



THE ARTIST'S JOB IS TO EXPLORE  
TO ANNOUNCE NEW VISIONS  
AND TO OPEN NEW DOORS

**A&H**  **ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS  
MAITLAND**

# PERSPECTIVES

*Quarterly stories for A&H members & donors*

**Winter 2022 Newsletter**

Volume 2 | Issue 4

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# Dear Friend of the A&H,

Here are a few updates that I think you'll enjoy...

**BOOK CLUB** - The first two Members-Only Book Club meetings have been great fun. We have a group of repeat attendees, but there's still room for YOU at the next meeting. The next one is December 11, and we're reading *The Secrets of Art: Uncovering the mysteries and messages of great works of art*.

**MUSIC IN THE GARDEN + ARTIST OPEN STUDIOS** - This is a new event we plan to have twice a year. The first one will be held Friday, December 9 and it's generously sponsored by Stewardship Matters. Stewardship Matters' CEO is a fellow Maitland Rotary Club member. (I'm an active member, along with A&H's Executive Director!) The event will feature holiday music and jazz standards by Steamin' Jazz in the Main Garden. We'll have a bar with beer, wine and sodas; and you're welcome to bring your own picnic foods and blankets. Most of the Artist in Action studios will be open for visitors, along with some of our Art School classrooms.

**SPONSORSHIPS** - Speaking of "generously sponsored by"... Is your business or family looking for a meaningful way to reach our community? A&H offers a range of sponsorship options, starting at \$300. We will work with you to customize a package of benefits that are impactful for you. There's a variety of opportunities to support programs for adults, youth, artists, or the National Historic Landmark campus itself. Contact me if you'd like a Sponsorship Guide, or visit [artandhistory.org/sponsorguide](http://artandhistory.org/sponsorguide).

**MUSEUM STORE** - We have more fun and beautiful custom items that are exclusive to our museum store on the way just in time for holiday gift giving – and many feature beautiful images of our campus! A few of the new items: enamel pins (see image), puzzles, calendars, new ornaments, more books, and children's craft kits. When you purchase from our store in the Maitland Art Center gallery, all profits support our exhibits and programs.



Sincerely,  
Jessi VanPelt  
Director of Advancement (and art & history super fan!)  
407-539-2181 x 260 / [jvanpelt@artandhistory.org](mailto:jvanpelt@artandhistory.org)



## A&H in the Community



Jessi at *Creating Healthy Communities: Advancing Health and Health Equity through Arts and Public Health Collaborations* conference in October, with fellow arts professionals



A&H team with State Representative Anna V. Eskamani



A&H's Advancement Department at Central Florida Community Arts' 12th anniversary fundraising breakfast. Pictured: our Marketing Manager Hannah Miller with CFC Arts Ambassador Dr. Danny Seigler.

### A&H CAMPUS HOURS

**Maitland Art Center**  
**Maitland History Museum**  
**Telephone Museum**  
Wednesday-Sunday 11am-4pm  
**Waterhouse Residence Museum**  
Saturday & Sunday 11am-4pm  
**Grounds: Chapel / Main Garden**  
Tuesday-Sunday 11am-4pm

# Current Exhibition

## [UCF] Alumni Explore the Post-Immigration Experience in Maitland Art Center Exhibition

by Madeleine Mulford, reprinted in part from University of Central Florida's website

With an international population of over 3,000, many UCF students are familiar with the cultural challenges faced after moving to the United States. More have parents who made a similar journey. But the feeling this creates of being between cultures, and often between identities, isn't always openly discussed.

Mär Martinez '20, Leo Cordovi '19 and MJ Torrecampo '14, all graduates of the School of Visual Arts and Design (SVAD), are creating this conversation through paintings representing their post-immigration experiences...

The paintings – created during artist residencies at A&H – separately examine each artists' personal narratives while forming a united body of work.

