

# AT THE APPLETON

WINTER PREVIEW

## MEMORIES AND INSPIRATION: THE KERRY AND C. BETTY DAVIS COLLECTION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN ART

**Beginning Jan. 30, the Appleton will present a selection of 62 works amassed over 35 years by an ordinary working-class couple.**

Often choosing artworks over material items and other creature comforts, Kerry, a retired mailman, and Betty, a former television news producer, have opted instead to live with drawings, paintings, prints and sculpture as their principal luxuries. Their collection includes works by Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, Ernest T. Crichlow, Sam Gilliam, Lois Mailou Jones, Jacob Lawrence, Gordon Parks and Alma Thomas, but Kerry and Betty do not search exclusively for well-known and/or documented artists. Rather, they focus on “the importance of gathering and preserving a spectrum of approaches to the black image in order to console the psyche and contribute to a more authentic articulation of the self.”

The result is an eclectic gathering of works crossing different mediums, subjects, and styles by a group of artists of the African Diaspora who — in terms of training, experience and expression

— are strikingly diverse but unified in their use of cultural and historical narratives. As their collection has grown, so has their storehouse of memories of discovering new works of art, building friendships with artists, and conversing with museum professionals and other collectors in their home. The Davises have also continued to expose their collection to family, friends and church members who, while receptive to the fine arts, are unlikely to visit such local institutions as the High Museum of Art in Atlanta — prompting the artist Leon Nathaniel Hicks to refer to their residence as a museum in a home.

“Memories and Inspiration” brings together an awe-inspiring selection of works, but it is their personal resonance — their connection to the Davises’ hopes, passions and everyday lives — that gives the collection its unique power.

“Memories and Inspiration: The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art” was organized and toured by International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C.

Samella Lewis, “Field,” 1968,  
lithograph on paper.  
Photograph by Gregory Staley.

Sedrick Huckaby, “She Wore Her  
Family’s Quilt,” 2015, oil on canvas.  
Photograph by Gregory Staley.

### The Sculpture Walk Always Open, Always Free

Now more than ever we encourage you to enjoy the therapeutic benefits of being outdoors and invite you to visit the Appleton outdoor Sculpture Walk. Stroll the grounds to see five, large-scale works of public art among other small, ornamental works decorating the building and reflecting pool. Selfies are encouraged! To enhance your visit, download the Appleton mobile app to learn more about two of our outdoor sculptures, “Florida” by John Gamache and “Childhood Memories” by Mike Zeak.

The Appleton continues to fundraise for the next phase of Sculpture Walk design, which includes a brick walkway through the grassy terrain on the east side of the museum grounds, connecting several sculptures and creating a more accessible pathway for all visitors.

You can help by making a targeted donation in any amount or through the purchase of a commemorative brick (\$100), paver (\$250) or bench (\$5,000). Bricks, pavers and benches can be engraved with a message of your choice and are perfect for a commemorative dedication, showing your appreciation for the arts, or simply as a gift. To donate or purchase a brick, paver or bench, contact Victoria Billig, billigv@CF.edu, or 352-291-4455, ext. 1294.

#### ENHANCE YOUR VISIT

Planning to visit the Sculpture Walk? Download our free, award-winning mobile app to learn more about several of the Appleton’s outdoor sculptures, as well as artwork inside the museum.



Sally Rogers, “Messenger,” 1999,  
stainless steel, cast glass, granite, architectural bronze.  
Museum purchase with funds from the Florida Art in State Buildings Program.



# College of Central Florida APPLETON MUSEUM of Art

## 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

OUR MISSION: *The Appleton Museum of Art brings art and people together to inspire, challenge and engage present and future generations through our wide range of collections, exhibitions, programs and educational opportunities.*

### Director's Message



Over the past year, the Appleton Museum of Art delivered exceptional access to its world-class permanent art collections that span five millennia and welcomed

visitors to enjoy unique traveling exhibitions, innovative educational and outreach programs, and one-of-a-kind events. These wide-ranging activities and experiences reinforced the Appleton's strategic plan and continued to fortify our commitment to the communities we serve in order to connect them to arts and cultures from around the world and across time.

Traveling exhibitions like "Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism Through

the French Lens" and "Flamenco: From Spain to the U.S." allowed the museum to open up new engagement opportunities with local groups. With generous funding from Art Bridges, the Appleton connected children from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Marion County with local artist mentors, while the Maharajah Flamenco Trio lent their award-winning music to a unique performance video shared on the museum's website.

Accessibility to the Appleton expanded exponentially thanks to generous donors. "A Dickens Christmas: The Urban Family Holiday Exhibit" included a free day that enjoyed over 2,200 visitors while a new private donation provided free admission for all on the first Saturday of every month.

In mid-March, when the College of Central Florida closed due to COVID-19, the Appleton team reimagined how best to continue delivering art and opportunities to members and the public. Online content became our focus. Educational and

curatorial videos (nearly 60 already, with two new additions weekly) have expanded and revitalized our outreach abilities while new games and puzzles helped our home-bound community members have outlets to learn and create. The free, award-winning Appleton mobile app also provided additional platforms to teach and serve young and old alike. Although closed to visitors, the Appleton raised funds to hand-deliver thousands of art kits to local and regional community partners.

