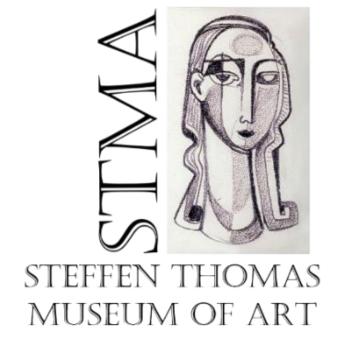


Fishers of Men, ca.1978, Oil, asphalt and fluorescent paint on screen window, ID # 1651 STMAPC



Annual Report

FY2021

Our Mission

The Mission of the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art is to provide an opportunity to engage, to learn, and to be inspired through Steffen's life, art, and legacy.

The Museum fulfills this mission by using its large permanent collection of the artist's sculpture, paintings, mosaics, ceramics, furniture, works on paper, personal papers and artifacts documenting his life. Specifically, the Collection is used to demonstrate creative artistic expression, enable people of all ages to discover and develop their own talents, as well as achieve a deeper understanding of themselves and the connection of humankind with the environment and other living beings.

The Steffen Thomas Museum and Archives, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and is open and staffed on a regular schedule.

Our Vision

Utilizing our permanent collection of works by Steffen Thomas, works by visiting emerging regional artists, and a mission of public service, The Steffen Thomas Museum of art strives to foster critical thinking, empathy, community engagement, and to bring visual arts and an authentic museum experience to both children and adults in the rural Georgia community we serve and the greater communities.



Man Child (New South), ca.1950, Oil, resin on panel, ID # 7640 STAR

Governance

Executive Committee

- President: Don Roman
- Vice President: Brian Titus
- Treasurer: Bob Cuellar
- Secretary: Kathryn Meier
- Member at Large: Lisa Conner

Board of Directors

Cheryl Bland, Pam Burnett, Dr. Lucas Carpenter, September Gray, Leslie Levitas, Martin, Dr. Kathryn Meier, Dr. Leara Rhodes, Connie Shumake

Staff

- Interim Museum Director: Lisa Thomas Conner
- Office Administrator: Pamala Tomany
- Development Associate: Catherine Allen
- Exhibitions/Project Coordinator: Lilly McEachern
- Arts Outreach Coordinator: Mandy Adams

Volunteers and Docents

Cheryl Bland, Kate Roberts, Sadie Carter, Joan Sherwood, Janet Mason, Connie Shumake, Eileen Milazzo, Joyce Thomas, Connie Zachary

Interim Director's Message

Lisa Thomas Conner

In 1997, my mother, Sara Douglass Thomas, established the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, to preserve and display the art of my late father, Steffen Wolfgang Thomas. In 1998 Andy Hayes, Hathia Hayes and Mary Nell McLauchlin established the Museum as a nonprofit organization and formed a Board of Directors. For 23 years our Directors have embraced our Mission and guided our staff in fulfilling the Mission. I am very grateful to our dedicated Board and valued staff who served the organization on a day-to-day basis in FY2021.

In FY 2021 the Board of Directors approved an updated 5-year strategic plan, which outlined our goals for 2021-2026. A synopsis of the Plan is available in the printed Annual Meeting Report, but I want to highlight a few achievements I am proud of.

We improved financial stability by updating our reporting procedures and working toward a balanced budget, going from a large deficit last year to a modest profit, in spite of the challenges of the year.

We improved operational stability by adding several new board members who brought important new skills to our leadership. We stayed in touch with members and volunteers through virtual programs and meetings. Board member Leara Rhodes worked to redefine job descriptions and met with staff, guiding them through the difficult times of being isolated and working at home. Our efforts with social media and virtual learning advanced exponentially this past year, out of necessity, which forced us to keep pace with the digital side of the nonprofit world.

Access to Steffen's art was increased through significant advancements made in the care of and sharing of our archives and important material we have available.