For Cordovi, his landscape paintings represent memories and emotions evolving and fragmenting after moving to the states from Cuba. Torrecampo's work explores her experience emigrating from the Philippines through a series of paintings showing a conversation with her father.

"My parents and I came to the states when I was nine, but we don't talk about that experience at all," Torrecampo said. "So, I think through painting is how I'm doing it. And when people visit, with friends or family, I hope it sparks that conversation."

Martinez's sculptural paintings carve out an identity layered underneath conflicting cultural expectations.

"My mother's family emigrated from Syria, and my dad came from Cuba," Martinez said. "And there's a push and pull of cultural expectation in between those two cultures, as well as a tug between a desire to strive toward modernity without rejecting tradition."

In their paths to becoming professional artists, the alumni credit UCF faculty for helping steer them in the right direction. Martinez was originally pursuing a BA in Art History, but decided to add a degree in Studio Art after an inspiring internship at Flying Horse Editions. Torrecampo, originally an engineering major, switched to Studio Art after taking an art history class.

"I think if I hadn't gone through my UCF painting class with Professor Carla Poindexter, I wouldn't have arrived to what I am now in the sense of like the context of what

I'm painting," Cordovi said. "The faculty were crucial in that process of going into the real world as an artist, being confident and knowing what to do."



**In Between: Painting the Post Immigrant Experience runs through January 22, 2023 in the Maitland Art Center galleries**

## Preservation Spotlight



Our Main Garden gate restoration is complete! Pictured are team members from RLA Conservation (out of Miami), who oversaw the process of historic restoration.

**Contributors to this issue of Perspectives:** Katie Benson, Dan L. Hess, Madeleine Mulford, and Jessi VanPelt.

**On the cover:** Maitland Art Center gallery – In Between exhibition – work by Leo Cordovi



# Current Exhibition

## Fumecheliga: A History of the First Peoples of Florida – through February 5, 2023 in the Maitland History Museum

This Fall's Maitland History Museum exhibition, *Fumecheliga*, was co-curated by Exhibitions Manager Katie Benson and Dr. Neil Vaz. Dr. Vaz is a professor of Humanities/History at Seminole State College and specializes in the history of Maroon communities and the African Diaspora. In this exclusive interview, these co-curators discuss how Dr. Vaz became interested in his specific field of study and the process behind his research and approach for this exhibition. The complete interview can be found at [artandhistory.org/vaz](http://artandhistory.org/vaz)

### Can you explain your background and field of study and who you are?

I was raised in Central Florida in Casselberry, attended Casselberry elementary, Seminole middle school, Lyman high school, Seminole State College, then I transferred to Florida State University, and then I went to graduate school at Howard University and studied African History for the Masters program and African Diaspora for the PhD.

### What got you interested in this specific field?

I had a professor at Seminole State named Trent Tomengo. I took his African American Humanities class, then also reading a lot of the books that were related to his class made me really interested in this other side of history that I feel like I never got coming up in grade school... By the time I went to Howard and taking African History, I got more into the specifics of Africa, mostly west Africa. And then for the PhD program a lot of my classmates were doing diaspora, which is a very big program at Howard, which was studying the dispersal of Africans all over the world and that was really what I was truly interested in, and just really wanted to know... I'm glad I did the African [history] part as it really gave me a better understanding of the roots of everything so whenever I see something in the Diaspora that some people are not able to account for...I always have a better understanding of what some type of cultural practice might be or some type of symbolism or something like that...has its roots in Africa. Then for my dissertation, when I was working on the PhD, was the African resistance in Maroon communities in Dominica and tiny little Caribbean islands. (Maroons were a group of runaway people who escaped slavery and carved out a free space for themselves in spite of what the law was at the time.)

What was your goal for your portion of the exhibition? What were your aims that you wanted to make sure was in your portion?

