

McCLUNG MUSEUM
of Natural History and Culture

QUARTERLY

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Letter from the Director



It is with great excitement that the McClung Museum announces its fifth director, Claudio Gómez. Claudio has a storied history working in museums, most recently as the director of the National Museum of Natural History in Santiago, Chile. You can read more about his career below and look for events and opportunities to meet him. Claudio will begin this Fall and I will remain director until that time.

The summer has been a beehive of activity beginning with the opening of *Debut: Recent Acquisitions* and four camp sessions for 2- to 10-year-olds. In addition to family programs, the museum has been experimenting with new adult programming, including a Preservation Party and a film screening. Renovation is occurring for the installation of a Laboratory of Environmental Archaeology that will engage faculty and students both on and off campus, and the museum's collections storage continues to be upgraded.

Visit and support the museum. I am leaving it in good hands.

Jefferson Chapman, Director

On the front cover: A detail of an image from the upcoming exhibition, *Science in Motion. Daisy Canterring, Saddled*, plate no. 616, from *Animal Locomotion: An Electro-Photographic Investigation of Consecutive Phases of Animal Movements, 1872–1885*, 1887, Eadweard Muybridge (English, 1830–1904), collotype Bank of America Collection.

Announcing the New Director, Claudio Gómez



Claudio Gómez will join the McClung Museum as its fifth director, and the first Jefferson Chapman Executive Director this fall.

He has served as director of Chile's National Museum of Natural History since 2007, Gómez oversaw a 140 percent increase in visitors to the museum—the largest increase for a public museum in the country. He led a renovation that included nearly 24,000 square feet of new exhibits focused on Chile's indigenous peoples and ecosystems, oversaw the first mobile app developed for a Chilean museum, and his museum was the first in South America to allow free downloads of 3D digital models of objects in its collections.

Gómez has extensive professional experience in both Chile and the United States, where he earned a master's degree in public administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. He previously earned a bachelor's degree in social anthropology from the Universidad de Chile in 1990. Gómez has been professionally affiliated with the American Alliance of Museums since 1997 and has served as a research fellow at the National Museum of Natural History and as a Lampadia Fellow at the National Gallery of Art, both in Washington, DC.

"I am deeply honored to be named the executive director of the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture," Gómez said. "The McClung Museum is a great cultural and educational resource in East Tennessee, and I am thrilled to join its team so we can work together to increase its impact in the communities it serves, as well as find and develop new audiences that can be reached with current and potential new activities."

He and his wife Paulina, have two children, Javier and Valentina, who will be moving to Knoxville. We will keep our members and supporters posted as welcome events are planned for the fall.

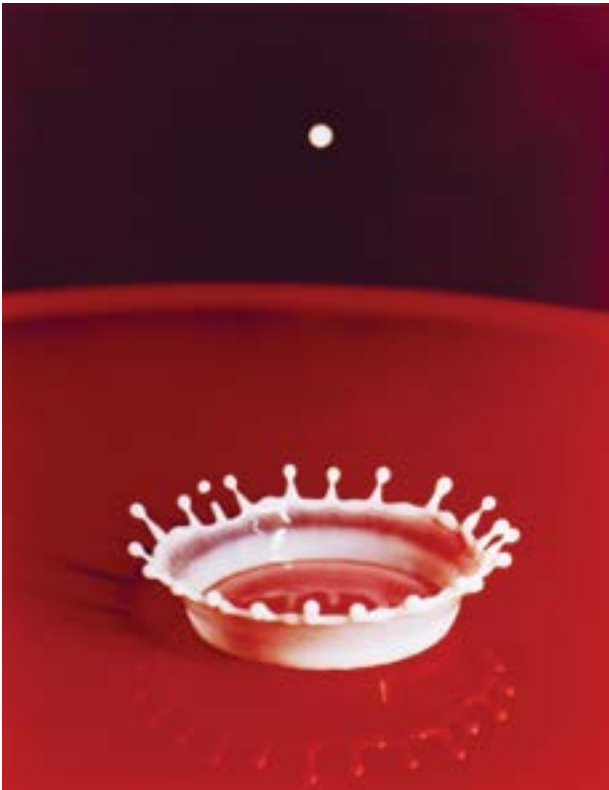
Security guard Matthew Esselburn has been with the museum since the spring of 1995.



