register and to discover even more events: artandhistory.org/events