...I have an understanding that the Black Seminoles and their native allies worked together, but I wanted to make a clear distinction between the history of the Black Seminoles and where they came from and I also wanted to show that they weren't just simply slaves, or servants or interpreters of the Natives, because that is the image that we often see when we learn about the Seminoles. I try to dispel that myth. You can see it in a lot of the primary source writing between generals, what they're saying on the ground is what they really mean, because sometimes when it [was] published in the media [was] to calm down some of the hysteria behind the conflicts that were going on. They didn't want people to freak out too much, if they know there is a Haitian revolution type war going on just south of the border... I wanted to make sure that people understand that a lot of this has been kept from the public by design and some of the wording, how they refer to the black Maroons, or the black Seminoles, as servants or as interpreters was intentional, and even the black Seminoles and the Natives themselves intentionally did that because they didn't want the government to know that these were just free people roaming. If you were going to be black in America you were going to be a slave, that was the idea.

The complete interview, including 7 additional questions, can be found at [artandhistory.org/vaz](http://artandhistory.org/vaz)



Staff from the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum putting finishing touches on the display of artifacts loaned for the Fumecheliga exhibition



# Founder's Spotlight: Letters between André Smith and Mary Curtis Bok

by Exhibitions Manager Katie Benson



image 1

The A&H is fortunate to house a collection that not only comprises the artwork of André Smith, but also his scrapbooks, sketchbooks, and interviews. Each of these artifacts permits a glimpse inside the life that Smith lived.

However, there are other artifacts, like letters, that permit more than mere glimpses. Long used by historians as sources of biographical information, letters have a way of revealing more than just facts. Our collection also includes Smith's WWI letters, which not only provide first-hand accounts of the American war effort, but also that of his family relationships. Letters from the Research Studio years have long been imagined, but little did we know that they would actually be found.

While researching Smith's benefactress Mary Bok, we discovered that the Curtis Institute (founded by Bok in 1924) had in their collection boxes of correspondence between Bok and Smith dating from 1931 to the 1950s. The letters filled seven folders, with 50-100 letters in each, and each revealed a certain candid quality within them that unveiled so much about Smith, his friendship with Bok, and his ideas behind the creating and running of The Research Studio.

Although always understood to be good friends, the relationship between Smith and Bok is shown through their letters to be that of a very dear friendship. So much so that hints of more than friendship are occasionally found. The duo often clued each other in on their other correspondences too, wanting to know each other's opinions on matters. But mostly, it was their shared passion for the Research Studio, or the "Ultimate Goal", as they called it, that kept their communication strong.

While Bok's letters were mostly typed by her secretary, Smith's letters were frequently illustrated, like in image 1, where he drew himself working on his famous concrete reliefs. Smith also detailed the construction of the Research Studio, including plans for the new main gallery he designed. In another letter from 1937, Smith detailed the "guest studio" he built specifically for Bok, highlighting the warmth of their friendship. The wording for the Research Studio's charter was

also decided via these letters, along with long-winded explanations on the number of invited artists, and which of them behaved, or didn't, while at the retreat. These letters have provided unique insight into who Smith was, not only as an artist or founder, but as a person. We look forward to continuing to learn more!