Support Free Admission

Your membership dollars pay to keep a uniformed police officer in the museum at all times allowing us to keep the museum open 7 days a week, 356 days a year. To learn more, contact us at 865-974-2143 or museum@utk.edu

SPECIAL EXHIBITION: *Science in Motion*



Milk Drop Coronet, 1957 negative; printed 1977, Harold Edgerton (American, 1903 – 1990), Color coupler print, Bank of America Collection.

The exhibition *Science in Motion: The Photographic Studies of Eadweard Muybridge, Berenice Abbott and Harold Edgerton*, features thirty-six photographs by these pioneering photographers. It opens to members on September 19.

The show is loaned to the museum through the Bank of America Art in our Communities® program, and explores how Muybridge, Abbott, and Edgerton's photographic experiments forged a reciprocal relationship between art and science that continues to this day.

They each began their photographic careers in different manners: Muybridge as an experimenter in early processes, Edgerton as a scientist, and Abbott as an artist. However, they all went on to illuminate photography's role as a new way of seeing the world.

Visitors will find familiar images in the show such as Muybridge's famous studies of horses trotting, but will also learn about some of the more obscure aspects of the work, including the inventions pioneered by Abbott and Edgerton that allowed for the study of light and motion. Each photographer pushed the limits of the medium artistically, allowing the public to see what was previously unseen.

New types of exhibition programming will explore the connection between science and photography, including a series of curated early motion picture and contemporary film shorts acknowledging Muybridge's role as the "father of early film," and a panel discussion about "seeing the unseeable" between physicists and artists, including Family programming, a Family Day and Stroller Tour is scheduled.

Save the date for the members' opening on Thursday, September 19, and for more information, visit tiny.utk.edu/scienceinmotion.

New Acquisition

Through the generosity of Jane Breunig and her late husband, Frank J. Breunig, Jr., the museum recently acquired a gift of eleven Native American and African objects.

The objects, ranging from a bear mask by noted Cherokee carver, Adam Welch, to a series of Asante gold weights and figures from Ghana, fill gaps in our arts and culture collections in contemporary Native art, as well as West African art.

The aforementioned Cherokee mask is currently on display in the special exhibition *Debut: Recent Acquisitions*, and many of the other acquisitions will be used for teaching in various university classes this fall.

Jane Breunig says that her husband "always had a passion for history and I believe he would have wished to be a history teacher given the chance. His main interest in leaving this collection to the museum is that it will be used to teach and inspire students for many years to come."



Figures play the game, *mancala*, in this Asante gold weight. Guyana, Africa, Asante peoples, brass, Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Breunig, Jr., 2019.9.5.

Community Engagement

New Preservation Parties are Launched

The McClung and UT's Special Collections Library are collaborating on a series called the Preservation Parties over the next several months. These light-hearted programs will introduce our adult audiences to techniques for archiving and preserving personal memorabilia. For the first event on August 8th, the Libraries' Preservation Technician, Amanda Richards, will show guests how to care for precious textiles. The theme was inspired by the conservation efforts that restored some textiles in the exhibition, *Debut*. "Textile-philes" can learn from a demonstration, while enjoying libations from the cash bar. Additional Preservation Parties will be offered in the fall and spring.



Cultivating the Next Generation of Museum Supporters

It has been four years since the launch of the museum's summer camps for younger visitors. Many campers have continued their engagement with the museum through our stroller tours, homeschool lessons, and cultural festival programs. This year, *Art Masters* highlighted the summer exhibition *Debut*. Children learned about the role of museums in protecting art while creating exciting projects inspired by the objects on view. Registration for this program has more than doubled in the past two years—an exciting development as programming continues to bring attention to the McClung's wonderful fine arts collections and expands its audience.

McClung Pilots "Archaeology in a Box" Program

This summer, Associate Curator of Paleoethnobotany, Kandi Hollenbach, is leading a field school through the Department of Anthropology at UT's Cherokee Farm. She is targeting 2,000 year-old deposits that will hopefully yield native cultigens like goosefoot (*Chenopodium berlandieri*) and maygrass (*Phalaris caroliniana*). She is also teaming with Leslie Chang Jantz, the museum's Curator of Education, Pickett State Park rangers, and Emma Wiley from the museum's Student Advisory Board, to develop an "archaeology in a box" program.

