



NEWS RELEASE

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Canton Museum of Art Cancels Annual gARTen Fundraiser Event Preparations Will Be Rolled Over to 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 13, 2020 – As the Canton Museum of Art (CMA) continues to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and long-term impact to our community and region, the Museum’s leadership team today announces that its annual gARTen fundraiser has been cancelled. Scheduled for August 22, “gARTen of the Gods: A Grecian Odyssey,” will now take place on August 21, 2021.

“This was a very difficult decision, but certainly the right one given the uncertainties of any timelines today,” said Museum Director Max R. Barton II. “Because of the unique nature and community involvement in creating our event, we felt it was best to continue planning and look toward gARTen next year.

“We are so grateful for the support of our donors, including our amazing restaurants who are essential to the event each year. We ask everyone to support our local restaurants and others by purchasing gift cards, ordering take-out when possible, and getting back inside their establishments when restrictions are lifted,” said Barton. “Businesses in our community need our support to recover, and I know that the Museum and all of the arts are committed to being a part of that healing process.”

Backed by the Museum’s board, staff, and members of the HeART Guild – the group of professionals and community volunteers who organize the gARTen event and are dedicated to the Museum’s mission – CMA will be purchasing \$25 gift cards from local restaurants that have been a part of the gARTen event. These will be given out from the Museum’s weekly Facebook posts sharing the importance of the arts in sustaining our community and advocating for Arts In Stark’s Annual Arts Campaign, now underway.

This year’s gARTen event co-chairs, Barbara Abbott and Kasie Travaglione, will continue in their roles for next year, and the HeART Guild will continue preparations and seeking support for the Museum in many ways. Sponsors already committed to the event will have the option of rolling that over into next year. Proceeds from gARTen directly benefit CMA’s exhibition and education programs.

“While the COVID-19 pandemic has major financial implications for CMA, and cancelling our event certainly changes operating budgets, we are confident that, through the generosity of donors and members, our vital programs will continue to support the community,” said Mark Belgya, president of the Museum’s Board of Trustees. “We appreciate everyone’s understanding during this unprecedented time.”

The Museum remains closed to the public through May 1, based on orders from the Office of the Governor and Ohio’s public health authorities. CMA will make additional announcements on rescheduled events, classes, and more. Watch our website at www.cantonart.org, as well as our social media feeds.

About the Canton Museum of Art

The Canton Museum of Art is recognized for powerful original exhibitions and national touring exhibitions focused on American art – and making the discovery and exploration of art accessible to all. The Museum’s education outreach programs, classes, and workshops serve thousands of students of all ages. CMA’s collection focuses on American works on paper, primarily watercolors, and contemporary ceramics. Founded in 1935, CMA is one of three museums in Stark County accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and serves nearly 45,000 visitors each year. Visit cantonart.org to learn more.

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