



LAUREN ROGERS  
MUSEUM *of* ART

# LRMA News

WINTER 2026



ART EVOLVED:  
INTERTWINED

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We ended 2025 with another successful gala, and I want to thank Gala Chairmen Angie and Robby Scruggs for their work, service, and time. Under their leadership, the auction raised more than \$132,000 for our education and exhibition programs, and the evening was enjoyed by all. I would also like to commend Premier and Live Auction Chairmen Jade and Lew Yoder, Auction Chairmen Nicki and Andrew Hudson, Preview Party Chair Gail Smith as well as all of our committees and volunteers.

Of course, an event the magnitude of the gala could not happen without the support of our auction donors, and we are grateful for their assistance and generosity. I also would be remiss if I did not recognize the hard work of the LRMA staff in making this annual fundraiser a success— it is truly a team effort.

We also ended the year with an incredible holiday projection show— IGLOOmination! Held on our front lawn for two evenings in December, the magic of Christmas came alive for our community. Many thanks to Community Bank for their sponsorship of the event and to Colin McQuilkin Design for their amazing animations and production.



*IGLOOmination in December on the museum front lawn*

Historically, our members and visitors have enjoyed exhibits related to hand-woven baskets as well as exhibits related to handmade quilts. How about both together in one exhibit?! We are pleased to host our current traveling exhibition *Art Evolved: Intertwined* organized by the National Basketry Organization and the Studio Art Quilt Associates. This incredible exhibit features more than forty contemporary baskets and art quilts from some of the best weavers and quilters in the country and will be on view in our Lower Level Galleries through April 26.



*Sadie, Angie, and Robby Scruggs with Dusty and Thomas Monk at the 2025 Gala*

Two of our collections galleries are undergoing renovations and changes this winter as the museum's Georgian silver gallery and Japanese print gallery are swapping locations. The new silver gallery will include floor to ceiling cases allowing almost twice as much silver to be displayed while the Japanese print collection will be located in a larger gallery space allowing for more works to be displayed as well. Renovation began in late December and should be completed by the end of March. I am grateful to Curator Kristen Miller Zohn, Registrar Tommie Rodgers, Preparator Joe Prine, and Building Superintendent Todd Sullivan for their efforts on this renovation project. The final results should be stunning, and I hope you will visit us later in the spring once the new spaces are open.

This winter we are hosting two events sponsored by the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), our state's arts agency. Poetry Out Loud and the regional Whole Schools Winter Institute will both be at LRMA, and we are pleased to partner with MAC on them. Because of MAC, Mississippi is fortunate to have such a vibrant arts scene with a robust focus on arts education and arts integration. Locally through MAC, we partner with the Laurel Magnet School for the Arts on many activities each year including our artist-in-residence program in February.

Lastly, I am pleased to welcome Jade Yoder to the museum staff as our Development Coordinator. Jade has been a volunteer on numerous gala committees over the past several years and is filling a critical fundraising role for us. We are excited to have her on our team and look forward to working with her as we advance the educational mission of the museum.

—George Bassi

# EXHIBITIONS

## ART EVOLVED: INTERTWINED

January 27- April 26



Lynne Dees (Bedford, Texas), *Homestake Creek: Battle Kill*, 2021  
Dyed rattan, dyed bleached Hamburg cane, recycled cat food bags, paracord, twine, painted paper, plain and random woven, overlaid, v-stitched

*Art Evolved: Intertwined* celebrates the dynamic convergence of quilting and basketry—two ancient, tactile traditions reimagined through contemporary fiber arts. The exhibition showcases how artists today transcend utilitarian origins to explore layered narratives, material innovation, and sociopolitical resonance.

Works such as Irene Roderick's *Twitter* and Lynne Dees's *Homestake Creek: Battle Kill* reflect the exhibition's emotional range and thematic depth. Roderick celebrates the joy of human connection in a post-pandemic world, while Dees offers a contemplative tribute to the fragile beauty of woodland ecosystems. Though distinct in tone, both pieces share a reverence for the emotional and environmental landscapes that shape our lives.