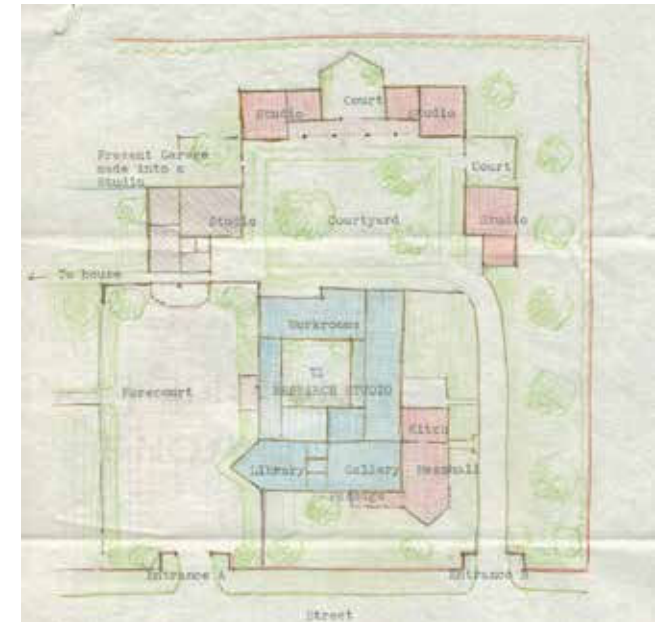


image 2

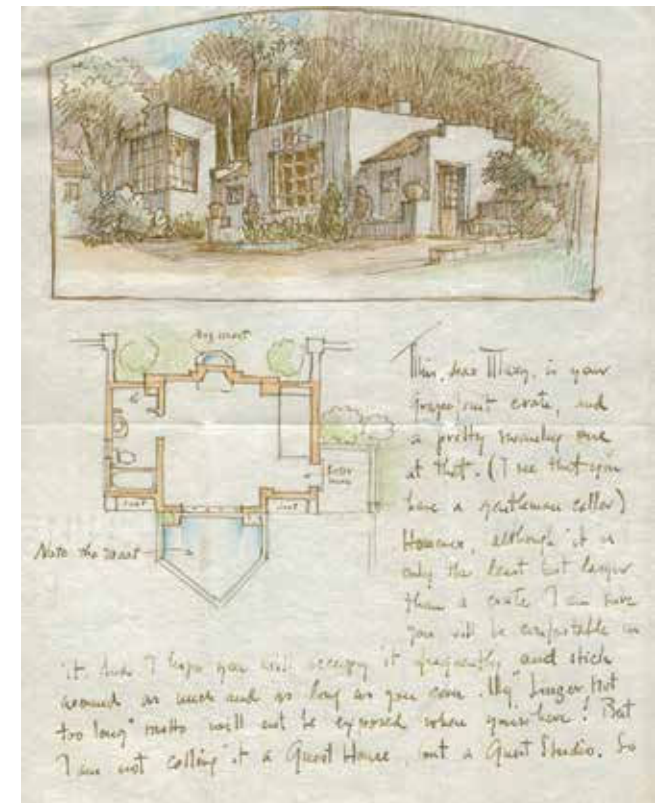


image 3



# New Artists in Action

Returning for their second and final year in our residency program are Mär Martinez, Leo Cordovi and MJ Torrecampo – and after a three-year break, Anthony Mancuso. Newly selected to the program is Gisela Romero.

## Gisela Romero (Studio 6)

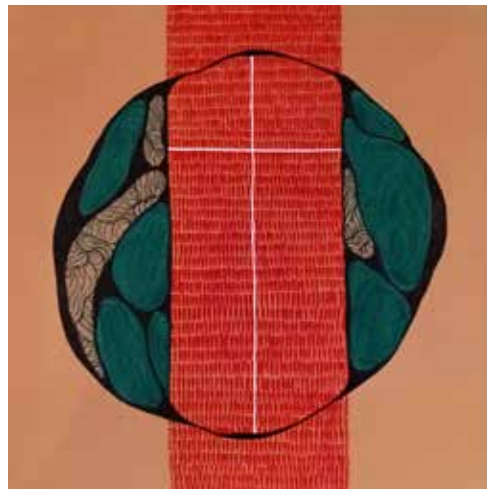
Born in Venezuela, visual artist Gisela Romero immigrated to the US five years ago and now lives and works in the Orlando area. With over 30 years' experience, Romero's studio practice focuses on the medium of drawing in and on multiple formats and surfaces.



She has a Master of Fine Arts degree from Pratt Institute, New York, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with honors from the California College of Arts, Oakland, CA.

Romero is currently working in a new body of work that explores the issues of immigration, taking household objects such as the table runners, and using these fabrics bought in thrift stores that bear traces, shapes, patterns, and stains of other people. She imagines stories of immigrants using the table runners as an inspiration for short stories, and the short stories as an inspiration for her drawings.

