

The Ringling

THE JOHN & MABLE RINGLING
MUSEUM OF ART

STATE ART MUSEUM OF FLORIDA | FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Ringling, Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg and the Tampa Museum of Art present 'Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration'

Exhibition highlights diversity and talent of local artists

SARASOTA, Fla., April 28, 2017 – On June 24 *Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration* will open simultaneously at The Ringling, the Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg, and the Tampa Museum of Art. The exhibition features 57 artists from Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota County. Works were chosen by a committee of curators from each participating institution as well as Diana Nawi, a guest juror from Pérez Art Museum Miami.

An open call for work went out Nov. 1, 2016. Submissions of every medium, genre and size were allowed as were proposals for installations and performances. The only caveat was that all works of art must be new – nothing created before 2016 was accepted. The intent was to highlight what is happening right at this moment in the area's burgeoning art scene. Katherine Pill, curator of contemporary art at the Museum of Fine Arts commented, "This is an opportunity to focus on and celebrate Tampa Bay-area artists in an unprecedented way. It's important to us as curators to provide context for the diverse work being made in our region, and to allow visitors to see the breadth and depth of these artists' practices."

Late in December the committee reviewed hundreds of entries, eventually selecting a few dozen works. "It was exciting to see the wealth of submissions for this project coming from such a breadth of artists – it's a true testament to the cultural richness of this region. I'm very much looking forward to seeing the final exhibition," said Diana Nawi, associate curator at Pérez Art Museum Miami. Artists from each region will be highlighted at all three museums, showcasing the diversity of talent and work in the region. "This area is home to several premier arts organizations and schools, which create a nurturing environment for contemporary art practice. I have long been aware of the significant community of artists here, but was extremely impressed with the level of work submitted," said Christopher Jones, associate curator of photography and new media at The Ringling. This sentiment was echoed by Joanna Robotham, curator of modern and contemporary art at the Tampa Museum of Art, who said, "As a newcomer to the museum and Tampa, it has been exciting to see the breadth of artistic talent in our region. We are lucky to live amongst so many talented artists. *Skyway* will give visitors at a great sense of the extraordinary work made in the Tampa Bay area."

The show is not only a celebration of contemporary art in the Tampa Bay area, but also an exercise in collaboration between the museums, fostering a sense of a greater network and community.

It is the very first time that the three leading art museums in the area have worked in such close collaboration to simultaneously provide a single exhibition. "I hope that this exhibition will help to make the museum a place for dialogue, both within Tampa and across the region with our colleagues in St. Petersburg and Sarasota," remarked Seth Pevnick, chief curator and Richard E. Perry curator of Greek and Roman art at the Tampa Museum Art.

Related Events

At The Ringling

Tuesday, Aug. 15, 10:30 a.m.

Conversation about Skyway: Bridging the Gap

Be a part of this lively discussion among artists and curators from Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota counties. Through collaboration, they have "bridged" the gap and presented three exhibitions consisting of works that reflect the diversity and creativity of our contemporary art scene. \$5/free for members.

Thursday, July 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Skyway Artists: In their Own Words

Step into the galleries and celebrate the thriving artistic practice in our community. Talk with artists from the Greater Tampa Bay area who work in a variety of media. Free for museum members/included with museum admission. Please note: tickets are now required for Gallery Walk & Talks. Pick up your ticket at the Visitors Pavilion upon your arrival. Space is limited and tickets will be based upon availability.

Saturday, July 15, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Family Days, Skyway: A Contemporary Collection

Museum of Art Courtyard and Galleries

A family day that will celebrate this contemporary collaboration. Hands-on activities and a family-friendly exhibition guide will be available. Free for members/Included with admission.

At The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg

Coffee Talks with Nan Colton: Connect with the arts through monthly performances that give voice and embodiment to the two-dimensional. The MFA's ever popular performing artist-in-residence Nan Colton invites us to meet an artist or historical figure in a 30-minute presentation that includes a cup of coffee and delectable pastries. 10 a.m.-11 a.m.

May 10: Under the Palmetto Leaves.

Visualize the life, environment and people of north Florida during the 19th century as we happen upon Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

June 14: Clash of Cultures: Spaniards to Pinellas County.

Hear an account of the 1528 arrival of the Spaniards in Pinellas County, told from the point of view of Moving Clouds, a surviving Tocobaga woman.

The following films celebrate *Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration*, with a nod to the water that surrounds us.

Thursday, June 22, 2 p.m. (MFA members only)

Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid (1948), directed by Irving Pichel

Things are going swimmingly for Mr. Peabody (William Powell) until he snags a beautiful mermaid (Ann Blyth) while fishing. In a flight of youthful fancy, the stodgy Bostonian falls for the mermaid and takes her to a pond at his villa. The seemingly harmless crush creates all sorts of comical confusion.

Thursday, June 22, 6 p.m.