Other artists in the exhibition push the boundaries of fiber through formal and conceptual experimentation. For instance, Larry Clifford's *Lexigons* reimagines the quilt as a bibliophilic structure by using old, discarded books, and Cael Chappell's *Emergence* embraces spontaneity, weaving without a predetermined concept to allow the basket's shape and meaning to emerge organically.

### Thursday, February 19, 2026

5:30 p.m. Program

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Reception

Free and open to the public

Join us as artist Nolan Wright, whose work is included in *Art Evolved: Intertwined*, as he presents "Twists and Turns Along the Path." He will show examples of his work, talk about his creative process and influences, and share his perspective on the emergence of basketry as an artform.



Nolan Wright is a largely self-taught fiber artist, born in Tucson, Arizona, who uses basketry techniques to make sculptural forms. He currently lives in South Carolina, but grew up in the desert southwest and was deeply impacted by the rugged landscapes there, and by his family's collection of traditional and contemporary crafts, including the work of indigenous artisans from many parts of the world. Both threads played an important part in his developing aesthetic and continue to be reflected in the objects he creates. Nolan's work has been included in numerous juried national and regional shows.



Nolan Wright, *Shipwrecked*

# EXHIBITIONS

At the heart of these innovations lies a shared ethos: quilts and baskets are objects meant to protect and to hold—memories, materials, warmth, and care. *Art Evolved: Intertwined* affirms that intimacy, even as it charts new terrain. The exhibition is a testament to the transformative power of craft and the enduring relevance of fiber arts in contemporary discourse.

*Art Evolved: Intertwined* was created by Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc. and National Basketry Organization. The exhibition was juried by Beth McLaughlin, Artistic Director and Chief Curator at Fuller Craft Museum in Brockton, Massachusetts; Lisa Ranallo, Registrar and Acting Curator at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings, Montana; and Jane Sauer, an internationally recognized curator, lecturer, and art consultant who now resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

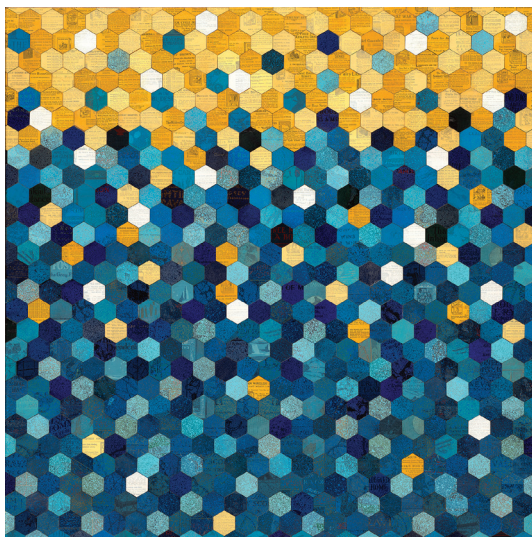
Exhibition generously sponsored by



The Jean Chisholm Lindsey Exhibition  
Endowment Fund



Cael Chappell (Albuquerque, New Mexico), *Emergence*, 2022  
Twined, reverse twined basket



Larry P. Clifford (Hampden, Maine), *Lexigons*, 2021,  
Recycled books, acrylics, ink, dye, hand-cut tiles, panels



Irene Roderick (Austin, Texas), *Twitter*, 2022,  
Cotton, machine pieced, machine quilted

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Museum is delighted to announce the acquisition of two significant dye-transfer photographs by William Eggleston and William Christenberry, artists whose work has shaped the visual language of the American South. Eggleston is a groundbreaking American photographer credited with legitimizing color photography as a fine art form. Raised in Sumner, Mississippi, he developed a sharp eye for the ordinary, capturing vivid scenes of Southern life with saturated, cinematic color. His compositions—parking lots, signage, interiors—turned everyday moments into striking visual statements and reshaped the way artists use color.