Through his art, Steffen Thomas communicated his philosophy of life, love of all art forms, and belief in the ultimate good of humankind. The Museum strives to broaden the exposure of his uplifting message of peace and hope for the Brotherhood of Mankind. His own words state the message best: **This world is too small for less than Brotherhood – Too dangerous for less than Truth.**

Thank you for helping us bring this message to a world that needs it as much now as when he wrote these words in 1962.

President's Message

Don M. Roman, Sr.

Greetings. It is with great pleasure that I report the highlights of fiscal year 2021. Despite the continuing challenges of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Museum has enjoyed an undeniably strong year of exhibitions, arts education and brotherhood. Under the guidance of our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, we focused on using the strengths of the museum — the large permanent collection of Steffen Thomas artwork — to achieve our mission, which is to "provide an opportunity to engage, to learn, and to be inspired through the life, art and legacy of Steffen Thomas".

Through a series of unexpected programming opportunities, we were able to create new opportunities and relationships to further this mission. Our efforts included a partnership with the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission to produce the exhibition ("Healing Our Humanity: Finding Hope, Love and Unity") and a collaborative effort with the David Driskell Center for the Study of African American and African Diaspora Art & Culture (University of Maryland, College Park), September Gray Gallery and the Brenda and Larry Thompson African American Art Collection to produce the exhibition "Celebrating Creative Genius: The Art, Life and Legacy of David C. Driskell".

Both exhibitions were well received. Spurred by Covid restrictions, which required that we greatly expand our on-line presence, we engaged in technology upgrades which allowed us to reach new audiences across the country and internationally.

These exhibitions proved vital to our two ongoing core commitments: arts education and increased institutional access for black, indigenous artists of color. The Driskell exhibition included a student art competition involving 345 elementary through high school students from the five-county surrounding area. Working with their art teachers and art supplies provided by the Museum, students created artworks inspired by Driskell. Cash prizes were awarded at each of three school levels to the winners in the categories of Best Artwork, Best Line and Drawing and Best Artist Statement.

We also successfully launched our new Distance Learning initiative. During the 2020-2021 school year, over 850 art kits were distributed to school children across Middle Georgia. Over 50 kits were delivered to senior citizens this past Spring.

We were equally active with our efforts to make the fine art experience available to the people and communities of Middle Georgia and the metropolitan Atlanta region with art and artists relevant to today's issues. The Driskell exhibition was especially poignant. It was imperative to bring the story of this world-renowned figure in American art, born barely twenty miles from the Museum, to the people of this region.

President's Message (cont.)

Don M. Roman, Sr.

We also continued to honor our commitment to racial reconciliation in the arts, by embracing opportunities to showcase African Diaspora and other art by marginalized artists. The Healing Our Humanity exhibition featured a heavy dose of artists of Nigerian descent. One of our most popular exhibitions was "Art As Experience", featuring the work of Vietnam War helicopter pilot Richard J. Olsen. The exhibition included both an artist talk, moderated by curator Andy Hayes, and a narrated tour of the artist's studio, which helped to illuminate the innovative system of symbols and markings which the artist has created to describe his personal memories of the war.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was our annual Founders Day Luncheon where we honored the legacy of our founder, Sarah Douglass Thomas. The energy in the room was palpable. A near capacity audience heard an impassioned speech from Tina Lilly, Executive Director of the Georgia Council for the Arts, on the importance of culture and the entertainment industry to the Georgia economy.

Administratively, we have also been busy. We brought in three new Board members who have all joined in as dedicated stewards of the valuable resources that have been entrusted to us.

We end the year as we began — with the goal to:

- increase the public's knowledge of Steffen Thomas as a master artist and his contributions to the Western art world.
- offer the primary opportunity for a fine art museum experience for people living in rural southeastern United States.
- be the Number One provider of arts education for the youth of Middle Georgia.
- become the Number One destination for fine art enthusiasts seeking a year-round diverse, equitable and inclusive experience.

To accomplish these goals, we are embarking on an aggressive program to achieve financial stability. They include increasing our endowment, developing major gifts and planned giving, and expanding support from individuals, local businesses and corporations.

