



McCLUNG MUSEUM
of Natural History and Culture

QUARTERLY

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Letter from the Director



With the retirement of Dr. Gary Crites, I am pleased that we have had a seamless transition in the Paleoethnobotany Laboratory. Dr. Kandi Hollenbach, a paleoethnobotanist and assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, has been named associate curator of the collections here at the museum which ensures continued research with this nationally significant collection.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Big Orange Give; with the match monies, gifts totaled \$30,454. Thanks too to all who give over the year and to our sponsors of exhibits, programs, and monthly openings.

I am especially excited about newly initiated intern program organized by Curator of Academic Programs Katy Malone. Seven undergraduate students are working with staff and receiving instruction in weekly seminars. This will hopefully lead to an established museum studies course with the School of Art.

The search for my successor is well along and we should have an announcement by the May 2019 quarterly newsletter.

Jefferson Chapman, Director

On the front cover: Ram Singh Urveti, *Woodpecker and the Ironsmith* (detail), 2011, acrylic on canvas, © 2015, Courtesy of BINDU modern Gallery, Photo credit: Sneha Ganguly.

Many Visions, Many Versions



Osama, 2010, Montu Chitrakar, natural dyes on paper glued to fabric, © 2015, Courtesy of BINDU modern Gallery, Photo credit: Sneha Ganguly.

The museum's newest special exhibition, *Many Visions, Many Versions: Art from Indigenous Communities in India*, opened on February 1.

The exhibition explores contemporary art from four major indigenous artistic traditions in India: the Gond and Warli communities of Central India, the Mithila region of Bihar, and the narrative scroll painters of Bengal. On loan from from private collections in the United States and Europe, the almost fifty paintings, drawings, and video offer a unique opportunity for viewers to learn about life and culture in India through these remarkable artworks.

The exhibition's thematic explorations of nature, myth and cosmology, village life, and contemporary life demonstrate the shared cultural features and contemporary concerns of these four communities, while emphasizing the diversity of their artists' unique expressive forms, techniques, and styles.

From painter-singer communities called *Chitrakar* who produce scroll paintings with stories meant to be sung aloud, to Gond, Warli, and Mithila artists who have moved their paintings from house walls to canvases, the artists demonstrate how traditional forms of art have been adapted to contemporary mediums and social and political concerns.

Exhibition programming will include a Family Day on March 30, and a Stroller Tour on April 8, and lectures. See tiny.utk.edu/mvmv for more information.

Many Visions, Many Versions is curated by Drs. Aurogeeta Das and David Szanton with assistance from consulting curator Jeffrey Wechsler, and is organized by BINDU modern Gallery, and toured by International Arts & Artists (IA&A), Washington, D.C. The exhibition comes to the McClung Museum with support from the Aletha and Clayton Brodine Museum Fund, First Tennessee Foundation, and UT's Ready for the World.



Marisha Jha, *The Jackfruit Tree (Tree of Life Series)*, 2012, acrylic and ink on canvas, © 2015, Courtesy of BINDU modern Gallery, Photo credit: Sneha Ganguly.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

To learn about how you can provide for the museum in your estate plans, contact us at 865-974-2143 or museum@utk.edu.



*As alumni of the university,
we have been so impressed
by the significant developments
that the museum has made over
the years.*

*Our hope is that our
unrestricted planned gift
to the museum will allow
for its continued future growth.*

– Russ ('60) and Florence ('60) Johnston

Pop Up Museum with Brian Ambroziak



A student admiring concept drawings at the College of Architecture + Design.

The McClung Museum's Academic Programs has embarked on an exciting new collaboration with UT's College of Architecture + Design. This spring semester, students led by faculty member Brian Ambroziak will develop and pitch designs for the McClung's first ever Pop-Up Museum.

A pop-up museum is a mobile, defined space that exists outside of a traditional museum. They allow for makeshift exhibitions, exploration, and dialogue anywhere, anytime. Pop-up museums serve to reimagine the ways in which a museum can become a vital, participatory place. They do so, in part, by going against expectations and preconceived notions about what a museum might be.

