



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Unveiling Creativity: The Hilliard Art Museum Invites You to its Annual Spring Opening Reception on Feb. 2

Lafayette, La. - The Hilliard Art Museum is gearing up for a vibrant start to 2024 with its much-anticipated Spring Opening Reception. Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening as the museum unveils a captivating array of exhibits and events that promise to leave art enthusiasts and the community alike in awe.

"This is a can't miss reception for a must see exhibition," says Museum Interim Director and Curator Ben Hickey. "I'm grateful to the Hilliard Society Board for hosting our reception and Wildcat Brothers Distilling for sponsoring and providing a signature drink!"

The Spring Exhibition Opening Reception is Friday, Feb. 1, 2024. The member's reception is from 4-6 p.m., and the event is open to the general public from 6-8 p.m.

Immerse yourself in the world of art as the museum presents a diverse showcase featuring renowned local, regional, and national artists, including:

SITTING WITH GEORGE RODRIGUE

Exhibition Dates: January 27, 2024 — July 13, 2024

Sitting with George Rodrigue brings together a large selection of Rodrigue's best work, much of which has not been exhibited together before. This retrospective of one of Louisiana's preeminent painters and culture bearers is a must-see meant to secure the artist's legacy here in his home region of Acadiana.

EVERY / WHERE: BEILI LIU

Exhibition Dates: February 24, 2024 — August 17, 2024

Beili Liu creates site-specific installations in response to landscapes and their intersections with the social and cultural. The exhibition Every / Where will feature one of her early works and a more recent installation created as part of her Fulbright Arctic Chair Scholarship, a prestigious appointment given to one U.S. scholar annually. She is the Leslie Waggener Professor in the College of Fine Arts at The University of Texas at Austin.

FUNDAMENTO DE PALO MONTE: ANA MENDIETA

Exhibition Dates: March 09, 2024 — September 14, 2024

Ana Mendieta was a seminal twentieth-century Cuban-American artist known for her experimental performances. In this video from her Silueta Series (1973-1980), she uses her body to create art in conversation with different landscapes. In this five minute and fifty-five second film, the silhouette of Mendieta's body is filled with gunpowder and then set on fire. At the end, only a charred figure and the surrounding scorched earth remain as vessel for reflection on self and place. *Presented by Art Bridges.*

BENDING LINES: ROBERT WIGGS

Exhibition Dates: March 16, 2024 — September 28, 2024

Robert Wiggs was an important faculty member in the history of the Department of Visual Art at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He was a sculptor and educator who shaped the aesthetic agenda of Acadiana starting in 1965 when UL was still known as the University of Southwestern Louisiana. Wiggs is known for his unique brand of abstraction based on keen observations of the natural world. He retired in 1987, the same year he discovered the ninth all-space filling polyhedron he named the "Twist Octahedron." This exhibition derives its title from a documentary by Allison Bohl and Peter DeHart which, like the film, emphasizes Wiggs' urge to have fine art and science in dialog.

OTHER HAPPENINGS:

YOGA IN THE GALLERIES

DATES: Every second Saturday of the Month at 11:00 AM.

Join us for Yoga in the Galleries as we flow and enjoy the gallery space.

LET'S MAKE ART

DATES: Every third Saturday of the Month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

The Hilliard Art Museum is excited to offer monthly drop-in art making on the third Saturday of each month from 10 am-12 pm. Work with a local teaching artist to create an artwork inspired by the museum's current exhibitions.

Through the spring, enjoy Rodrigue inspired art activities!

Museum Hours, Admission & General Information

The Hilliard Art Museum is located at 710 E. Saint Mary Blvd. on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday. For general information, please visit HilliardMuseum.org or call 337-482-2278.

About the Hilliard Art Museum

Our Museum is a bridge. Our Museum is a catalyst. Our Museum is for everyone. We connect art and education, our university and our community, generations, heritage and

cultures. The Hilliard Art Museum-University of Louisiana at Lafayette is not just a place to look at art. It is a place where visitors are encouraged to truly see art. It is a place of learning, where students sketch in the galleries and artists talk about their work. It is a destination for families, where kids express their own creativity through hands-on activities. And it is a resource for academic research and observation. Museum experiences build skills that extend into every aspect of life. Viewing art promotes dialogue and understanding between individuals, among families, and throughout our community. Art makes life richer and better for everyone.

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