These are lofty, ambitious goals. However they are very much in keeping with the vision and legacy of our namesake, Steffen Thomas. They are achievable, with your help. Please look for our calls in the coming months. Together, we will succeed.

1. Improve the museum's financial stability

Objectives	Goals	Strategies	Who	When	Notes
	1.1 Increase the general endowment	1.1a) Increase by 1% each year for 5 years	Full Board		
	1.2 Utilize finance and development strategies used by other single artist museums	1.2a) Develop a Planned Giving program and define target audience	Fundraising Committee; Museum Director; Admin		
		1.2b) Develop a Major Gifts program and define target audience	Fundraising Committee; Museum Director; Admin		
 Improve the museum's financial stability 		1.2c) Develop a prioritized facility budget	Finance Committee; Admin		
			Finance Committee; Marketing		
	gift shop	1.3a) Develop an online gift shop		? 4th Qtr FY21	In development
		1.3b) Diversify gift shop inventory	Marketing; Admin		
	1.4 Develop sponsorship strategy	<	Full Board; Museum Director; Marketing		

2. Improve operational stability (1 of 2)

	1 Provide leadership to ensure the opertise, passion, range of erspectives, and support of our staff	2.1a) Regular communication between BOD, Director, and staff	Board of Directors and Advisory Committee	
		2.1b) With Museum Director's help, develop communication tree for BOD	Full Board; Museum Director	
	2 Strengthen BOD members' volvement in committees	<	Full Board	
2 leannaga an arational		2.2a) Encourage BOD to write reports prior to meetings	Board President	
2.Improve operational stability		2.2b) Provide agenda and backup material prior to meetings	Board President	
		2.2c) Encourage face-to-face involvement rather than call-ins	Board President	
	.3 Strengthen volunteer programs nd training	2.3a) Develop and implement volunteer recruitment plan	Curator; Admin	
		2.3b) Evaluate volunteer program through focus group to identify strategies to create an environment of commitment, trust, and opportunity for all volunteers	Nominations and Hospitality Committee; Curator; Admin; Volunteers	
		2.3c) Identify all volunteers and volunteer programs		

2. Improve operational stability (2 of 2)

		2.4a) Maintain staffing levels that further mission of museum and support strategic objectives	
	2.4 Expand staff capacity	2.4b) Provide appropriate tools, training and professional development for staff; create environment that encourages innovation and creativity in achieveing work plans	Full Board; Museum Director
	ility 2.5 Inventory all policies and procedures	<	Full Board; STMA Staff
2.Improve operational stability		2.5a) Develop 4-year communications plan & branding guideline	Marketing and Promotions Committee; Marketing; Admin
	2.6 Continue to seek BOD members who reflect our community and offer diversity in life experiences	2.6a) Identify areas of weakness in BOD membership so that recruiting practices may be strengthened	Full Board
multi-year archiving and begir	2.7 Design and implement multi-year plan to finish archiving permanent collection and begin archiving curatorial plans & research,	2.7a) Hire Collections Manager	Museum Director; Admin; Curator; Technology Consultant
	presentations and other exhibition/program content	2.7b) Develop robust archival internship program	Museum Director; Admin; Curator

Strategic Plan 2021-20263. Expand Programs

3. Expand programs	3.1 New aesthetic experiences through encounters with works of art	<	-Curator; Programs Committee
	3.2 Broaden our audience to locally, regionally, and nationally	3.2a) Define new target audiences	Marketing and Promotions Committee; Programs Committee; Marketing
		3.2b) Develop and implement plan for collection and reporting of attendance data	Marketing and Promotions Committee; Marketing; Admin; Volunteers
		3.2) Develop programs to attract new target audiences	Programs Committee; Marketing; Curator
		3.2c) Traveling exhibitions and object loans	Curator; Programs Committee
	3.3 Raise the museum's profile among regional academic communities	<	Programs Committee; Marketing; Curator

3. Increase public access to Steffen's art

	4.1 Increase online access to permanent collection	4.1a) Develop "digital collection" and content for online publication	Curator; Technology Consultant	
4. Increase public access to Steffen's art		4.1b) Budget for needed technology infrastructure	Finance Committee; Admin; Technology Consultant	
	4.2 Promote new scholarship on Steffen Thomas through high-quality research	<	- Curator	

Art As Experience: Richard Olsen and the Vietnam War

May 28 - August 9, 2020

The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art is privileged to have exhibited the works of Richard James Olsen in its West Gallery last spring. Professor of Art Emeritus at the University of Georgia, Richard Olsen is a veteran helicopter pilot of the Vietnam War. Olsen's Wall series of abstract paintings features rich symbolism associated with his time in military service.