Creature From The Black Lagoon (1954), directed by Jack Arnold

This classic horror film tells the mythical story of a dangerous half-human, half-fish creature lurking in the depths of the Amazon. Free with MFA admission.

This summer's *Simmer & Sift: Summer Cooking Series* celebrates Florida's culinary history and innovation in conjunction with the MFA's special exhibition, *Skyway*.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with guest check-in and a signature cocktail, followed by a discussion with the historian from 6:10-6:30 p.m. The chef demonstration and tasting take place from 6:30-7:45 p.m. MFA members are \$40 per person; non-members are \$50 per person for each event.

June 28 – Kenny Tufo, Sea Salt

July 26 – Lauren Macellaro, The Reading Room

Aug. 23 – Greg Baker, The Refinery and Fodder & Shine

Sept. 27 – Norman Van Aken, 1921 by Norman Van Aken

Wayne W. and Frances Knight Parrish Series

Join us for three panel discussions during the course of the exhibition featuring the artists in the show.

Thursdays on July 20, Aug. 17, and Sept. 21 at 6:30 p.m. List of artists and schedule to follow.

At the Tampa Museum of Art

July 20, Aug. 3 and 17, Sept. 7, 12:30 p.m.

Thirty on Thursday

Join curator of modern and contemporary art, Joanna Robotham, and featured artists for 30-minute talks in the galleries about the artwork included in the exhibition *Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration*. Visit TampaMuseum.org/programs/adults for the full line up of speakers. Free with cost of admission.

June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, 4-10 p.m.

Fourth Friday Tours

Kick off your evening on the town at the Museum as we join cultural institutions along Tampa's Riverwalk in celebrating Downtown Tampa's rich arts and culture scene. Meet one of our educators in the galleries at 7 or 8 p.m. for a fun and fast gallery activity that will change the way you look at art.

July 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Family Day

The Museum invites families to stop by for a day of art making and fun inspired by *Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration*. Local artists and their work will inspire projects to celebrate our region. The day will also feature gallery activities, eats from Sono Café, story time and more.

Skyway-Inspired Summer Camp Sessions

June 12-16, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Summer Art Camp: Mural Mania

Students will have the opportunity to work both individually and cooperatively to achieve a large-scale painting! Ages 8-10. Advanced registration required. Visit TampaMuseum.org/programs/children-families for more information.

June 26-30, 1-5 p.m.

Summer Art Camp: New Art Now

Be inspired by *Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration* and become an up-and-coming artist yourself. Create your own work from an assortment of media and tools! Ages 11-13. Advanced registration required. Visit TampaMuseum.org/programs/children-families for more information.

July 10-14, 1-5 p.m.

Summer Art Camp: Mural Mania

Students will have the opportunity to work both individually and cooperatively to achieve a large-scale painting! Ages 11-13. Advanced registration required. Visit TampaMuseum.org/programs/children-families for more information.

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About The Ringling

The Ringling is a center for art, history and learning situated on 66 acres on Sarasota Bay. It is built on the legacy of circus entrepreneur, collector of art and financier John Ringling and his wife Mable.

The Ringling inspires visitors with an acclaimed collection of Old Master paintings, explores with them the diverse cultures and art of Asia, delights them with the story of the American circus, and transports them to the Roaring Twenties during a tour of the magnificent Ca' d'Zan mansion.

The Ringling is also committed to exhibiting the work of an emerging community of living artists that moves beyond traditional practice and features dynamic and engaging contemporary visual and performing arts, including a diverse roster of theater, music and dance.

The Ringling is the State Art Museum of Florida. Affiliated with Florida State University, it is one of the largest university art centers in the nation.

General Hours and Information

The Ringling is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Thursdays until 8 p.m. The Bayfront Gardens are open from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The museum's phone number is (941) 359-5700 and the website is ringling.org.

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, 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.

General Hours and Information

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday; and 12-5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is only \$5 after 5 p.m. on Thursday. The museum’s phone number is (727) 896-2667 and the website is mfastpete.org.

About the Tampa Museum of Art

The Tampa Museum of Art opened its award-winning new home in 2010 with a commitment to providing innovative public programs with a strong focus on classical, modern and contemporary art. The Museum balances a growing collection, including one of the largest Greek and Roman antiquities collections in the southeastern United States, with a dynamic annual schedule of special exhibitions. It is the region’s largest museum devoted to art of our time and has built a reputation for embracing contemporary photography and new media; most notably, Leo Villareal’s *Sky (Tampa)*, the 14,000-square-foot LED installation on the Museum’s south façade, has become an iconic image for Tampa. Since its founding in 1979, the Museum has been dedicated to providing quality education to students and adults, with more than half of its programs offered free of charge. The Museum is home to Sono Café, a Slow Food movement café overlooking the Hillsborough River, and has emerged as Tampa’s premier venue for special events.

General Hours and Information

The Museum opens daily at 11 a.m. Hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays from 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The museum’s phone number is 813.274.8130 and the website is tampamuseum.org.