



The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg presents *Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration*
Three-venue exhibition highlights diversity and talent of local artists

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St. Petersburg, FL: The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg is pleased to be working with the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and the Tampa Museum of Art to bring together works by artists who live in the Tampa Bay area with *Skyway: A Contemporary Collaboration*, opening at the MFA on June 24th. 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.

The exhibition 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. No theme was formulated for the *Skyway* exhibition, and so curators have drawn connections, both aesthetic and conceptual, between the exhibited artists.

At the Museum of Fine Arts, craft is one underlying theme, as expressed in artworks by April Hartley, Cassia Kite, Akiko Kotani, and Marie Yoho Dorsey. The complexities of the human body are investigated in works by Caitlin Albritton, Neil Bender, Santiago Echeverry, and Bahareh Khoshooee, while portraiture takes on many forms in works by Claudia Ryan, Rob Tarbell, Peg Trezevant, and Joo Yeon Woo. Two very different approaches to the canon of art history are taken by Wendy Babcox and Anthony Record, while formal and conceptual color explorations dominate work by Pat Blocher, Bryce Hudson, and Walter Matthews.

Politics, memory, poverty, surveillance and loss are also themes in *Skyway*, reminding us of the power of art to reflect our contemporary state. Gregory Green presents challenging work featuring themes of violence and technology as an agent for social dialogue and political change. *Worktable #9, he of Righteousness*, (Minneapolis, Saint Petersburg) is an installation simulating a working and accurate bomb-building workshop, although it lacks the dangerous materials that would make it truly functional. Originally commissioned for an exhibition curated by filmmaker John Waters at the Walker Art Center in Minnesota, it is now specifically adapted for *Skyway*. Green's investigations of violence come from a pacifist standpoint: he tries to better understand the external factors that create radicalization in human beings.



Noelle Mason similarly examines the social, cultural and political factors that result in extremism and radicalization. In her installation *Love Letters/White Flag*, Mason takes a craft-based approach to distressing subject matter as she recreates the journal entries of Columbine shooters Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold with handkerchiefs and embroidery. The laborious act of stitching is not meant to glorify the writings of the killers, but instead to provide a chance to meditate on the factors that led to such violence. She states, “*Love Letters* intends to provoke a reexamination of the circumstances surrounding the Columbine High School Massacre as a case study in American culture, particularly in regards to mental health, institutionalization, and ritual violence as well as act as a gesture toward understanding.” *Skyway* exhibits the breadth and depth of art currently being made in the Tampa Bay area, and also sets a new precedent for institutional collaboration. The Museum of Fine Arts is proud to be part of this unique endeavor.

Related Events

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

Thursday, June 22, 2 pm (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 pm

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 pm with guest check-in and a signature cocktail, followed by a discussion with the historian from 6:10-6:30 pm. The Chef demonstration and tasting take place from 6:30-7:45 pm. 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

August 23 – Greg Baker

September 27 – Norman Van Aken

Wayne W. and Frances Knight Parrish Series

Join us for 3 panel discussion during the course of the exhibition featuring the artists in the show.

Thursdays on July 20, August 17, and September 21, 2017 at 6:30p.m. List of artists and schedule to follow.



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 Executive Director.

General Hours and Information

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

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