UT's architecture students are conceptualizing such a mobile museum for the McClung. The result will be physically inviting and engaging, drawing inspiration from inflatables and word clouds. The malleability of the design will allow it to go anywhere in Knoxville, inspiring interaction in a way by bringing the open spirit of the McClung out into the community, beyond our traditional walls.

While the McClung's Pop-Up Museum will change topics and themes to suite the McClung's many diverse exhibitions, the debut will draw inspiration from *Many Visions, Many Versions* as chosen the UT Indian Student Association, Manthan and the Lambda Theta Alpha Sorority. They have elected to celebrate global journeys since many international students venture to the United States for school.

The Pop-up Museum is scheduled to launch on campus on April 17, 2019.

New Acquisition: Peacock Panel

The museum recently acquired one of a pair of carved red sandstone panels depicting a peacock within a cusped *mihrab* arch—the *mihrab* is a niche in the wall that indicates the direction of Mecca, towards which Muslims pray. The focal point on the panel is a magnificent peacock with a snake in its mouth. The peacock, the national bird of India, is associated with the Hindu gods Sara Swati and Lord Krishna. Originally, the panel was part of a pair that formed part of a sandstone façade of a grand Mughal pavilion in northern India, though it is not known where the pavilion was located.

From the 17th to the 18th centuries, the Mughal empire favored a new style of artistic production that combined elements of Islamic and Persian art and architecture, including ornately carved sandstone architectural features and vegetal decorations.

The piece was acquired through the Ardath and Joel E. Rynning Acquisitions Fund, which was established in 2012, and is dedicated to the purchase of ornithological-related art.



Peacock panel, 18th Century, Northern India (Delhi/Agra region?), Red sandstone, Museum purchase, Ardath and Joel E. Rynning Acquisitions Fund, 2018.11.

Community Engagement

Where Art Meets Healing

To respond to a patient's needs, a nurse must often employ fast, thorough observation skills. To help develop those skills, the McClung Museum has piloted a new partnership with UT's College of Nursing undergraduate program. Through slow looking exercises with artwork from the McClung's collections, pre-professional nurses are strengthening their visual literacy and sharpening the ability to avoid snap judgments. This program has been added to an already-successful partnership with Nursing through which PhD candidates utilize the museum's exhibitions to practice rooting out research biases.



Festive Collaboration with Clarence Brown Theatre

December's family day at the McClung celebrated a holiday-themed afternoon in partnership with Clarence Brown Theatre (CBT). The event welcomed cast members from *A Christmas Carol* production, who delighted visitors with musical performances and encouraged them to sing along with the group. Through storytelling, presentations, displays, and crafts the program aimed to highlight the ways in which museums and the performing arts work as stewards of cultural heritage. This collaboration was an exciting opportunity for the public to experience the wealth of the arts and culture community at UT in a single event. We look forward to more collaborations with CBT in the future!

Looking Forward Through Mentorship

As an academic institution, the McClung's staff strives to help shape the future of the museum profession. To do so, this semester saw the launch of a renewed, robust internship program that builds upon past successes and the museum's strong reputation. Seven undergraduate students are working alongside staff members to get hands-on experience in development, marketing, design, collections management, and curation. Each week the interns also gather to learn from across the McClung's offices and visit sister institutions to get a full picture of how museums work from the inside out.



In the Spotlight: Gary Crites



Gary Crites, curator of paleoethnobotany, retired in January 2019. Gary joined the museum in 1991 and over the next 27 years curated and researched archaeological plant remains from virtually every region of eastern North America with a focus on prehistoric human ecology, the evolution of domesticated prehistoric native plants, and the rise of prehistoric agriculture.

Most recently he has been analyzing and dating prehistoric domesticated beans from Tennessee. Also as part of his research, Gary has planted and maintained gardens with heirloom and Native American plants at various locales on UT's campus. In 1997, Gary shared his knowledge in a museum exhibition *Harvesting the Past: Plants and People in Prehistoric Tennessee*. He is the author of numerous publications and often shared his passion with presentations to the public. To honor Gary, his study space in the museum has been designated the Gary D. Crites Paleoethnobotany Laboratory.