The Appleton team is proud to be part of the CF family and thankful for our leadership's vision to balance the health and safety of staff and visitors during these ever-changing times.

We look forward to welcoming you back now that our galleries have reopened to visitors.

  
Jason Steuber,  
Director, Appleton Museum of Art

# ACQUISITIONS



### Gift of Mrs. Carol B. Davenport in Memory of David W. Davenport

Tibetan painting on silk, *(image A)* mid 18th to 19th C. Ink and paint on silk, 45 x 31 1/2 in.

Bronze Buddhist seated figure, 19th C. Bronze, 3 1/4 x 1 3/4 x 1 1/4 in.

Indian bronze standing Shiva figure, 19th C. Bronze, 6 x 2 3/8 x 2 1/4 in.

Indian bronze figure of Shiva, 19th C. Bronze, 12 3/4 x 9 1/2 x 3 in.

Buddhist bronze figure, 19th C. Bronze, 4 3/4 x 3 1/2 x 2 in.

Indian bronze Krishna figure, 19th C. Bronze, 3 3/4 x 2 3/4 x 2 1/4 in.

### Gift of Norma Canelas Roth and William Roth

Los Carpinteros (Cuban, founded in 1991) "Sandalia" (Sandals), *(image B)* 2004. Cast rubber, ed. XXI/XXX, 12 3/4 x 5 3/4 x 2 1/2 in. each

### Gift of Roy Hunt

Pair of peacocks in a landscape, *(image C)* late 19th – early 20th C. Ink and pigment on paper, 76 5/8 x 24 3/4 in.

# EXHIBITIONS

### Special, Temporary Exhibitions

"Urban Chatter: Sharon Kerry-Harlan"  
May 27-Oct. 28, 2019

"Do Not Bleach: Stephanie Brown"  
May 27-Oct. 28, 2019

"Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism Through the French Lens"  
Nov. 2, 2019-Jan. 5, 2020

"Elements of Art: Youth Art Exhibit"  
Jan. 13-Feb. 9, 2020

"License Plate Tag Art: Youth Art Exhibit"  
Jan. 20-Feb. 16, 2020

"Flamenco: From Spain to the U.S."  
Jan. 25-May 24, 2020

"At Home and the World: Photographs by Billy Joe Hoyle"  
Jan. 25-June 21, 2020

"ARTS4ALL Florida: Youth Art Exhibit"  
Feb. 17-March 9, 2020

"Young in Art: Virtual Youth Art Exhibit"  
March 27-May 16, 2020

### Exhibitions from the Permanent Collection

"Art for the Afterlife: Funerary Objects from the Permanent Collection"  
Ongoing

"Visions of Florida: New Perspectives on the Sunshine State"  
Ongoing

"The Art of Adventure: Serigraphs by Clayton Pond"  
April 1-Ongoing

"The Heart's Yearning: Depictions of Romance and Courtship"  
Through June 30, 2020







### Events Throughout the Year

In fall 2019, a full schedule of multi-disciplinary programming celebrated the exhibition “Across the Atlantic: American Impressionism Through the French Lens.” Events included two talks by exhibition curator Scott Schweigert from the Reading Public Museum — one VIP talk for Appleton Director’s Circle members and another that was free to the public. One event from the annual four-part After Hours concert series featured a Marina Tucker String Quartet who played Impressionist-era music; those interested in the studio arts were able to choose from four special painting workshops that focused on the techniques of artists from the exhibition. A very special fundraiser dinner, “Feast Under the Stars,” showcased dancing, music and a four-course meal — all celebrating the delights of the 1890s.

In appreciation of Veteran’s Day, Chaplain (Col.) Janet Horton gave a free talk. Horton served in the Army for 28 years and during this time supervised religious support for Joint Task Forces in Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo. In observance of Florida’s Arbor Day, the Appleton collaborated with CF faculty on an annual event, this year with Rachel Slocumb, city of Ocala Water Resources Conservation coordinator, who gave a talk about the Ocala Wetland Recharge Park.

In January, the Appleton opened “Flamenco: From Spain to the U.S.” Exhibition curator Nicolasa Chávez from the Museum of International Folk Art entertained and educated the Director’s Circle with a flamenco demonstration and exhibition talk. The following day, another free talk



and performance was open to the public. In February, a Valentine’s Day party celebrated LOVE in All Languages, with cuisines from around the world.

### Giving Back

In 2019 and beginning of 2020, the Appleton provided outreach through free art activities and presentations to community members of all ages, serving 6,755 school youth, nonschool youth, adults and seniors. During this time, the Appleton received a generous private donation that allowed the museum to expand its First Saturday program, previously free for children, to a monthly event that is free for all to attend with special programming throughout the day. This free, monthly community day, which will continue in 2021, is in addition to four other free, annual community events held at the museum: Museum Day and Education Open House, Arthur I. Appleton’s Birthday, the Urban Family Holiday Event, and Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day.

