



ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS
MAITLAND

PERSPECTIVES

Quarterly stories for A&H members & donors

Fall 2021 Newsletter Volume 1 | Issue 3

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Dear Friend of the A&H,

We are so happy to be getting to a time that we can have bigger events again. We missed your smiling faces! Though we were glad to connect with you via Zoom and smaller events too. Our *On Seeing Segovia* exhibition opening party welcomed old and new friends to the A&H, enlivening our campus with flamenco, a beautiful partnership with the Tourist Office of Spain – we even received a congratulations video from the current mayor of Segovia(!) – and we were able to use our new tent covering the Rotary Plaza (it will be back up in September).

Our Summer membership drive just wrapped up, and brought many of our neighbors to the campus for the first time. Our Summer Art Auction just wrapped up too, and we are grateful to the 31 artists who participated. Thanks to all those who bid on art... Enjoy your stunning new works!

As for me, your friendly Advancement Manager, I've been back at the A&H for 9 months now, and I'm so grateful to be here, continuing to serve this special place and all who value it. I'm planning to take a Jewelry class with my mom in the Fall. (She's artsy like me!) I'm still enjoying our yoga classes, which have moved to Tuesday evenings through July.

Sincerely,
Jessi VanPelt
Advancement Manager (and art & history super fan!)
407-539-2181 x 260 / jvanpelt@artandhistory.org

P.S. We just published our Sponsorship Opportunities Guide for 2021-22. If your company or family would like to partner with the A&H to support art & history in our community while receiving promotional benefits, please reach out to me! Wouldn't it be great to walk friends around campus and show them the exhibition or studio with your name on it?



In Case You Missed It

Recent Virtual A&H offerings at artandhistory.org/virtual-ah :

- Artist Talks with: Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz, Richlin & Weldon Ryan, and Dr. Eileen Hernandez
- Exhibition Tour | Love & Compassion: Images of Mother and Child
- Artist Critique & Conversation: April 2021
- Create Your Own Masterpiece: Pointillism Sunflower

Contributors to this issue of Perspectives:
Becky Bruni, Madeleine Mulford, Diana Ngai, Semie Shin, Danielle Sibley, Danielle Thomas, Jessi VanPelt, and Randall Webster.

A&H Membership Benefits

Did you know... Bok Tower Gardens is the next closest National Historic Landmark (NHL) to A&H? They received their NHL designation in 1972. **All A&H Museums memberships include reciprocal general admission to Bok Tower.** (Show your current A&H membership card and ID.) The site was founded by Edward Bok, husband to Research Studio (Maitland Art Center) patron Mary Louise Curtis Bok. Mary Louise Curtis was the daughter of publishing magnate Cyrus H.K. Curtis. Mary Louise married Edward W. Bok, then editor of *The Ladies' Home Journal*.

Upon Bok's retirement, Mary Louise and Edward purchased a winter home in the Polk County, Florida community of Mountain Lake. There Edward pursued his passion project: the Mountain Lake Sanctuary and Singing Tower, now known as Bok Tower Gardens. In February 1929, President Coolidge dedicated the Gardens that Edward had made as a gift for visitation by the American people. Edward passed the following year, and is buried at the base of the Tower.

Plan your visit at: boktowergardens.org. (We found these gems below as part of a collection of historic digital postcards on their website. Reprinted with permission.)



1928: the tower's bells traveling from Jacksonville



1977: base of the tower. Written on the postcard: "Josephus the Swan"



1963: Aerial View of Florida's Singing Tower

Upcoming Exhibitions

Victor Bokas A BOLD & COLORFUL Journey

In the Maitland Art Center gallery
October 8, 2021 – January 23, 2022

Having grown up in the Florida panhandle, Bokas' work evokes the beauty of the Gulf Coast's natural environment with playfulness and whimsy, often combining the region's iconic tropical landscapes with familiar Floridian kitsch. Into this mix he frequently uses imagery inspired by his vintage flea market collection as well as his Greek heritage, often incorporating classical sculptures and columns into his paintings and collages.

Featured will be more than 30 colorful palm tree variations, 60 collages celebrating Bokas' 60th birthday, and bird cages decorated with flowers. A series of large mixed media collages featuring iconic ancient Greek statues will visually represent the course of the pandemic, personal loss and hope for the future. Bokas says of the collages, "Venus and David appear at the end of the exhibit with their masks off, looking out the window into the Maitland fountain, ending on a positive note."

Pictured on front cover: Summer Breeze #1 by Victor Bokas



EXHIBITION OPENING PARTY

Join us on Thursday, October 7
from 6:30-9:00pm

Meet Victor Bokas, be the first to see the exhibition, enjoy Greek food, art-making activity, performance by Hellenic Dance Troupe, cash bar, and more!

