



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As we happily say goodbye to the heat of the summer, the fall means festival season at the Museum as we prepare for numerous hands-on events for school children and families. Heritage Arts Festival will be held on the LRMA front lawn on Saturday, October 3, and is our largest one-day event of the year. Downtown Laurel should be a busy place that Saturday, also the day of Laurel Main Street's Loblolly Festival. Choctaw Days will span four days in October and attract more than 1,000 fourth graders from the surrounding area. On Saturday, October 17, we will host the Mississippi Archaeology Expo sponsored by the Mississippi Archaeology Association for a free family event. Night at the Museum coordinated by the Laurel Magnet School for the Arts will be on November 3. Lastly, we will host our Very Special Arts Festival on November 6 at the Cameron Center for special needs students across the Pine Belt region. As always, these events are free for our community and schools.

Most of the school children who come to the Museum this fall will benefit from our "Adopt-A-Bus Fund" campaign which provides reimbursement to area school districts for their bus travel to LRMA. I want to thank the many individuals and businesses that make a contribution to this special fund as we strive to reach the next generation of museum visitors.

Our current exhibit *Kimono: Garment, Canvas, and Artistic Muse* is magnificent and highlights the profound cultural and historical significance of the traditional Japanese kimono as both a functional piece of clothing and a medium for breathtaking textile artistry. Curated by Meher McArthur and toured by International Arts & Artists, the collection showcases how this iconic garment transcends fashion by serving as a powerful creative muse for international contemporary artists working in diverse mediums like glass, metal, paper, and ceramics. I hope you will come see it before it closes on November 8.

Our education program continues to be a strong component of our mission, and this summer was no exception. A highlight for us each summer is our partnership with the Laurel Housing Authority where we have provided art activities daily for their summer feeding program for more than 20 years. Other free public summer programs included Free Family Art and Drop-In Drawing, along with a variety of classes and camps. I must commend Curator of Education Hilary Steinwinder and Education Outreach Coordinator Kelly Rosa for their work and leadership. We were also fortunate to have two terrific college interns return this summer, Jordan Parker and Peyton Parker, in our education department.

I hope you will make plans to join us for a memorable night of music and a projection show on the Museum's front lawn on the evening of Saturday, October 24. We are again working with Colin McQuilkin Design to create another digital experience that lights up our oak trees and transforms the façade of the Museum. Live music will be



Summer interns Peyton Parker and Jordan Parker at Brown Circle outreach program



Projection show is Saturday, October 24

provided by John Wooten and his steel-pan drum band. Music and food trucks start at 6:00 pm with the projection show at 7:00 pm and 8:00 pm. You do not want to miss it!

The 2026 Gala, *The Kaleidoscope Ball*, will be held on Saturday, December 5 under the leadership of Becky and Fielding Turlington. This is our largest fundraising event of the year and includes an auction, dinner, and dancing. We are particularly grateful to the numerous volunteer committees that are making this event possible. If you cannot attend in person, you can still support us by participating in our online auction. The auction opens at 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 3 and closes at 8:00 pm on Saturday, December 5. A wide array of art, trips, dinners, experiences and items will be up for bid— all to support our educational mission!

— George Bassi

EXHIBITIONS

KIMONO: Garment, Canvas, and Artistic Muse

LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES | THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2026

The Japanese kimono is one of the world's most recognizable garments—a tall, T-shaped robe worn by women and men in Japan for more than a thousand years. Over centuries, it has served as a canvas for extraordinary woven, dyed, painted, printed, and embroidered designs created by master textile artists. After Japan opened to international trade in the late nineteenth century, the kimono also captivated Western painters and fashion designers, and in recent decades it has

continued on page 4



Unknown, *Furisode* ("Swinging Sleeves" Kimono) with *Auspicious Design, Marital Status/Celebration* (Communicator/Messaging), Japan, Showa period (1926 – 1989), silk with yuzen stencil-dyed designs, 68.25" x 50.25", Image courtesy of International Arts & Artists, Photograph by Dan Myers.



Itchiku Kubota, *Fuji Standing in a Sunset Glow*, 1994, Tye-dye, ink painting, and embroidery on silk crepe (chirimen) with gold wefts, 58" x 60", Image courtesy of the Itchiku Kubota Foundation, © Itchiku-Tsujigahana Ltd.

EXHIBITIONS

KIMONO: Garment, Canvas, and Artistic Muse

LOWER LEVEL GALLERIES | THROUGH NOVEMBER 8, 2026

continued from page 3

inspired contemporary artists around the world working in media such as paper, fiber, metal, glass, and ceramic.