Over the holidays, the Appleton partnered with local business TJM Promos to run a month-long shoe drive to benefit The Pearl Project, a nonprofit that provides services for foster and adoptive families. Shoes for children were collected in exchange for a one-year individual membership to the Appleton and a members’ only thermos donated by TJM. The community



responded in an overwhelmingly generous way and 364 pairs of new and like-new shoes were collected between the two sites. The Appleton reciprocated with 153 individual memberships.

In 2020, a grant from Art Bridges Foundation and funds provided by several private donors allowed the Appleton to assemble and distribute over 3,000 bags of art supplies, made free to community youth. Art kits were hand-delivered to Advent Health Ocala pediatric department, Arnette House, Bridge to Hope, Brother’s Keeper, Boys and Girls Club of Marion County, Kimberly’s Center, Ocala Domestic Violence Center, PACE Center for Girls, The Pearl Project, Social Services at St. Theresa, SoZo Kids and Transitions Life Center. Art kits were also distributed to students of eight public schools: Belleview Elementary, College Park Elementary, East Marion Elementary, Lecanto High School, Legacy Elementary, Marion Oaks Elementary, Reddick-Collier Elementary and Romeo Elementary.



**387 new memberships were received this year, and it was exceptionally positive for the Appleton’s upper-level Director’s Circle. 2019-2020 brought the Appleton’s first-ever Director’s Circle Sustainer Level membership (\$5,000). In addition, the Associate Level (\$250) realized an overall increase of over 13%.**

### Leveraging Technology and Online Engagement

Now, more than ever, engagement strategies and free learning opportunities must expand beyond the four walls of the museum. 2019-2020 brought significant leaps in the Appleton’s online presence and use of technology. Through a generous donation by Mary Brent Kraus, a free mobile app was created and launched with two tours of the collection — one for adults and one for children — as well as interviews with artists, and more. At the same time, staff continued to work on a new, soon-to-be-launched website.

COVID-19 and the temporary closure of the museum created an increased need for online programs and educational content. Without skipping a beat, the Appleton team moved its largest annual youth art exhibition online, created a weekly series of instructional art project videos for children called Teaching Tuesdays, and developed another weekly video series called Art Minutes, which each highlight a work of art from the permanent collection. Biweekly family game nights featured art- and culture-related BINGO and trivia, including collaborative game nights with the CF Student Life Department. Because of these initiatives, the museum’s social media channels (Facebook,

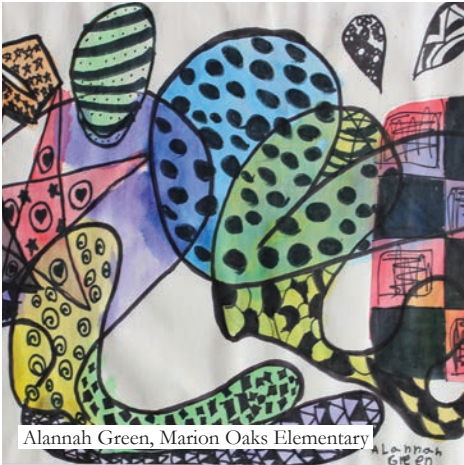
**“YOUNG IN ART” EXHIBITION**

This annual exhibition of work from Marion County Public School K-12 students was moved online this year in response to COVID-19. From March 27-May 16, one school per day was featured on Facebook.

**Total Reach: 64,654**  
**Total Likes: 2,445**  
**Total Engagements: 10,974**

Instagram, Twitter and YouTube) saw exponential growth and activity.

The mobile app expanded to become a central hub for many of these online activities. In addition to the tours, adults and children can now also enjoy the Teaching Tuesday videos, jigsaw and crossword puzzles, and other online games, regardless of where in the world they may live. During the temporary closure, beginning late March, over 300 unique users downloaded the app across the United States and abroad (Italy, England and Bangladesh), while it has been accessed nearly 1,000 times.



### 2019-2020 ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Scott Canel, principal, Scott Canel & Associates
- Diane Carter, Appleton family representative
- Albert Goodman, Appleton family representative
- Kent Guinn, Ocala mayor, ex officio
- Judy Johnson, retired attorney
- Mariann McClary, artist
- Ulli Monroe, business coach
- Sonya Nasser, attorney, realtor
- Anthony Ortiz, captain/fire marshal, City of Ocala

- Elodie Perron, restaurateur
- Susan Peters, retired teacher
- Linda Potter, Appleton family representative
- Brad Rogers, newspaper editor
- Phil Rosenberg, board member, CF Foundation
- Rich Schleicher, realtor, chair AMA Collections Committee
- Xochitl Smith, media specialist

### CF REPRESENTATIVES

- Dr. Jennifer Fryns, associate vice president, Career and Professional Programs

- Dr. James Henningsen, president
- Chris Knife, executive director, CF Foundation
- Chuck Prince, vice president, Administration and Finance
- Jason Steuber, director, Appleton Museum of Art
- Dr. Mark Paugh, vice president, Academic Affairs
- Dr. Jillian Ramsammy, vice president, Institutional Effectiveness and College Relations