Current Members: FREE!
Not-yet-members: \$10

Trains, Planes, and Automobiles: Moving Maitland

In the Maitland Historical Museum
August 28, 2021 - February 20, 2022
Exhibition sponsored by Duke Energy

Imagine boarding a steamship in New York and voyaging to Savannah, GA, then taking the night boat to Fernandina, FL, followed by a train ride to Jacksonville, then boarding the Old Debarry steamer and traveling down the St Johns River, and boarding another train to finally arrive in Maitland five days later. That is the journey that Stella Waterhouse embarked on when she and her mother moved to Maitland in 1882.

Transportation has played a huge role in the development and growth of Maitland. The days of the horse drawn wagon and paddle wheel boat for transportation were replaced by trains that helped expand the citrus industry and winter tourist business. Then automobiles traveled the Maitland Avenue thoroughfare to create a thriving business district before Interstate 4 was added, which bifurcated the east and west parts of the city. Embark on a journey with us to discover how we have been Moving Maitland for almost 150 years.



Related Event: Trivia Night

Join us on Wednesday, December 1 for transportation trivia (history & pop culture), other games, nostalgic prizes, retro snacks & drinks, a peek at the new exhibition, and more!

Family-friendly: 6:30-7:00pm
Adults: 7:30-8:30pm
History Museum open: 6:30-9:00pm

FREE event! (Suggested donation \$5-10)
Tickets at: artandhistory.org/events

Event sponsored by Holler Hyundai

Artist-in-Residence: LaTasha Diggs

Artist LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs arrived at the A&H campus on July 6th to begin her 6-week residency. Diggs is an interdisciplinary artist whose pieces range from culturally inspired beadwork to complex, one-woman performances. She is a published author, poet, vocalist, and performance/ sound artist whose work has been featured at festivals and museums from Barcelona to Japan.



Photo by Willy Somma

But even the many forms her art takes and the places her art leads her are not as expansive as the concepts she explores, which range from the universal to the personal. As a researcher, Diggs looks at broad topics such as history, culture, personal identity, and linguistics. As an artist and a woman of African and North American indigenous ancestry, she creates pieces that delve deeper into these topics by highlighting the more specific, personal issues within them including racism, colonialism, cultural expression, intersectionality, multilingualism, and many more. When describing her body of work, Diggs stated, “What and who I am, my origins and ancestries, are always underneath/above the blanket being woven. I respond and explore the sonic, visual, and textual vocabularies I am drawn to. And what I often dream, learn, forget, mourn, celebrate. In search of somewhere, in this stew, I am at home here.”

Much like A&H founder, J. André Smith, Diggs is unafraid to experiment with different media. In her words, “I am on a mission to be multifaceted. I combine digital and analog manipulated sound, text, vocal improvisation, and video into performance. The materials I utilize range from DJ equipment, beadwork and phrasebooks.” The mediums Diggs chooses focus on creating pieces that best communicate the narrative she wants to tell. Her performance pieces, in particular, draw viewers into a microcosmic world which she has thoughtfully and carefully designed. ▀

In this world, her streams of conscious thought become dialogue; unfamiliar words and sounds express complicated but coherent emotions; and the experiences of marginalized peoples come into focus.

When it comes to creative plans for her residency, Diggs stated that she is excited to “try out new things; something completely different, yet familiar in my everyday life. Something really visual.” While joining us on campus, she will also be entering the familiar company of current Artist-in-Action Wanda Raimundi-Ortiz. Having become friends while working as artists in the African American-Caribbean communities in New York City, Diggs and Ortiz find themselves “always talking about what it means to be women, older women, artists.”

The A&H is proud to host LaTasha Diggs this summer. We are excited to see what she creates while staying on our campus. You can visit her in the Bok Studio (studio 14) in the garden – just check for the “Studio Open” sign on her door.



Performance still from Madison McFerrin’s *Sissieretta Series-I* a reading of *X*, at *C’mon Everybody*, Brooklyn, 2019. Photo by Akinfe Fatou.

Young Artist Workshops

A&H’s studios were packed with creativity and excitement during our weekly Young Artist Summer Workshops. One popular workshop was the Teen Pottery class taught by our own Jim Patterson. Students were able to make several projects while learning different techniques in hand building – such as rolling out slabs of clay and using tools to stamp them, then learning to glaze them. Students learn the basics from start to finish, and they’ll get to take home their projects after their instructor fires them in our kilns. Many of these projects can be seen at our **Young Artist Summer Pop Up Art Show happening on August 6th, 6-8pm.**

The fun doesn’t stop now that Summer is finished and school begins soon. Young Artist Workshops continue in the Fall and Spring with our Young Artist Afternoons. Registration opens August 6 for our Fall Session, which runs September 7-September 30. Visit artandhistory.org/summer to find more information.