With funding from a UT Community Engagement Incentive Grant, this program will bring local archaeology to families and classrooms in Pickett and Fentress counties, with plans to expand it to other areas of the state.



In the Spotlight: Darlene Libbey



Darlene Hensley-Libbey joined the museum as the shop manager in 2018. She received her MFA from UT's College of Art and a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Libbey is a former associate professor of art at Somerset Community College, Somerset, Kentucky. She is a practicing artist, and maintains a studio at Studios North in the Fourth & Gill neighborhood. Stop by the Museum Shop and say hello.

Right: One of Darlene's paintings. *Untitled*, from the *Community* series, 2018, oil on canvas, 36" x 24".



Visions of the End Sponsorship Opportunities



The upcoming exhibition, *Visions of the End* brings together medieval European artwork from various prestigious museums for an in-depth exploration into apocalyptic imagery. The 2020 exhibition is a collaboration between the museum, the School of Architecture, the Department of History, and The Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

Sponsorships start at \$1,000.

For more information or to make a contribution, please contact Stacy Palado at 865-974-2143 or spalado@utk.edu.

St. John on Patmos Writing Down His Visions of the Apocalypse, c. 1400–1405
Workshop of the Virgil Master. Made in Paris, France. Free Library of Philadelphia, Lewis E M 8:13a-d.

The McClung Museum Store is dedicated to supporting local artists & the university community.

We are pleased to offer pieces by Paris Woodhull who is a Knoxville-born illustrator and 2017 UT alumna.



People and Events



A. De-stressing UT's Students. McClung's Academic Programs worked with the UT Libraries and Hard Knox Pizza to help students "De-stress for Success" during spring semester finals week. Students drew, colored, and doodled on a community "mosaic" and munched on free pizza to relax during an otherwise tense time.



B. Jefferson Chapman Endowed Directorship Dinner. Jeff and Vicki Chapman gathered with friends and museum supporters on June 20 to celebrate his almost thirty-year tenure as director and to raise funds for the Jefferson Chapman Endowed Directorship.



C. Film Screening: 306 Hollywood.

This semester, guests enjoyed the acclaimed 2018 documentary, *306 Hollywood*. This tender film explored the power of personal archiving and memories. The film was shown to compliment the exhibition *Debut* and celebrate the importance of collections and preservation.

D. Debut Opening.

Members enjoy Emmy Lingscheit's lithograph and screenprint *Lapse*, 2014, at the exhibition opening for *Debut: Recent Acquisitions*.



Student Spotlight: Matt Hensley



Graduate student Matt Hensley, who works with the education team, began his assistantship at the McClung in the fall of 2018. Matt is a doctoral candidate in social and science education at the College of Education.

We asked Matt what he has learned in his role at the McClung thus far and he comments:

"I've learned that museums are really 'hopping' places, which I think might be surprising to the general public and educators. Museums are very fast-paced working environments in that we are constantly researching and learning new information about permanent exhibits, as well as temporary exhibits. There is so much work that goes on behind the scenes. The list is endless. I have [also] learned that the McClung, in particular, is a great academic resource, especially for PK-12 educators."

We are delighted to have Matt as a team member, his enthusiasm for teaching and programming is contagious!



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Natural History & Culture**

1327 Circle Park Drive
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Event Calendar

August

8/8 Preservation Party: *Textile-Phile*
8/12 Stroller Tour: *Spread Your Wings*
8/24 Family Day: *Map It*
8/29 Game Day at the McClung

September

9/2 Museum closed for Labor Day
9/16 Stroller Tour
9/19 Exhibition Opening, *Science in Motion*
9/21 Family Day
9/24 Panel: *Beyond Sight and Motion: The Intersections of Contemporary Technology, Art, and Physics*

October

10/6 Can You Dig It? Archaeology and Fossil Day
10/10 Film Screening, *Silents in Motion*, in the Hodges Library Auditorium
10/14 Stroller Tour

Look for your
next newsletter
in January 2020.

Upcoming Museum Closures

A reminder that the museum will be closed
Labor Day, September 2.

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