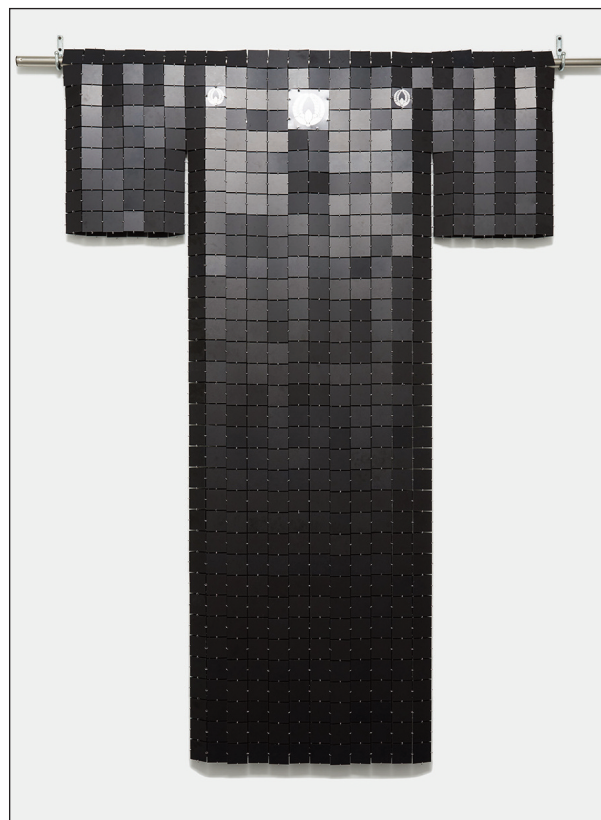
This exhibition explores the kimono's role in Japanese history and culture, its use as a surface for spectacular design and messaging, and



its influence on global contemporary art. Presented in three sections, it features 46 works, including 20 kimonos, woodblock prints, a printed book, photographs, and 19 contemporary artworks in diverse materials.

The exhibition is curated by Meher McArthur and presented by International Arts & Artists.

Maria Papatzelou, *Kawakami Mythical Dream*, 2021, Japanese handmade paper (washi), pigments, aquarelle pencils, monoprints, collage with old Japanese maps and sumi-e painting, 62.9" x 59.8", Photographed by Maria Papatzelou, Image courtesy of Maria Papatzelou, © Maria Papatzelou.



Miya Ando, *Mofuko (Formal Mourning Kimono)*, 2024, Dyed Anodized Aluminum, Steel Rings, 71"x 48½" x 1½", Image courtesy of Miya Ando, © Miya Ando.

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

5:30 p.m. Lecture • 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Reception

Free and open to the public

Join us for a presentation by Leon Wiebers on the history and evolution of the kimono, offered in celebration of the exhibition. Wiebers will trace the garment's origins, its changing forms and meanings, and its lasting influence on global fashion.

Wiebers is a costume designer, curator, and scholar whose work spans theatre, opera, and international exhibition projects. He serves as Professor of Costume Design at Loyola Marymount University, and he was awarded a prestigious Fulbright Research Award to South Korea examining traditional dress. His research focuses on global dress histories and cross-cultural design practices.



Leon Wiebers

EXHIBITIONS



EDUCATION

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

home school **ART**

4th Thursdays – August 27 • September 24 • October 22

1:00 - 4:00 p.m. • Museum Annex

Free | No reservations required

Join other home school families for an afternoon of drop-in art adventures in the Annex! From toddlers to teenagers, everyone will enjoy this hands-on art experience. Activities change monthly and no registration is required.

Choctaw Days: Fourth Grade Tours Program

October 20, 21, and 22

Teachers – mark your calendars and plan to bring your class to our annual Choctaw Days celebration. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation for the Choctaw culture through guided gallery tours, interactive demonstrations, live dance performances, and hands-on crafts.

Registration required – visit LRMA.org or email hsteinwinder@LRMA.org to learn more.



Very Special Arts Festival

Friday, November 6 • 9:00 - 11:00 am

Free | Advance registration required

Get ready to celebrate with stars, stripes, and lots of creativity! This year's Very Special Arts Festival invites students with developmental disabilities to enjoy a morning filled with patriotic art projects, music, games, and all-American fun. This special arts experience is made possible by partnerships with the Junior Auxiliary of Laurel and the Laurel Arts League, with support from the Charles Owens Memorial Education Fund and The City of Laurel.



Visit the "Education" page of the LRMA website to learn more and register your students!

DROP-IN CLASSES

ARTful Yoga

Wednesdays in September

9:00 a.m.