In *Sumner, Mississippi*, taken in his hometown in 1972, Eggleston turns a simple tabletop into a richly colored study of domestic life. His use of dye transfer printing allows for deep, precise tones—especially in red, which is hard to print well. The bold palette and casual arrangement of objects encourage close looking, showing how even the simplest scenes can hold visual interest.

Christenberry was a pioneering American artist known for his evocative photographs of the American South. Born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, he drew lifelong inspiration from Hale County, a place central to both his childhood and artistic vision. Though he worked across media—painting, sculpture, assemblage—he is best remembered for haunting color images of decaying buildings, rural landscapes, and vernacular signage in Alabama's Black Belt. *Cotton Warehouse with Cotton Bale, Selma, Alabama* reflects his deep connection to that landscape, where cotton warehouses once stood as symbols of economic power and racial inequity. By capturing such structures in their faded state, Christenberry invites reflection on the South's complex legacy.

Together, these works deepen our growing photography collection and continue the momentum established by recent additions, including the six Eudora Welty photographs acquired last year.



*William Eggleston (American, born 1939)*  
*Sumner, Mississippi*  
1972  
Dye transfer print. Printed 1986  
© 2026 William Eggleston



*William Christenberry (American, 1936–2016)*  
*Cotton Warehouse with Cotton Bale, Selma, Alabama*  
1980  
Dye transfer print. Printed 1982  
© William Christenberry

# EDUCATION

## DROP-IN CLASSES

### home school **ART**

**4th Thursdays – January 29 • February 26 • March 26 • April 23**  
**1:00 - 4:00 pm • Museum Annex**

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!

### ARTful Yoga

**Wednesdays in April • 9:00 am**  
**FREE - no reservations required**



Join us for an artful yoga class and engage in a practice that focuses on relaxation, balance, and strength! Ann Barrow, a certified yoga instructor, will lead each drop-in class. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes and bring their own yoga mat. Beginners are welcome.

## PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### Spring Break FESTIVAL

**Tuesday, March 17 • 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

This FREE family event features hands-on activities, live demonstrations, interactive art experiences and more!

### CHALKFEST

**Saturday, April 4 • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

Chalkfest is back! We are once again closing the street so artists of all ages and stages can drop by and make their mark. Draw a quick doodle or a detailed design to share with the community!

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

## YOUTH CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

*(advanced registration required)*



### Clay Creations: Children's Pottery

**Tuesdays • April 7, 14, 21**  
**3:30 – 5:00 pm**  
**Grades 3rd – 6th**

**Instructor: Jeremy Brooke**

Students will discover the basics of slab construction and hand building with clay. From learning the fundamentals to exploring underglazes and textures – participants will do it all! No prior experience is necessary, and all supplies are included.



# ADULT CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

(advanced registration required)

## "GALentines" Painting Party

Friday, February 13

6:00 - 7:30 pm • Carriage House Studio

\$25 Members / \$30 Non-Members

Instructor: Laura Jones

Grab your girlfriends and join instructor Laura Jones to create an acrylic work of heART! Refreshments and all supplies will be provided.

## One-Night Watercolor Workshops

Friday, March 13

Friday, April 10

6:00 - 7:30 pm

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 piece of art will be provided. No experience necessary.

## One-Night Ceramics Workshops

Friday, February 20 - Wall Vases

Friday, March 27 - Birdfeeders

Friday, April 24 - Jewelry Dishes

6:00 - 7:30 pm • 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. No experience necessary.

## Glassblowing Demonstration & Ornament Making

Led by Mohawk Steel and Glass

Thursday, April 16 • 5:00 - 7:30 pm

FREE for Demonstration

Ornament Creation: \$30 Members / \$40 Non-Members

Carriage House Studios

Have you ever wondered how Chihuly transforms molten glass into beautiful works of art? Observe the magic of glassblowing first-hand with the skilled artists from Mohawk Steel and Glass as they demonstrate the process from start to finish. No experience necessary.



# PROGRAMS & EVENTS



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM



Brejenn Allen

LRMA is proud to announce the launch of its inaugural Artist-in-Residence program, welcoming Meridian-based contemporary artist Brejenn Allen for a two-week residency from January 26 through February 6, 2026. The residency culminates in a public reception at the museum on Sunday, February 15, 2026 from 1:30 – 2:30 pm, celebrating the artist's work and student-created artworks developed during the program.