In Memoriam: Mickey Mallonee



If you have attended any of the museum's fundraisers or special events, than you appreciated the dedication and elegant touch of Mickey Mallonee, who had served on the museum's board since 2012. The museum expresses its sincere gratitude for her service and its sadness for the loss of Mickey, who died on November 19, 2018.

Mickey was known across Knoxville and Tennessee for her work as the director of the Arts Council of Greater Knoxville, and for her work coordinating 700+ events a year with the City of Knoxville as the Special Events Director for Mayors Ashe and Haslam.

Mickey loved Knoxville, and devoted countless hours to the museum and other arts and community organizations—her warmth and expertise will be sorely missed by all at the McClung.

—Jeff Chapman, Museum Director



Civil War Lecture Series

The ninth annual McClung Museum Civil War Lecture Series will be held once a month on Sundays at 2 pm in the museum auditorium. McClung Museum Civil War Curator, Joan Markel will shed light on the individual lives of Knoxvilleans involved in the war.

For more info see mcclungmuseum.edu/events

Summer Camps 2019

Art, science, and dinos, oh my!

It's almost time for summer camps at the McClung. Age groups start as young as two years old. Check back in March for dates and details.

For PreK-campers

- Jurassic Kids (2-3 year olds with caregiver)
- Dino Explorers (4-5 year olds)

For Kindergarteners – 7 year olds

- Art Camp

For 8 – 10 year olds

- Fossil Camp



People and Events



A. Upcoming Event. Lark Mason '77 (right), UT alumnus, frequent PBS' *Antiques Roadshow* guest expert and friend of the museum, and his wife Erica Mason will host a reception for UT alums at their home in New Braunfels, TX on March 28. For more information, please contact Stacy Palado at 865-974-2143.



B. Holiday Volunteer Luncheon. Charlie Faulkner honors former student and museum retiree Gary Crites during the museum's annual holiday luncheon for museum staff and volunteers.



C. K-12 STEM Event at Hardin Valley. Graduate student Chris Allen talks to elementary students about Archaeology.

D. EST8TE Sip and Shop Event. Tyra Haag [left] poses with Nell Brewington, EST8TE shop owner, at the museum's holiday Sip n' Shop event in November. A portion of event sales were donated to the museum's free outreach programs.



Spring Sale
April 15-21

10% off all items
(20% for members)



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MUSEUM
STORE**



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**McClung Museum of
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1327 Circle Park Drive
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Event Calendar

February

2/5 AIA Lecture, "The Specialized Roman City"
2/11 Stroller Tour: Just Bead It
2/16 Family Day: Darwin Day
2/17 Civil War Lecture Series: "The Lawyers"
2/28 AIA Lecture, "Floods of the Tiber in Ancient Rome"

March

3/11 Stroller Tour: Roman Soldiers
3/30 Family Day: Journey to India Festival
3/31 Civil War Lecture Series: "The Financiers"

April

4/4 Lecture: Arundhati Katju
4/8 Stroller Tour: Expressions of Nature
4/15 - 4/20 Museum Store Spring Sale
4/17 Debut: Pop Up Museum
4/21 Museum Closed
4/28 Civil War Lecture Series: "The Common Man"

THANK YOU!

234%
of our \$13,000
goal met!

Big **ORANGE**
GIVE

Upcoming Museum Closures

A reminder that the museum will be closed on
April 21.

All qualified applicants will receive equal consideration for employment and admissions without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status. In accordance with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, The University of Tennessee affirmatively states that it does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or disability in its education programs and activities, and this policy extends to employment by the University. Inquiries and charges of violation of Title VI (race, color, and national origin), Title IX (sex), Section 504 (disability), ADA (disability), Age Discrimination in Employment Act (age), sexual orientation, or veteran status should be directed to the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED), 1840 Melrose Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37996-3560, telephone 865-974-2498. Requests for accommodation of a disability should be directed to the ADA Coordinator at the Office of Equity and Diversity. A project of the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture with assistance from the UT Office of Communications and Marketing. PAN E01-1006-005-19.