Jim Patterson with Teen Pottery student



Some of the student’s creations: mugs and tea candle holders

Weddings at A&H



Jamee & Alexander, January 2021, from Washington state. Photo by Suzanne Delawar Studios.

Want to see **LOTS** more wedding photos and other photoshoots on campus? We have a new Instagram page just for that! Find us [@events_at_ahmaitland](https://www.instagram.com/events_at_ahmaitland)



Allison & Anthony, February 2021. Photo by Sufia Huq Portraits.

Preservation Spotlight: Painted Sculptures

The walls and structures of the Maitland Art Center are adorned with over 2,500 individual concrete sculptural pieces. When you visit the center, you may notice that many of the pieces have small traces of paint on them. According to an interview with Florence Banca, whose family lived at the site with founder André Smith, many of the sculptures were brightly painted during the site's historical era, when it operated as a winter artist retreat from 1938 – 1959. The paint that Smith used was called Alabastine, and was produced by the Alabastine Company, which operated from 1879 until 1948. The company produced gypsum powdered paint, mined from shale beds in Michigan, which would be mixed with water before being applied. The paint was marketed as a “sanitary wall finish,” and was believed to decrease the spread of contagious diseases such as typhoid and scarlet fever by reducing wall moisture.

Much of the original Alabastine paint has faded, but historical photos show some of the original color. Visitors can also get a sense of the original hues by visiting the Mural Room in the Mayan Courtyard, which has remained largely protected from the elements, and still showcases some of the vivid colors that Smith liked to experiment with.



Historical photo showing original color of Mayan Man relief



Traces of original paint still remain on relief



Alabastine paint canister: Artists would mix the powder with water

Volunteer Spotlight: Ronda Richley, Event and Museum Reception

If you've been to a gallery opening in the last 6 months, you've probably met Ronda Richley! She has assisted with special events, museum reception, education events... but what is her favorite volunteer role? “Being the greeter at events, making conversation with the museum guests, making sure they are enjoying themselves, and have everything they need. It's fun, like being the hostess without all the work!”



Ronda joined the A&H volunteer team in 2020 amid COVID and some personal difficulties: “I felt like a hermit, so I wanted to get out, to get connected with the art world once again.” Volunteering a few times a month at A&H, Ronda found joy in being part of a small but vibrant community.

When she's not chatting with guests at the museum, Ronda prioritizes time with her family and works on her own art.

She was honored to have been selected as one of 14 artists to create a “HorseFever20/20” horse for the Marion Cultural Alliance. Her piece, aptly named “Sunny Daze” is being raffled off for charity and will be heading to his permanent home soon.



Volunteers are a big part of the A&H family, and help in a variety of roles. To learn how you or your organization can volunteer, email Diana at dngai@artandhistory.org

May to July Event Highlights

ON SEEING SEGOVIA EXHIBITION OPENING



Randall Webster with Peter Schreyer – Director of Crealdé School of Art, Peter's daughter, and Jasbir Mehta – Director of the Asian Cultural Center of Central Florida
Danielle Thomas with former Maitland Art Center Director James G. Shepp
Member Tom Regan



A&H Board member James Tivy with Pilar Valderrama
Victor Bokas and Que Throm
Flamenco del Sol



A&H Artist-in-Action Damon DeWitt & family
Flamenco del Sol
Don Soledad

PRINTING PARTY WITH ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE RACHEL LIVEDALEN



A&H Board member Bill Randolph with Joan Randolph
Rachel Livedalen & family
Pamela Bussey



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MAITLAND

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The A&H is a non-profit organization supported by generous individual, business, government and community partners including:



DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE

Fall 2021 Newsletter

Upcoming at A&H

August

- 6 | Young Artist Summer Pop Up Art Show (6-8pm)
- 12 | Gallery Art Tour (10:30-11:15am)
- 28 | History Museums exhibition opens: *Trains, Planes and Automobiles: Moving Maitland*

September

- 7 | Young Artist Fall Workshops begin
- 9 | Gallery Art Tour (10:30-11:15am)
- 13 | Art School - Fall session begins
- 23 | Campus Architectural Tour

October

- 7 | Art Center Exhibition Opening Party for *Victor Bokas* (6:30-9:00pm)
- 8 | *Victor Bokas: A Bold & Colorful Journey* opens in Maitland Art Center
- 14 | Gallery Art Tour (10:30-11:15am)
- 22, 23, 29 | Paranormal Investigations of the Waterhouse Residence
- 28 | Campus Architectural Tour (10:30-11:15am)

Advance registration required for many events. Please visit our website to register and to discover even more events: artandhistory.org/events