Throughout the residency, Allen will work on-site in the Museum's studio, using the site as a creative workspace and a place for public engagement. Visitors are invited to observe and interact with the artist during scheduled open studio hours, which offer a behind-the-scenes look at her creative process. Allen will also present an artTalk where she'll provide insight into her practice and an interactive demonstration that showcases her approach to storytelling through mixed media painting.

A central component of the residency is arts education. In addition to open studio hours and public demonstrations, Allen will lead several workshops. Registration is open for the public mixed-media workshop on January 31, inviting creatives of all skill levels to explore texture and material-based storytelling. Allen will also work with Laurel High School students, plus lead a three-day workshop series with students from the Laurel Magnet School of Arts. Working in small groups, students will create mixed media paintings inspired by emotional themes such as happiness, love, and home. By incorporating photos, found objects, and personal materials, students will learn how everyday items can carry meaning and contribute to shared narratives.

The residency will conclude with a public reception featuring artwork created by Allen during her residency alongside student works produced during the workshop series. The culminating display celebrates creative exploration, collaboration, and student voices while highlighting the Museum's role as a hub for contemporary art and community engagement. This inaugural Artist-in-Residence program reflects LRMA's commitment to contemporary artistic practice, arts education, and meaningful connections between artists and the community.

For more information about the Artist-in-Residence program and related events, visit [lrma.org](http://lrma.org) or follow the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art on social media.

20  
26

LAUREN ROGERS MUSEUM of ART

## GARDEN LECTURE

presented in partnership with The Laurel Garden Club



THURSDAY, FEB. 26 • 10:00 AM

### THE ART OF THE DUO

A FLORAL DIALOGUE WITH  
JIM DELPRINCE AND JOHN GRADY BURNS

Two of Mississippi's premier floral designers, Jim DelPrince of Mississippi State University and John Grady Burns of Natchez, will join us to create stunning flower arrangements while giving the audience tips, techniques, and styling ideas. Their talk promises to be both educational and visually engaging!

Tickets \$35 • Lunch Included

to REGISTER

LRMA.ORG or 601-649-6374

POETRY  
OUT  
LOUD

Monday, February 2  
LRMA Sanderson Gallery  
Free and Open to the Public

Lauren Rogers Museum of Art will partner with the National Endowment for

the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Mississippi Arts Commission to host the Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest for the south region of Mississippi. Poetry Out Loud is a program that encourages high school students to learn about poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Participating high school students have the chance to be one of three finalists who advance to the state finals in March, where one winner will be selected to attend the national finals in Washington, D.C.



# GALA 2025



Artist Wyatt Waters painting at Gala



Elizabeth Kent with Debbie and Jim Walley



Lana and Sawyer Taylor



Caroline and Cory Burks



Tiffany and Justin McElroy



Kaleel Rahaim and Peg Mulloy



Hermine and Bill Granberry



Bill Green and Trimble Green



Mandy and Robert DeSantis and Stacy and Anthony Nix



Sarah and Wesley Patterson



Andrea and Matt Endom

# 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.

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(8/16/2025 through 12/15/2025)

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### Donations

(8/16/2025 through 12/15/2025)  
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# 2025 GALA AUCTION DONORS

**We thank the following businesses and individuals who donated items to the 2025 gala auction:**

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# AROUND THE MUSEUM



Weaving activity during Choctaw Days



Laurel Magnet School for the Arts students at Night at the Museum in November



Guild members Jan Hall, Kathy Ellzey, and Donna Husbands at Shop Holiday Open House



Docent Becky Dalton led tours during Choctaw Days in October



Very Special Arts Festival in November



Laurel Senior Center Christmas activity

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



Send your email address to [info@LRMA.org](mailto:info@LRMA.org) if you would like to receive membership eblasts with updates on events and art classes.

  
**LAUREN ROGERS**  
MUSEUM *of* ART

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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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