

**ART IN BLOOM 2017: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS,
ST. PETERSBURG FEATURES FLORAL DESIGNS, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND EXTENDED HOURS**

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Art in Bloom 2017, presented by The Margaret Acheson Stuart Society and the MFA, will be stunning. This exhibition, along with complementary programs, began in 1997 at the Museum and has become one of the community's most popular spring traditions.

Approximately 40 floral designs by professional florists, talented hobbyists, and members of The Stuart Society will fill the Museum. The floral designs will go on view Thursday, March 30, and continue through Monday, April 3. The *Tampa Bay Times* is the Media Sponsor.

The MFA Café will offer floral-themed specials each day and will also be open on Monday, April 3—an exception—from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Reservations are suggested for Monday by calling 727.822.1032. The Museum Store will feature books, jewelry, cards, and gifts for adults and children.

Extended hours will allow everyone to see the flowers. They are: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, March 30; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, March 31, and Saturday, April 1; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, April 2; and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, April 3. "Conversations with the Designers" is set for Sunday, April 2, from 2-4 p.m.

Carol Treichel and **Gail Razook** are the overall coordinators. **Jan Stoffels** is chairing the installation of floral designs. **Anje Bogott** and **Linda Jantschek** are the chairs of "Flowers After Hours" on Thursday, March 30, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Marly Room and Museum gardens. A dinner with guest designer James Farmer will also be held that evening at 8 p.m. in the Mary Alice McClendon Conservatory.

Carolyn Kopco and **Carolyn Reynolds** are chairing the Elegant Farmer Luncheon on Friday, March 31, at 11:30 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom of the Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg Resort and Golf Club. **Glenn Mosby** is the reservations chair for all Stuart Society special events. For tickets to "Flowers After Hours," Dinner with the Designer, and the Luncheon, please go to stuartociety.org.

The exciting *Art in Bloom* 20th anniversary schedule follows:

Thursday, March 30: *Art in Bloom 2017* opens to the public from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. **Museum admission is only \$5 after 5 p.m. on Thursday.**

Flowers After Hours, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$100 per person.

Be one of the first to view the inventive floral designs and enjoy sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and wine in the Marly Room and gardens. Meet guest designer James Farmer.

Dinner with Designer James Farmer, 8 p.m.

Spotlighting recipes from his cookbooks

Tickets: \$125 per person.

Limited seating available.

James Farmer is the ultimate Renaissance man. He is a best-selling author; professional garden, floral, and interior designer; cook; and lifestyle expert. He is Editor-at-Large for *Southern Living* and a frequent guest on TV and radio. He lives in Perry, Georgia, close to family roots and the land.

His seven books have earned an enthusiastic following. Jenna Bush Hagen, the daughter of President George W. and Laura Bush, wrote the foreword to his most recent, *A Time to Celebrate: Let Us Keep the Feast*.

Friday, March 31: *Art in Bloom* continues at the MFA from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The flowers will be refreshed each day.

Elegant Farmer Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.

Featuring a presentation by James Farmer

Grand Ballroom of the Vinoy Renaissance St. Petersburg Resort and Golf Club

Farmers' Market with unique gifts.

Tickets: \$90 per person.

Saturday, April 1: Everyone can enjoy the fantastic floral designs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MFA: Make and Take Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Springtime Masks. For ages five and older, but entire families are welcome. Supplies are included. No registration is necessary. Free with MFA admission.

Adult Lei-Making Workshop, 11 a.m., taught by Dr. Teresa Wilkins of the MFA staff. All supplies, including fresh orchids, will be provided. \$20 for MFA members, \$30 for nonmembers. To register, go to mfastpete.org.

Sunday, April 2: *Art in Bloom* has extended hours from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Conversations with the Designers, 2-4 p.m.

No reservations required. Valet parking.

Come early, as this event always draws large crowds. Floral designers will be in the galleries to discuss their creations, inspiration, and techniques. Have brunch in the MFA Café and spend the day at the Museum.

Monday, April 3: Last day to see *Art in Bloom 2017* from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. MFA Café is open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Reservations are suggested, as the Café is usually closed on Monday.

MORE EXHIBITIONS AT THE MFA

The Open Road: Photography and the American Road Trip
Through Sunday, June 4

Greg Smith: Breakdown Lane
Through Sunday, May 7

Dominique Labauvie: Dig
Saturday, March 4-Sunday, July 2

The Far North: Inuit Prints and Sculpture
Through Sunday, March 19

Visual Metaphor
Work by high school students in the Pinellas County Schools
Saturday, March 25-Sunday, April 23

Dorothy Height's Hats
Saturday, April 29-Sunday, July 23

Don't miss **Painting in the Park** on Sunday, April 30, from noon-4 p.m. on the Museum's north lawn. FREE for Everyone.

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 impressive service organization has raised substantial funds for art acquisitions, exhibitions, educational programs, building renovations and additions, operations, and publications. Members have donated countless volunteer hours to the MFA.

The Stuart Society has been the Premier Sponsor of numerous exhibitions and a Lead Sponsor for the construction of the Hazel Hough Wing, which opened to the public in March 2008. The Society initiated *Art in Bloom* at the MFA, as well as the Wine Auction and Wine Weekend St. Pete. The organization's importance to the MFA and the community is recognized by a gallery named in its honor. **Dr. Dimity Carlson** is the current President and in that role, serves on the Museum's Board of Trustees. For more information, please go to stUARTSOCIETY.org.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA

The MFA at 255 Beach Drive N.E. has a world-class collection, with works by Monet, Morisot, Rodin, O'Keeffe, Willem de Kooning, and many other great artists. Also displayed are ancient Greek and Roman, Egyptian, Asian, African, pre-Columbian, and Native American art. Selections

from the photography collection, one of the largest and finest in the Southeast, are now on view in a gallery dedicated to the medium. **Kristen A. Shepherd** is the new Executive Director.

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 p.m. 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. The MFA Café is open from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. For more information, please call 727.896.2667 or visit mfastpete.org.