

Having a Ball:

George Sosnak's Striking Portraits from America's Pastime

On view March 1 through July 22



George Sosnak (American, 1924–1992) *Hank Aaron, Hall of Fame (unfinished)* 1991. India ink on manufactured baseball. On loan courtesy of a private collector. Photo by Ed Pollard, Chrysler Museum of Art photographer

One of the most beloved and best known folk art painters of baseball, George Sosnak (1924–1992) was a lifelong, passionate fan of the game. He parlayed his enthusiasm for the sport into two concurrent careers: first as a Minor League umpire, and eventually as an artist, meticulously painting baseballs decorated with the images and arcane statistics so dear to fans of the game.

Sosnak was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where from an early age he collected autographs from his hometown Pirates. After serving abroad in the Army late in World War II, he returned to the States and enrolled in umpire school in Florida, where he was based for the remainder of his life. Eventually settling in Lakeland, Sosnak umpired in the Pioneer and Florida State Leagues (among others), and supplemented his income with other jobs.

When asked how he began painting, Sosnak—who had no artistic training—liked to tell the story that when he was an umpire in the 1950s, a young fan asked him for a portrait of her favorite player on a ball. This interaction began an almost 40-year career, largely avocational, of producing colorful and increasingly intricate, themed baseballs. Some celebrated particular moments, some honored legendary players, and others marked championship teams. Occasionally, Sosnak would decorate a two-dimensional format like correspondence or drawings with his appealing images. In the end, Sosnak is thought to have begun some 3,000 baseballs, and to have finished about 800. *Having a Ball* includes 57 George Sosnak artworks – 47 baseballs and 10 works on paper.

Having a Ball: George Sosnak's Striking Portraits from America's Pastime was organized by the Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk, Virginia.

Inspired by Nature:

Vases, Birds, & Flowers

On view March 9 through July 22



Image credit: Betty Woodman (American, 1930–2018), *Sensuous Triptych*, 2000. Glazed earthenware, epoxy resins, lacquer, and paint. Tampa Museum of Art, Museum Purchase through the bequest of Julia M. Flom, 2001.011.a–c

From antiquity through the present day, artists and craftsmen have found inspiration in the flora, fauna, and other forms of the natural world. For many artists, the vase in particular has lent itself to flourishes borrowed from nature, often together with – or in the form of – flowers and birds. While the forms and functions of the resulting artworks vary widely, from emulations to adaptations, and from aesthetic beauty to utilitarian purpose, all share a common inspiration worth exploring more closely. From the embrace of natural forms by artists associated with Art Nouveau – a movement only recently reconnected by scholars to the classical tradition – to more complex representations of vases, birds, and flowers by post-war and contemporary artists, *Inspired by Nature* will illustrate the beauty and vitality of the natural world alongside its many uncertainties.

Drawn primarily from the Museum's permanent collection, the exhibition will include more than two dozen artworks from a variety of media and time periods, in two dimensions and three. Of particular interest is *Sensuous Triptych* (2000) by Betty Woodman, a prominent American ceramicist whose recent passing prompted renewed attention to her work here in Tampa. Brightly painted and made of fired clay, with elements of painting, drawing, sculpture, and more, her work defies categorization. And just as its three pieces come together as one, the front sides and back sides communicating with one another, so too will the larger whole engage in dialogue with so many other vases, birds, and flowers displayed nearby.

Cover Image: George Sosnak (American, 1924–1992) *Yogi Berra*, 1980s. India ink on manufactured baseball. On loan courtesy of a private collector. Photo by Ed Pollard, Chrysler Museum of Art photographer

In the news

Tampa Museum of Art's Seth Pevnick Named the Samuel H. Kress/AAMC Foundation Affiliated Fellow at the American Academy in Rome



Image Credit: Photo Courtesy of Tampa Bay Times

The Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC) & AAMC Foundation have announced Seth Pevnick as the recipient of the 2018 Samuel H. Kress Foundation / AAMC Affiliated Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome (AAR). Seth Pevnick, Chief Curator and Richard E. Perry Curator of Greek and Roman Art, Tampa Museum of Art / Cornelia Corbett Center in Tampa, Florida has been awarded the Fellowship to further his work on his forthcoming exhibition *Lions and Heroes in the Classical World*.

Launched in 2014, the Fellowship provides a four-week appointment, including housing at the American Academy in Rome (AAR), for curators to develop projects that require research in Italy. The Program, supported by The Samuel H. Kress Foundation, offers a focused opportunity to advance research and exhibition development abroad.