Due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, STMA produced digital content to maintain interest and engagement with audiences while galleries were closed to the public. This included virtual tours, educational content, and entertainment.

Guest Curated by Andrew Hayes







Elements: Expressions in Wood, Metal and Stone September 17 - November 7, 2020

Elements is a group invitational exhibition featuring sculptural works by twelve living Georgia artists in wood, metal, and stone. Steffen Thomas was a master of all materials, but his roots as an artist began as a sculptor. Starting as a carver, he worked in wood and stone, moving on to metal casting and welding, learning traditional techniques while developing many of his own. This exhibition honored the legacy of Steffen's three-dimensional work by displaying selections from our permanent collection alongside art by contemporary regional sculptors. The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art produced virtual artist talks for all artists featured in the exhibition, as well as a virtual tour on our website to accommodate closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This exhibition featured works by: Len Brown, Sally Eppstein, Roxane
Hollosi, Barbara Mann, Larry Millard, Noah James Saunders, Ronald
Sullivan, Carol Veliotis, Jeffrey Waller, Kelsey Wishik, and Ryan Woods



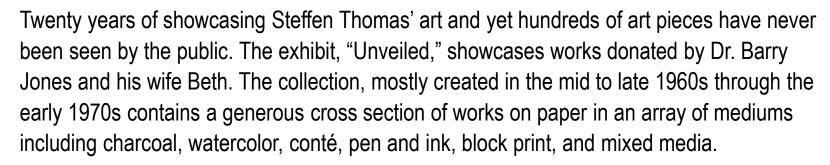
Sally Eppstein, Three Little..., Wood, Glass, Acrylic Paint, Sumi Ink, 2020



Steffen Thomas, Reclining Nude, 1965-70, Marble, ID # 7458 STAR

Unveiled

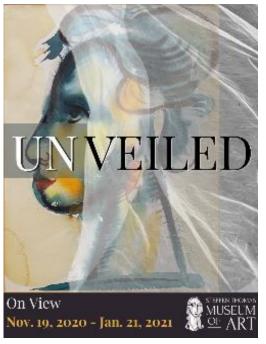
November 19, 2020 - January 21, 2021



A variety of Thomas' favored subjects are represented including mothers, children, and animals as well as mystical figures. Additional pieces have been contributed by Charles (Thomas' grandson) and Pam Burnett. These works offer a sampling of welded copper sculpture, bronze relief, pastel drawing, and wood carved frames of the period. Although not ideal by today's standards, all works on paper are being presented undisturbed in their original frames to illustrate the styles, materials, and framing techniques of the period. Viewing this collection is like a glimpse back in time to the mid-1960s at Thomas' Stone Mountain studio.







Celebrating Creative Genius: The Art, Life and Legacy of David Driskell

February 11 - April 17, 2021

This exhibition featured original artworks and prints by David Driskell on loan from galleries, private collections and institutions plus photographs and artifacts from the artist's early life. In addition to a rich display of artwork by David Driskell and Steffen Thomas, this exhibition included a special arts education component for students of all grade levels from surrounding counties. We featured the works in this show as a virtual exhibition on the museum's website, so as to increase visitor accessibility during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Students were nominated by area art teachers to create original mixed media artwork inspired by Driskell's artistic style and legacy. Cash prizes were awarded at the elementary, middle school and high school levels in three categories (Best Artwork, Outstanding Artist Statement, and Best Use of Line and Color in an Artwork) to encourage development in Creative Skills, Writing and Arts Interpretation. Selected works by the students were displayed in the West Gallery of the Museum along with an impressive array of original Driskell collages, prints and paintings.





