



NEWS RELEASE

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Canton Museum of Art Announces 2016/2017 Exhibition Season

New Exhibitions and Programs Will Engage, Entertain, and Educate

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 19, 2016, Canton, Ohio — An exciting new season at the Canton Museum of Art premieres in September 2016, with exhibitions, programs, and events that will inspire discovery and connect art to life in the Stark County community and region.

“This season promises something to engage everyone,” says Max Barton, executive director of the Canton Museum of Art. “From conversations on life and cultures, to taking an archaeological expedition, to discovering the art of imaginative realism, and exploring our amazing collection of American masters of watercolor and ceramics—we are excited to connect our community with art discoveries and major works that people won’t experience anywhere else in Northeast Ohio.”

The CMA 2016 – 17 season includes three powerful featured exhibitions, each one an original created and curated by the Museum (see details below). In addition, CMA will present six solo exhibitions, including works by Ohio artists Richard and Pat Schneider and Kname and Sumiko Takada, as well as a spring showcase for the Canton Artists League. Four exhibitions from the Museum’s Permanent Collection will be displayed, including “In Praise of Women,” “Frozen in Fire,” and “Tangled Up in Blues” highlighting renowned Collection artists such as Andrew Wyeth, John Singer Sargent, Clyde Singer, Toshiko Takaezu, and Viola Frey.

FEATURED EXHIBITIONS

“Three Voices: Conversations on Life & Conflict” (on view September 1 – October, 2016) is an all-Ohio exhibit featuring artists Judy Brandon of Cleveland, Leslie Shiels of Cincinnati, and Carol Snyder of Columbus. With defining voices in both images and words, these artists bring their thoughts, concerns, and life experiences to our attention through watercolor, oil, and porcelain creations. The conversations inspired by these women and their art focus on life and conflict. They are looking for visual threads to sew eras, cultures and people together; to tie our lives with our natural world – creating a life experience for audiences to reflect upon. This exhibition is presented in part by the Volunteer Angels of the Canton Museum of Art.

“Dream Worlds: The Art of Imaginative Realism” (on view November 25, 2016 – March 12, 2017) assembles award-winning artists from around the country who play a pivotal role in the art

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of cinema, television, set design, 3D animation, gaming, and costume design—pushing the boundaries of contemporary realism through the guise of surrealism. Their creations are now a fundamental component of both the fine art world and the commercial art industry. This exhibition is certain to entertain and educate all ages with a journey through the art of imaginative realism, offering fantastic visions within the past, the unexplored future, and even the unseen present—a journey that may inspire viewers to explore their own creativity and storytelling ability through art. “***Dream Worlds***” is produced with CMA guest-curator and Canton native, Chris Seaman, an award-winning artist-illustrator.

“***AVATARS: Relics from the Future***” (on view April 29 – July 23, 2017) will take audiences on an artistic excavation of mighty entities such as mummies and totems extracted from the innovative ceramic studio of Gary Spinosa. The figurative works in “***AVATARS***” combine human, animal, and architectural forms, as Spinosa seeks to materialize spiritual energy through his serenely benevolent figures. For the artist, animals contain the keys to a universal language that bonds humanity at its most primal level. These sculptures, from towering grand constructions to diminutive “stones,” are imbued with deep sanctity and stillness, a sometimes disquieting mystery, myth, and perhaps even superstition. A review in “Cleveland Scene” noted, “Gary Spinosa’s sculptures hark back to the days when art didn’t just look pretty or express the individual’s feelings, but served as a reminder of a higher power.” And the “Erie Times-News” of Pennsylvania offered, “Respect is the word that continues to come to mind when experiencing a Spinosa collection—respect for the materials ... and for what each of us chooses to believe and how we choose to express it.”

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT CMA

The exhibitions will be accompanied by exciting new programs and lively events highlighting the dynamism of art and artists in the exhibitions. These include:

- ***Art for Health & Healing (September 2016)*** is a new pilot program created in partnership with several Stark County service organizations for using the CMA exhibitions and tailored hands-on art experiences to make a therapeutic connection. Using art as a therapeutic tool, certified art therapists will work with their patients to address academic, motor, emotional, and social skills as well as develop talent and education in art. Following sessions inside the galleries, participants create their own artwork as they engage with their therapist.

- ***Art Harvest at the Museum (October 7, 2016)***

The 2nd Annual Art Harvest will take place on October 7 from 5pm-8pm, featuring trick-or-treat art supplies for kids in costume, pumpkin painting in the Museum courtyard, and art education demos presented by CMA docents and volunteers.

- ***Art After Dark (October 22, 2016) — Collaboration with Massillon Museum***

Save the date for the first collaborative costume party between Canton Museum of Art and Massillon Museum! On October 22, 2016, explore ***Art After Dark*** featuring a costume contest, live entertainment, and a dance party. This annual event will alternate between the two partnering Museums every year. The inaugural year will take place at the Massillon Museum. More details to be announced in early Autumn 2016.

• ***Dream Worlds Convention (February 2017)*** is a comic and gaming convention organized by Odd Mall that will showcase regional vendors from the entertainment industry.

• ***Night at the Museum (May 2017)*** will spotlight the mystery and discovery of the awe-inspiring “AVATARS” exhibition in a fun family event, featuring art education activities allowing visitors to create their own relics and experience the Museum like never before.

NEW! “CMA FREE THURSDAYS BY GASSER FINE JEWELERS”

Thanks to sponsorship from Gasser Fine Jewelers, admission to the CMA galleries will be free every Thursday for the 2016 – 17 exhibition season, beginning September 1, 2016. The museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays, with the longer evening hours allowing greater access to exhibits for families and those stopping in from the workday. In addition, Gasser Jewelers is sponsoring event programming and education activities on First Fridays – where CMA is the “First Stop” to kickoff the monthly First Friday Canton Arts District celebration.

SUPPORT

The Canton Museum of Art receives generous operating support from the Ohio Arts Council and ArtsInStark. “Free Thursdays” and “First Fridays” are made possible with support from Gasser Fine Jewelers. Exhibitions and events are made possible in part by support from the J.M. Smucker Company, Stark Community Foundation, The Hoover Foundation, Ohio Humanities; corporate and foundation support from across Stark and Summit counties; and affiliated member groups of the Museum, including the Volunteer Angels, Canton HeART Guild, and Canton Fine Arts Associates. Visit www.cantonart.org/support/supporters to learn more.

ABOUT THE CANTON MUSEUM OF ART

The Canton Museum of Art (CMA) is one of Ohio’s premier museums for an exceptional visual arts experience. CMA is recognized for powerful national exhibits; dynamic CMA-original exhibits; an unrivaled Permanent Collection of American watercolors and contemporary ceramics; and innovative education programs, in-Museum classes, and workshops. CMA is one of only two Stark County museums accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Admission: Regular admission is \$8 Adults; \$6, Seniors and Students (with valid I.D.); Museum Members are Free; and Children 12 and under, Free. Tickets are available at the Museum Ticket Office during Museum hours. CMA is a Blue Star Museum, offering free admission for active-duty military and their families. For group visits, discounts, and tours, please 330.453.7666 at least two weeks prior to your visit for reservations and/or to request a docent-led tour.

Hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 10am – 8pm; Friday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm; Sunday, 1 – 5pm; Closed Monday

For more information, including hours, exhibits, classes, and special events, call 330.453.7666, visit www.cantonart.org, Facebook at “Canton Museum of Art,” or @CantonMuseum on Twitter.