

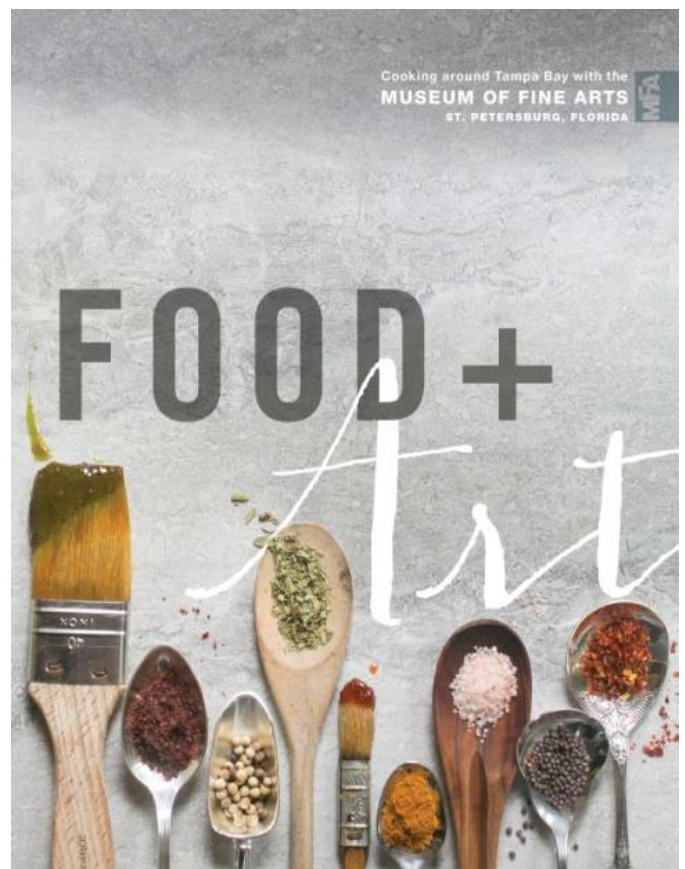
## Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg to Release *Food + Art Cookbook in Celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**St. Petersburg, Fla., May 26, 2015** – In observance of its 50th anniversary, the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) and the Margaret Acheson Stuart Society have announced plans to publish *Food + Art: Cooking around Tampa Bay with the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, Florida*. This milestone keepsake cookbook, available in Fall 2015, features recipes from Stuart Society members, MFA staff, docents, artists, collectors, cultural and civic leaders, as well as chefs and others in the Tampa Bay community. The book was inspired by the Stuart Society’s immensely popular *Gourmet Gallery* cookbook, which was published nearly 40 years ago and remains on many kitchen shelves to this day.

*Food + Art* is a collection of 120 recipes from 100 Tampa Bay cooks and chefs, ranging from splashy party dishes to vegetarian main dishes to simple weeknight dinners, with chapters that include: Starters, Drinks, Brunch, Soups, Pastas, Salads, Pizza, Meats, Seafood, Vegetables and Sweets. The beautiful book, worthy of the MFA’s aesthetic standards, will also highlight selected works from its collections.

Many recipes emphasize regional ingredients and local connections, while others reflect the global experiences and backgrounds of Tampa Bay cooks. A sampling: Jeanne Houlton’s Crispy Shrimp Wontons, Janet Keeler’s Jumbo Gumbo, Hazel Hough’s Stuffed Patty Pan Squash, Wayne Atherholt’s Raspberry Martini and Locale Chef Don Pintabona’s Pasta al Forno. Each contributor tells a first-person “story” about their specialty, to be savored along with recipe details. *Food + Art* also contains sidebars that capture the fresh flavors of Tampa Bay through quick and simple recipes and preparation tips.



Stuart Society members Toni Lydecker and Elise Minkoff are co-chairs of the Stuart Society’s Cookbook Committee. Lydecker, the author of several cookbooks, is editing the book and overseeing its production with the help of Committee members and other volunteers.

“The benchmark of a good cookbook is recipes that work—and taste delicious,” says Lydecker. “Our recipes have been tested thoroughly and we feel confident they’ll succeed in your kitchen.” Minkoff adds, “*Food + Art* celebrates the way we cook and entertain with artful spirit and color, aspiring to the same beauty as works in the Museum.”

*Tampa Bay Times* staff photographer Eve Edelheit is lead photographer on *Food + Art*. Photography in the book will feature artful plated food alongside images from the MFA’s collections.

*Food + Art* will be published by [Story Farm](#), a Winter Park, Fla. firm that specializes in culinary topics and coffee-table books. It has also published books for Sea Salt restaurant, in St. Petersburg, and Bern’s Steak House, in Tampa.

*Food + Art: Cooking around Tampa Bay with the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg* can be pre-ordered at the MFA Store or online via The Stuart Society’s website. For more information or to pre-order the cookbook, visit: <http://thestuartsociety.org/cookbookproject/>.

#### **MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Bo Morris -[Story Farm](#)  
Director of PR/Marketing  
407.808.3310  
[BoMorris@story-farm.com](mailto:BoMorris@story-farm.com)

Elise B. Minkoff – Stuart Society  
*Food + Art* Committee Co-Chair  
727.422.3301  
EMinkoff20@aol.com

#### **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG**

The MFA, at 255 Beach Drive N.E. has a world class collection with works by Monet, Gauguin, Renior, Morisot, Cezanne, Rodin, O’Keeffe, and many other great artists. Also displayed are ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, and Native American art. The Museum’s photography collection is one of the largest and finest in the Southeast.

Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday – Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, until 8 p.m. on Thursday, and noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is only “5 after 5” on Thursday. Regular admission is \$17 for adults, \$15 for those 65 and older, and \$10 for students seven and older, including college students with current I.D. Children under seven and Museum members are admitted free. Groups of 10 or more adults pay only \$12 per person and children \$4 each with prior reservations. For more admission information, please call 727-896-2667 or visit [www.fine-arts.org](http://www.fine-arts.org).

#### **MFA MEDIA CONTACT:**

David Connelly, MFA  
727.896.2667, ext. 224  
[david@fine-arts.org](mailto:david@fine-arts.org)

#### **@ THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**

*Images of the Floating World and Beyond: Japanese Woodblock Prints* – Museum of Fine Arts, Saturday, May 9-Sunday, August 16, 2015

*Five Decades of Photography at the Museum of Fine Arts, featuring The Dandrew-Drapkin Collection, Saturday, June 20-Sunday, October 4, 2015*

**ABOUT THE MARGARET ACHESON STUART SOCIETY**

Founded three years before the Museum opened to the public in 1965, the Stuart Society is named in honor of Museum founder Margaret Acheson Stuart (1896-1980). Over the years, this dedicated service organization has raised substantial funds for art acquisitions, major exhibits, educational programs, building renovations, additions, operations, and publications. Members have donated countless volunteer hours to the MFA. Carol Russell is the 2015-2016 President of the Society, which is comprised of 395 members.