

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ST. PETE

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, ST. PETERSBURG ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF COLLECTION GALLERIES FOR REIMAGINATION



*Special exhibitions, community programs, workshops and other experiences
will continue throughout the museum.*

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (September 16, 2026) – The Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg (MFA) will temporarily close its collection galleries from **September 21 to November 21, 2026**, for reinstallation as part of the next phase of *Art Unbound*, a comprehensive institutional strategy designed to establish the MFA as a dynamic cultural hub and vital “third space” for the Tampa Bay region.

The Hazel Hough Wing will remain open with the special exhibition *New African Masquerades: Artistic Innovations and Collaborations*. Beginning in October in the upstairs gallery, the MFA will continue its live conservation series with Luis Seixas as he completes the final phase of restoring the museum’s *Tabernacle of Saints Peter and Paul*. Music, workshops, community programs, and other experiences will also continue throughout the museum.

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"*Art Unbound* is about opening our doors wider and rethinking how a museum serves its community," said Klaudio Rodriguez, Executive Director & CEO of the MFA. "By moving away from traditional barriers, we're creating a space rooted in curiosity, creativity, and connection. This reinstallation is more than changing what's on the walls. It's about ensuring art is an accessible, essential human experience for everyone."

Building on the legacy of founder Margaret Acheson Stuart, who conceived of the MFA as a world-class "place for the people," the MFA Collection will shift from a traditional chronological and geographic presentation to a thematic model, bringing works from different cultures and periods into conversation around universal human experiences. Layered interpretation and storytelling will provide opportunities for deeper engagement, while rotating installations will encourage visitors to return and discover something new.

Fall Programming During Collection Gallery Reimagination

In addition to the special exhibitions, the MFA will remain an active gathering place throughout the reinstallation, with a robust schedule of cultural and creative programming.

A highlight is an evening with GRAMMY Award-winning guitarist and composer **Andrew York, performing October 22 at 7 p.m.** in the Marly Room. Other musical performances in the Mary Alice McClendon Conservatory include **Classical Revolution (Sept. 24)**, **Sundé (Oct. 8)**, and **Fern & Friends (Nov. 12)**.

In conjunction with *New African Masquerades*, the MFA will present **Book + Belonging**, a book club in partnership with Book + Bottle, featuring discussions and gallery experiences centered on books by Tayari Jones (**Oct. 1**) and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah (**Nov. 5**).

Additional fall offerings include writing and ceramic workshops, a T-shirt screen-printing pop-up, homeschool hours, Studio Saturdays, and Art After Dark: Spooky Edition on October 29. Culinary programming at Café Clementine will include *L'Apéro* evenings, wine tastings, and returning raw bar pop-ups from Lost Coast Oyster Co.

For complete information on upcoming events, mfastpete.org/events-calendar.

The Next Phases of Art Unbound

Winter 2026 - Creativity Commons: The MFA will introduce the Creativity Commons, a new "third space" featuring an Education Gallery and MFA Studio Classroom. Designed for creative learning, informal

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gatherings, artist meetups, and hands-on making, the spaces will foster connection among artists, educators, families, and the broader community.

Spring 2027 - Beyond the Gallery Walls: The MFA will continue expanding art and community engagement beyond the traditional gallery setting. The Mary Alice McClendon Conservatory will become a hub for digital and experimental art, social gatherings, and live programming, while outdoor areas surrounding the museum will be transformed into welcoming public spaces for art and community connection.

For more information about **Art Unbound**, exhibition information, and to view the launch video, [click here](#).

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About the Museum of Fine Arts St. Petersburg

As the first art museum in St. Petersburg, the Museum of Fine Arts serves as the cultural anchor of a vibrant arts city, uniting a diverse community of artists, residents, and international visitors. The museum's global collection, spanning nearly 5,000 years, acts as a catalyst for connection and conversation. By bridging historical perspectives with contemporary discourse, the museum broadens the artistic canon while elevating the voices and stories of historically marginalized artists. Within the museum's holdings are exemplary works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Claude Monet, Berthe Morisot, Auguste Rodin, Kehinde Wiley, and Élisabeth Vigée-LeBrun. The museum also houses one of the largest and most well-respected photography collections in the Southeast, featuring iconic visionaries such as Ansel Adams, Edward Steichen, Julia Margaret Cameron, Carrie Mae Weems, James Van Der Zee, and Aaron Siskind. Through dynamic exhibitions and inclusive programming, the museum engages with more than 100,000 people annually, including thousands of students through a dedicated partnership with Pinellas County Schools. Committed to fearless creativity, the museum fosters a welcoming environment where all are empowered to explore untold stories and challenge conventions.

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