Lions and Heroes in the Classical World will be the first major museum exhibition to explore the millennia-long connections between lions and the greatest demigods of classical antiquity. Just as Homeric similes compare the best ancient Greek warriors at Troy to lions, many of the finest works of Greek, Roman, and Etruscan art connect lions and heroes. Although Herakles (or Hercules/Hercle) is most famous in this regard, numerous historical figures also donned lion skins and adorned their temples and tombs with representations of the king of beasts.

Misc.

Gasparilla Festival of the Arts Happenings

March 3 & 4

Pay-as-you-will-admission during GFA weekend and fun art activities at the children's tent located in Curtis Hixon Park. The only cost is a curious mind.



Concessions Mean Business for TMA FRIENDS GROUP

Come wet your whistle and get your grub on with the Friends of the Museum.

Stop by the Gasparilla Festival of the Arts Concession stands located throughout the Festival and support the Tampa Museum of Art. A Portion of all concession sales supports TMA!



Teen Open Studio

Spring Break, March 12-16

Teens with an interest in building their artistic skills are invited to join local area artists in an open studio at the Tampa Museum of Art. Come to one workshop or join us for all five. Themes, artists, and registration information available on our website.

SAVE THE DATE Pride & Passion

Sponsored by:



Join us for the 13th annual Pride & Passion!

Strange Beauty | April 14, 2018

A Surrealist Headdress Ball. For details, visit PridePassionArt.org.

Come see the 4th annual Pride Parade!

Saturday, March 24 | Festivities begin at 10a in Ybor City

Join the celebration and stop by the Pride & Passion booth to get your tickets in advance.



The 5th Annual GASP performing arts event

Friday, March 16 | 6-10p

Creative Loafing's fifth annual GASP!, presented by Tampa International Airport, is a performing arts event like no other — a kaleidoscopic circus of theater, dance, music, spoken word, visual art, soundscapes, cabaret, and more!

Museum members receive \$10 off tickets.

Visit <https://www.xorbia.com/events/citampa/gasp/> for tickets and more information.




New Exhibition Previews

Having a Ball: George Sosnak's Striking Portraits from America's Pastime and Inspired by Nature: Vases, Birds, & Flowers

Patron Preview Reception*
Thursday, March 8, 6-8p

**Member Morning Preview Reception
Networking with the Arts**
Friday, March 9, 8-11a

*For Patron Members only

Sponsored by: 

Special Programs

Thirty on Thursday

Thursday, March 22, 12:30p

Join us for a special demonstration by artist, Rob Tarbell, on the South Terrace. Featured in *Claudia Ryan and Rob Tarbell: Skyway Curators' Choice*, Rob will demonstrate and discuss his unique smoke drawing technique. RSVP at Education@TampaMuseum.org.

Fourth Friday

Friday, March 23, 4-10p

Kick off your evening on the town at the Museum as we join cultural institutions along Tampa's Riverwalk in celebrating Downtown Tampa's rich arts and culture scene. Enjoy pay-as-you-will admission throughout the night and free scheduled gallery activities. Check in at the front desk for activity start times. Enjoy Sono Café's tapas menu, dinner feature and complimentary hors d'oeuvres, then take your beverage with you to explore the Riverwalk!



Ongoing Exhibitions

The Classical World

Ongoing

Red-Figure Hydria (Water Jar) Attributed to the Harrow Painter Greek, Attic, ca. 470 BC Ceramic. Tampa Museum of Art, Joseph Veach Noble Collection, purchased in part with funds donated by Mr. and Mrs. James L. Ferman, Jr., 1986.070



The Classical World in Focus: Animals in Ancient Art

On view through June 2018

Ram, 3rd century AD. Cast bronze. Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, Gift of Family Lansburgh, Classes of 1949, 1977, 1988, S.2000.52



Made in Tampa: Selections from the Permanent Collection, from the 1970s to Now

On view through April 15, 2018

Theo Wujcik (American, 1936-2014), *Neunen*, 1986. Acrylic and paper collage on canvas. Tampa Museum of Art, gift given in memory of Charles Parkhill Lykes by his daughter, Genevieve Lykes Dimmitt, 1998.037.a-b. © Theo Wujcik Estate.