Free | No reservations required

Join us for an artful yoga class and engage in a practice that focuses on relaxation, balance, and strength!



Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes and bring their own yoga mat. Beginners are welcome and no experience or registration is required.

FAMILY CLASSES and WORKSHOPS

(advance registration required)

Sunday Studio:

Ceramic Holiday Ornaments

Sunday, November 15

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

\$25 Members / \$30 Non-members

(price per project)

Instructor: Jeremy Brooke

In this family workshop, participants will "play with clay" to shape, texture, and glaze their own ornaments.



After the class, pieces will be fired and ready to trim your holiday tree.



WEEKNIGHT WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS

**Fridays, October 16, November 20,
December 18**

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Carriage House Studio

\$25 members / \$30 non-members

Instructor: Laura Jones

Looking for a creative night out? Join us for a relaxed and fun guided painting experience. From the set-up to the supplies to the step-by-step instructions, everything you need to confidently create your own original work of art will be provided. Absolutely no experience is necessary.



MISSISSIPPI ARCHAEOLOGY EXPO

Sponsored by the Mississippi
Archaeology Association

Saturday, October 17

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

LRMA and Gardiner Park

Activities and demonstrations for
children and adults

Free and open to the public

ADULT & TEEN CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

(advance registration required)

ONE-NIGHT WORKSHOPS: CERAMICS

Friday, September 18 • Ribbon Vases

Friday, October 23 • Party Platters

Friday, November 13 • Holiday Gifts

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Carriage House Studio

\$35 Members / \$40 Non-Members

Instructor: Jeremy Brooke

In each of these workshops, participants will use various clay types and unique surface decoration techniques to create beautiful pieces of art for inside or outside their home. No previous ceramic experience necessary and all materials and tools provided.



ART & WRITING: FROM GALLERY TO PAGE

Fridays • September 18, October 2, October 30

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Free | Advanced Registration Required

In partnership with USM's Mississippi Review and Young Authors Academy, the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art invites high school English and Composition classes to explore the connection between visual art and the written word.

The experience begins with a guided tour of the Museum's galleries, where students will examine selected works and consider how artists communicate ideas, stories, emotions, and perspectives through visual language. Following the tour, students will put observation and interpretation into words through a directed writing workshop led by Rachael Fowler, Editor of USM's Mississippi Review.

Students will leave with a deeper understanding of the Museum's collection and new tools for drawing inspiration from the world around them.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

MUSIC in the MUSEUM

Sunday, October 18 • 2:00 p.m.

Free | Sanderson Gallery

Join us as Dr. Marcos Machado, double bass, and Dr. Ellen Elder, piano, present a compelling recital that highlights the expressive range of the string bass. The duo will perform music by Boccherini, Korngold, Villa-Lobos, Popper, Musumeci, and Frank Proto.

Under the Oaks: Light Up the Night

Saturday, October 24, 2026 • 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

LRMA Front Lawn

Join us on the Museum front lawn for another incredible light projection show! Created by Colin McQuilkin Design, this year's production will be another unbelievable combination of art, music, and light. Food trucks and music begins at 6:00 pm with the projection show at 7:00 pm and again at 8:00 pm.

MUSEUM SHOP

*Holiday
Open House*

**Thursday, November 19
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Featuring a talk and
book-signing by Wyatt
Waters for his new book:**

***The Watercolor
Road-Natchez***

**Art Talk at Noon with a
book-signing to follow**



**Storewide Discounts • Refreshments
Free Gift Wrapping**



Thursday, September 24

5:30 - 7:00 pm

FREE | First come, first seated

**BACK ROADS
& BACK STORIES**

Rooted in Mississippi and the wider Southern musical landscape, Back Roads and Back Stories is an evening of songwriting, storytelling, memory, and live performances hosted by Drew Young and featuring Cary Hudson of Blue Mountain and Shelby Kemp of Royal Horses. Presented in songwriter-in-the-round format, the show gives audiences a close-up look at the stories behind the songs - where they started, what they carried, and how the back roads, small towns, hard seasons, and second chances of the South find their way into music.



Cary Hudson

Drew Young

Shelby Kemp



HERITAGE ARTS FESTIVAL

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 3

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

LRMA FRONT LAWN • 565 N. 5th AVENUE

FREE PIZZA AND SOFT DRINKS SERVED AT 11:30 A.M.

Journey to Japan as we celebrate the exhibition
KIMONO: Garment, Canvas, and Artistic Muse with fun crafts and activities!

