**Steffen Thomas Museum of Art and the Brotherhood of Mankind Philosophy**

Steffen Thomas believed in a philosophy called the **Brotherhood of Mankind**: that we are a family of universal commonalities and that arts education is integral to a vibrant and connected community. It is a persistent theme found in his art across several decades. After giving up public art to focus on creative work in 1963, he built a Monument to the Brotherhood of Man at his Stone Mountain studio, carving in its wall his motto, “This World is Too Small for Less than Brotherhood – Too Dangerous for Less than Truth.” His work with scientist George Washington Carver and educator Martha Berry motivated him to mentor under-served youth in rural Georgia, fulfilled by his position as Creative Director with the National Youth Administration under the WPA. These pedagogical approaches remain the pillars of the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art (STMA)’s arts outreach programming.

STMA believes ‘Art is for Everyone’ and aspires to reach people from all walks of life. The Museum offers art education programs for people of all ages at a minimum or no cost to participants. We seek to engage the community, children through seniors, in Morgan County, our neighboring rural counties, and beyond. Through exhibitions and programs, STMA demonstrates creative artistic expression and fosters an understanding of ourselves and our connection with community, the environment and other living beings. We believe Art provides a foundation that opens up a new world and the creative process enables youth to see a future where they can create a better world for themselves and for their communities.