Additional support provided by TMS of South Tampa

Elisabeth Condon and Bruce Marsh: Skyway Audience Choice

On view through April 1, 2018

Last chance

LEFT: Bruce Marsh, *Figure Study*, 2017. Oil on linen, 36 x 72 in. Courtesy of the artist.
RIGHT: Elisabeth Condon, *Street Noise*, 2016. Acrylic and glitter on linen, 54 x 72 in.

Courtesy of the artist and Emerson Dorsch Gallery, Miami, FL.



Claudia Ryan and Rob Tarbell: Skyway Curators' Choice

On view through April 1, 2018

Last chance

LEFT: Claudia Ryan, *wall eyed*, 2017. Oil on canvas, 60" x 60". Courtesy of the artist.
RIGHT: Rob Tarbell, *Anna*, 2016. Smoke on canvas, 60 x 40 x 2 in. Courtesy of the artist.



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Bank of America, City of Tampa, Fifth Third Private Bank, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Kimmins Contracting Corp., Lightning Foundation, PNC Bank, Regions Bank, Tampa Bay Sports Commission, Tampa Museum of Art Foundation, Third Lake Capital, TECO Energy, and Wells Fargo.

Ongoing Education Programs

 Tampa Museum of Art



Art Spot Saturdays, 11a-2p

Join us and let your imagination run free as our art facilitators introduce exhibition-specific methods of art making filled with fun and creativity for you and yours. Make sure to visit every week because no two Saturdays are alike.

March 3: Join us at the GFA Children's Activity Tent in Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park

March 10: Studio Sky/Dual Images

March 17: Texture Roller Printing

March 24: All ages show - Rock and Roll Collaboration

March 31: Saff Scratch Art

Monday Meditation

 Mondays, March 5, 12, 26 | 5:45-6:45p

Join the Museum and Kadampa Meditation Center Tampa Bay for a short, after-work meditation class. All levels of meditators welcome. No registration required. Cost per class is \$10 per person.

Summer Art Camp: Registration Open!

Get ready for the summer art-making fun! Summer Art Camp registration opens for all on March 3. Visit TampaMuseum.org/TMAstudio for camp schedules and registration information.

Education and Community Programs are made possible by: Bank of America, Community Foundation of Tampa Bay, Corbett Family Foundation, Frankle Family Foundation, Gobioff Foundation, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, Las Damas de Arte, Lightning Foundation, Morrison Grove Foundation, New York Yankees Tampa Foundation, Regions Bank, Tampa Museum of Art Foundation, T.Rowe Price, TECO Energy, and USAA.

Connections

Open Session for Veterans and Active Duty Military

Thursday, March 15, 5:30p

Veterans and Active Duty Military are invited to join us for an hour and a half of social engagement and conversations at the Museum. Join other military personnel and their loved ones as you explore artwork through facilitated conversations. Guests are invited to bring a family member or friend to share in the experience.

Connections is a free program. Advanced registration is required for all sessions. Light snacks provided by Sono Café. Connections sessions take place for different audiences every month. Next month, the Museum invites Alzheimer's, dementia, and memory care patients and their loved ones to join us!

Advanced registration is required for all sessions. Private group sessions also available. Register at: <https://tampamuseum.wufoo.com/forms/connections/>. Registrants' names are held confidential.

Connections Sponsors

Connections is presented in partnership with the USF Honors College and is generously sponsored in part by the Frankle Family Foundation, the Gobioff Foundation, Regions Bank, the Tampa Museum of Art Foundation in Memory of Jean Divers, the Tampa Bay Foundation for Mental Health, and TMS of South Tampa.

SPONSORED BY:



TMA Studio Registration Term 1 Session 2: Now Open!

Courses begin the week of March 5

Join us for studio art courses inspired by our special exhibitions! Experience our engaging small classes taught by professional teachers and active artists in the Tampa Bay community. Tampa Museum of Art studio courses are presented in partnership with Hillsborough County.

Session 2 multi-week classes include:

Oil Pastel Exploration, Pursuit in Printmaking, and Jewelry for Beginners.

Session 2 one-day workshops include:

Calligraphy and Open Drawing Studio.

Pre-registration is required for all studio program offerings. Visit TampaMuseum.org/TMAstudio for class descriptions, teachers, required materials lists and to register. For more information, contact us via email at Studio@TampaMuseum.org or call 813.421.8385. Stay tuned for future updates on classes in Term 2 (May-August) and Term 3 (September-December).