FREE FOR ALL

FOR INFO • 601-649-6374 or LRMA.ORG

SPONSORED
BY



DEVELOPMENT

The Lauren Rogers Museum of Art

provides exposure to the visual arts through focused collections, diversified exhibitions, and educational programs; encourages awareness of the aesthetic and cultural values of the visual arts; and seeks to enhance the quality of life in Laurel and Jones County, the state of Mississippi, and the Southern region.

LRMA is a private, non-profit organization operating for the benefit of the public.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Tues-Sat, 10 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, 1 - 4 p.m.
Closed Mondays

ADMISSION IS FREE.

LRMA is supported by Memberships, Donations, The Eastman Memorial Foundation, Jones County, Laurel Arts League, Mississippi Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts. This publication is funded in part by a grant from The Mississippi Arts Commission and The National Endowment for the Arts.

LRMA CONTRIBUTIONS:

HOW MUCH IS DEDUCTIBLE?

If you have questions concerning the deductible limits of your Museum contributions for IRS purposes including fund-raising events (i.e. Gala), please call the Museum Office.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STAFF

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(4/16/2026 through 8/15/2026)

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(4/16/2026 through 8/15/2026)

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(4/16/2026 through 8/15/2026)

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For: Dr. John Guice
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For: Mr. Charles Owens
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For: Mr. Wayne Traylor
From: Mr. & Mrs. Trent Mulloy

Tributes

(4/16/2026 through 8/15/2026)
For: Mr. & Mrs. William Goodman
From: Ms. Nan Goodman

Donations

(4/16/2026 through 8/15/2026)

Gala

Ms. Kelven Coleman & Mr. Johnny Magee

Programs, Events & Exhibitions

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(4/16/2026 through 8/15/2026)
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DEVELOPMENT

LRMA GALA 2026

The Eastman Memorial Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Becky and Fielding Turlington will chair the Museum's annual fundraising gala to be held Saturday evening, December 5. Assisting the Turlingtons are Casey and Adam Sauls as Premier Auction chairmen and Heather and Drew Brown as Auction chairmen. With a vibrant and brilliant Kaleidoscope theme, Joanna Burt, Jo Lynn McLeod and Cathy Padgett will head up decorations while Jan and Gene Harlow will provide leadership for Food and Beverages. Kathy Ellzey and Donna Husbands from the LRMA Guild will chair the Gala Preview Party on Thursday evening, December 3.

The Gala committee is hard at work securing auction items that will be appealing to bidders. Fabulous art, exciting trips, and unique jewelry will highlight the auctions along with dinners and travel opportunities, gifts for ladies and gents, artwork, and lovely items for the home and garden.

The LRMA Gala remains the single largest fundraiser for LRMA with proceeds benefiting programs and exhibitions and the full and vigorous support of our donors is needed this year, as always before, to accomplish our mission.

Invitations will be mailed to LRMA members at the Sponsor (\$100) level and above (as of October 31). Tickets are \$150 per person; further ticket information and event details will be included in the invitation.

Auction bidding will be done online again this year and you do not have to attend the Gala in order to bid. Once members receive their Gala invitation, we encourage them to visit the auction site and get registered. Waiting to register until event time poses a risk of technical difficulty which can result in a delay in bidding. We also encourage our members to share the auction site link with friends and family so they, too, can bid.



Mr. and Mrs. Turlington
2026 Gala Chairmen

AUCTION COMMITTEE

Art

Hilary and Michael Burroughs
Aly and Jordan Smith
Shelley and Truitt Taylor

Entertaining

Allison and Christopher Albritton
Allison and David Casey
Sara and Tim Sensenig

Home and Garden

Jamie Everett
Randy Jackson
Erin Pitts
Tracy Robinson

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Kaylie and Jameson Buckley
Andrea and Matt Endom
Nicole and Jamie Sisk

Travel

Angie Tarrant
Gwen and John Deakle
Lori and Ryan Hearn
Elizabeth and Brad Kent

AROUND THE MUSEUM



Docent of the Year Mary Ann Sumrall and Volunteer of the Year Cookie Bruck



Drop In Drawing this summer in the galleries



Ruth and Charles Bolden at Free Family Art



Outreach activity at Poplar Springs Elementary School in Meridian



Laurel Police Department's summer youth camp

Follow LRMA on Facebook at Lauren Rogers Museum of Art and Twitter@LaurenRogersMoA.



Send your email address to info@LRMA.org if you would like to receive membership e-blasts with updates on events and art classes.



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www.LRMA.org

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If your address changes, please notify the Museum Office.



Sign language interpreter is available for tours and programs upon request; one week's notice is required.



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