Healing Our Humanity: Finding Hope, Love and Unity

April 22 - July 10, 2021

This juried exhibition features works by five artists from across the globe: Andrae Green, Margaret Brown, Nnamdi Okonkwo, Oliver Enwonwu and Zerric Clinton.

Healing Our Humanity compiles a broad range of perspectives that tell the dynamic story of the current social climate and a path forward. The juror, September Gray, sought out artists whose work inspires communication, healing, hope, love and unity.

<u>About the juror</u>: September Gray's life's work is a reflection of her enduring passion for the arts. Following a noteworthy career in the performing arts, Gray launched a successful fine art consultancy practice wherein she was celebrated for her ability to assist corporate and private collectors with articulating and executing single acquisition and long–term collecting strategies.

Gray holds a B.A. in Art History from DePaul University. A committed art education advocate, Gray serves on a number of non-profit boards and is co-founder of The Gray Foundation, an organization committed to building a world of enriched life options for youth through the promotion of art and education. Gray shares art news and collection strategies in her electronic quarterly journal, The Gray Book.









Education



Astronaut Ronald McNair His Family and the Country Mourns, January 1986, Watercolor, ID # 1677 STAR



College Connections: College Connections serves fine arts and humanities majors by offering individual internships, class projects, programs, and exhibition opportunities. The program has collaborated with students from Augusta University (formerly Georgia Regents University), University of North Georgia, Georgia College and State University, and the University of Georgia.

During the fall semester, STMA worked with 5 student interns from GCSU, and one student during the spring.

The Museum's Art Kits reached 850 students this year. Whether they were individual take-home Reverse Painting Kits or classroom kits for the David Driskell interpretive project, the Steffen Thomas Museum continued to provide art education to students this year despite unprecedented circumstances. We expanded this program to include senior communities who felt isolated during quarantine by providing 50 art kits to the Morgan County Senior Center.

We gave \$675 in cash prizes to eight K-12 students for Celebrating Creative Genius; reached across Middle Georgia to five schools and five counties to deliver art education; and, most importantly, provided hundreds of young people with an opportunity for creative expression during a highly stressful and uncertain year.

Events

July/September Raffle (July 1 - September 30, 2020) Prizes for this year's summer raffle included a framed, limited-edition Genuine Giclée ® print of Steffen Thomas's iconic *Piedmont Park* and handmade jewelry by Moonvine Designs.

GA Color Day (October 23, 2020) STMA partnered with the Madison Artists Guild for this event, hosting artists painting plein air on the Museum grounds.

Georgia Giving Tuesday and Archive Deep Dive Tour (December 1, 2020) A select group of STMA Patrons sponsored the STMA Giving Tuesday campaign by pledging an amount to match 1:1, with small donations given on Tuesday, December 1. We achieved our goal for matching funds: \$6,000. On Giving Tuesday itself, STMA hosted a very special behind-the-scenes look at Steffen Thomas artwork from the museum's archives. Lisa Thomas Conner (Steffen's daughter) unpacked rarely seen works and told stories in connection to each piece. Afterwards, we toasted the Museum's founder, Sara Thomas.







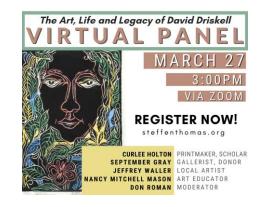
Events

Steffen Thomas Birthday Toast (January 15, 2021) Longtime collectors and friends of Steffen Thomas shared their favorite memory and a toast for the artist's 115th birthday. The video was posted to our website and social media channels to promote the Bourbon and Branch Water raffle.

David Driskell Panel Discussion (March 28, 2021) Programming for this exhibition included a virtual panel discussion with guests: Dr. Curlee Holton, the Executive Director of the David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland, College Park; Jeffrey Waller, a local artist and active community member; Nancy Mason, an AP art teacher whose students participated in the art project; September Gray, gallerist and donor; and moderator Don Roman, STMA Board President

Of the 122 registered attendees, over 100 were not yet members of the Museum. This panel discussion, and the exhibition at large, broadened our reach to new audiences and communities who had not previously experienced the Museum. David Driskell's compelling work, in conversation with works by Steffen Thomas and interpreted by students from surrounding counties made this exhibition truly special.