Romero states of her current project, "the whole world is full of intersecting lines that for different reasons move from one side to another, these lines are of different sizes and colors that form a single world although it seems that within that there are several universes. Human beings have moved from here to there and there to here, individuals flee from their countries, or they are invited by another nation, they fall in love with people from other places and cultures, or they travel and decide to stay elsewhere, or are driven by hunger or war or passion or necessity. They are the moving lines that connect because we are all part of this shared human experience, we all



suffer, rejoice, have triumphs, regrets, we all reach goals, and we all fail."

## Anthony Mancuso (Studio 7)

Anthony Mancuso was a past AIA award recipient, who left the program to attend graduate school at UCF, from which he received his Master of Fine Art degree. He showed such a commitment to his artistic practice during this period and his recent work shows such maturity that he was awarded this second-year residency opportunity.



Mancuso's work explores the ability of the mediums of painting and printmaking to depict real and imagined domestic spaces that transcend the mundane. Viewers are encouraged to enter a formal meditation on place and routine with these spaces that are usually casually glanced over.

Mancuso states of his recent work, "my work reanalyzes spaces and perspectives in often-overlooked systems of routine and ritual. Through the meditative act of painting, I engage in an introspective dialogue, one about intimacy and small moments of negotiation involved in sharing a home. I recreate imagery from my personal experiences and ruminate on materiality, color, and surface. By constructing space, reanalyzing routine, and exploring negotiation of a modern household, I invite viewers to reflect on how the small moments in our lives can resonate with meaning.



Check out more of their works on Instagram:  
 @giselaromeroart  
 @anthonyemancuso

And say hello if you see their "Open Studio" signs outside!

# In Between Exhibition Opening Photos by Laney Mae Velazquez and Hannah Miller



Barbara Coleman-Foster and Trent Tomengo



Kristine Iverson, Wendy Wallenberg, Cortnee Anderson, Danielle Munster



Rob & Lauren Duhon with MJ Torrecampo & Sara Murphy



Exhibition artists MJ Torrecampo, Mär Martinez, and Leo Cordovi



Mär Martinez with Lori & Roldan Martinez



Board President Patrick Terry & Rachel Beal



Check our Facebook page for more photos from the opening!

## Education Events



Little Creatives



Girl Scout Day





**ART & HISTORY MUSEUMS**  
MAITLAND

231 W. Packwood Ave. | Maitland, FL 32751

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



DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE EXPEDITE

# Winter 2022 Newsletter

## Upcoming at A&H

### November

- 12 | Maitland Rotary Arts Festival (Lake Lily) – A&H will offer activities for families from 10am-2pm inside Venue on the Lake
- 16 | Little Creatives & Me (10-11:00am)
- 24-25 | Closed for holiday
- 30 | Last Wednesday: After Hours (5:30-8:00pm) + Gallery Tour (5:30-6:15)
- 30 | History Talk: Fumecheliga, by Dr. Neil Vaz (6:30-7:30pm)

### December

- 9 | Music in the Garden + Artist Open Studios (6:30-8:30)
  - 10 | Free Family Day
  - 11 | Members-Only Book Club
  - 21 | Little Creatives & Me
  - 28 | Last Wednesday: After Hours + Gallery Tour
  - 24-25 | Closed for holiday
  - 31 | Closed for holiday
- National Historic Landmark Tours**  
1st & 3rd Saturdays + 2nd & 4th Thursdays from 10-10:45am

### January

- 1 | Closed for holiday
- 9 | Art School Winter Session begins
- 19 | Little Creatives & Me
- 26 | Last Wednesday: After Hours + Gallery Tour with Chief Curator

**SAVE THE DATE**  
A&H: THE ART PARTY  
2nd annual gala celebration  
March 25, 2023 | 6-10pm

*Advance registration required for many events. Please visit our website to register and to discover even more events: [artandhistory.org/events](http://artandhistory.org/events)*