Healing our Humanity Panel Discussion (June 2021) A panel discussion with guests Dr. Augustine Esogbue; Dr. Moyosare Okediji, Andrae Green, and Oliver Enwonwu; and a reception sponsored by the Atlanta Lagos Sister City Committee of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission. In addition to these events, a virtual Artist Spotlight was published weekly on our social media and website in which each artist expanded on their studio practice and artistic philosophy.





PANEL DISCUSSION: Finding Hope, Love and Unity

June 5th, 2021 | 2pm EDT

Families need to communicate - even families of man. It seems that not enough

Grants

Grants Used in FY2021:

- Bryans Family Foundation \$1,000 for art education programs
- Central Georgia EMC Foundation \$3,000 for Distance Learning
- Frances Wood Wilson Foundation \$3,500 for Special Exhibitions in FY2021
- Georgia Council for the Arts \$6,000 for Special Exhibitions in FY2021
- Google Ad Grant (ongoing since June 2019) \$3,646.55 (in-kind) for marketing/advertising;
 up to \$10,000/month in Google Ads credit as part of the Google Nonprofits program
- Paycheck Protection Program (forgiven loan) \$31,424.50 in COVID-19 relief for staff wages
- Economic Injury Disaster Loan (forgiven loan) \$5,000

Grants Awarded in FY2021:

- Central Georgia EMC Foundation \$2,150 for art education programs
- Frances Wood Wilson Foundation \$5,000 for Special Exhibitions in FY2022
- Georgia Council for the Arts \$6,000 for Special Exhibitions in FY2022
- Google Ad Grant (ongoing since June 2019) In-kind donation for up to \$10,000/month in Google Ads credit
- Watson Brown Foundation Junior Board of Trustees \$4,854 for Phase II of the Legacy Archive Project



Metamorphosis, c.1965, Polyester, resin, oil and asphalt on wood panel, ID # 7458 STAR

Financial Report FY2021

Gross Profit: \$332,213.31

Other Income: \$43,437.55

Total Expense: \$343,540.24

Net Income: \$22,110.62



Shorty and Bride Dancing, ca. 1965, Watercolor, ID #6061 STAR

Balance Sheet

Assets

Current Assets

0	Checking/Savings:	\$28,352.52
0	Unrestricted/Temporarily Resctricted:	\$93,369.42
0	Designated Funds:	\$2489.62
0	Edward Jones	
•	Operating Reserve:	\$30,823.75
•	Endowment Fund:	\$177,943.21
•	Other Current Assests (Inventories)	\$17,282.62
•	Fixed Assets:	\$32,360.70
•	Other Assets: (includes Permanent Collection)	\$1,200,015.0
To	tal Assets:	\$1,590,038.7

Liabilities & Equity

 Total Current Liabilities: (includes SBA loan) 	\$168,968.88
Total Equity:	\$1,421,069.82
Total Liabilites & Equity:	\$1,590,038.70

^{*}Figures are preliminary until Statement of Review is finalized

Head of African Woman, Carved wood sculpture, ID # 9165 STAR

Steffen Thomas Museum of Art: Sponsors and Patrons FY2021

***** CHAMPIONS *****

Art Associates Atlanta Drs. Andrew and Hathia Hayes Dr. and Mrs. Charles Conner Mary Nell McLauchlin Frances Wood Wilson Foundation Dianne Sheppard Smith Communications, Inc. Georgia Council for the Arts Google, LLC S.T.A.R, LP of GA September Gray Art, LLC Taylor Family Fund (Mark and Judy Taylor) Atlanta Lagos Sister City Committee The Creative Brain, Inc. (Dr. Augustine Esogbue) Brenda and Larry Thompson Atlanta Sister Cities Commission

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