

# Annual Report for FY2024



*Flower Girls*, 1972, watercolor on paper, STMA Permanent Collection



STEFFEN THOMAS  
MUSEUM  
OF ART

# 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. dba Steffen Thomas Museum of Art (STMA) is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and is open and staffed on a regular schedule.

---

# 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.

---

## 1 Mission & Vision

## 2 Governance

## 3 From Alyson

## 4 FY2024 Exhibitions

## 5 Dime Mas!

## 6 Fall Program Highlight

## 7-8 From Don

## 9 Spring Program Highlight

## 10 Steffen Thomas: Rock & Chisel

## 11 Art Education

## 12 Financial Report

## 13 Strategic Plan & Grant Funding

## 14 Sponsors & Patrons



*Über Bergen und Meer Vögel Fliegen den Frieden der Menschheit zu Singen!*, 1984  
watercolor and felt pen on paper, STMA Permanent Collection

## Executive Committee

President: Don Roman

Treasurer: Lisa Fields

Secretary: Kathryn Meier

Member at Large: Lisa Conner

## Board of Directors

Pam Burnett

Lucas Carpenter

Olivia Chelko

September Gray

Brian Morgan

Matt Ohm

## Staff

Museum Director: Alyson Vuley

Office Administrator: Pamala Tomany

Visitor Services Coordinator: Patricia James (Nov-May)

Curatorial Assistant: Victoria Raatz (started March)

Communications Coordinator: Emme Clause (started June)

Development Consultant: Brian Allen



*Reclining Mother and Child*, 1951, cast bronze on wood base, STMA Permanent Collection



# From Alyson

Alyson Vuley, Museum Director

It takes the support of our members to do the work we do. At STMA, we are producing exciting and engaging exhibitions, meaningful school programs, and accessible public programs. We continue to serve our local communities through keeping admission low and offering many free events throughout the year. We've seen an increase in visitation, both from walk-in guests and scheduled tour groups. The number of participating students is holding steady, with many schools (including a new group: Putnam County Pre-K!) already scheduled for FY2025. We're moving forward in our journey towards sustainability while increasing our relevance and commitment to our expanding museum community. Locally, across Georgia and the Southeast, and, looking to the future, around the world.

Sara Thomas's vision, hard work, and diligent archiving brought this museum into existence. She was ahead of her time when she initiated the impressive digital catalog of Steffen's work, containing over 8000 records, including STMA's permanent collection, the Thomas family collections, collections held both privately and in other museums, and the public work (like *Trilon*). The work continues as unrecorded art becomes known to us, as research on public works and collections brings new information to light, and as we tackle the digitizing and recording of all the non-art material in the archives. Soon, STMA's permanent collection will be available to search online, through our website.

This museum, dedicated to preserving and exhibiting the immense and varied collections of Steffen Thomas art, is also responsible for sharing Steffen's life story and, perhaps most importantly, his credo: *This world is too small for less than brotherhood, too dangerous for less than truth*. Help us share this message, so consistently represented in Steffen's work, with the world. Your support is vital.

## Docents & Volunteers

Mandy Adams  
Sadie Carter  
Eileen Milazzo  
Jim Rowland  
Connie Shumake  
James Sieffert  
Joyce Thomas  
Trish Thurman  
Connie Zachary

We are so grateful to our amazing docents and volunteers who give tours to school and adult groups, handle the front desk and welcome guests, assist at events, and so much more.

If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a docent, let us know! We'd love to have you join us!

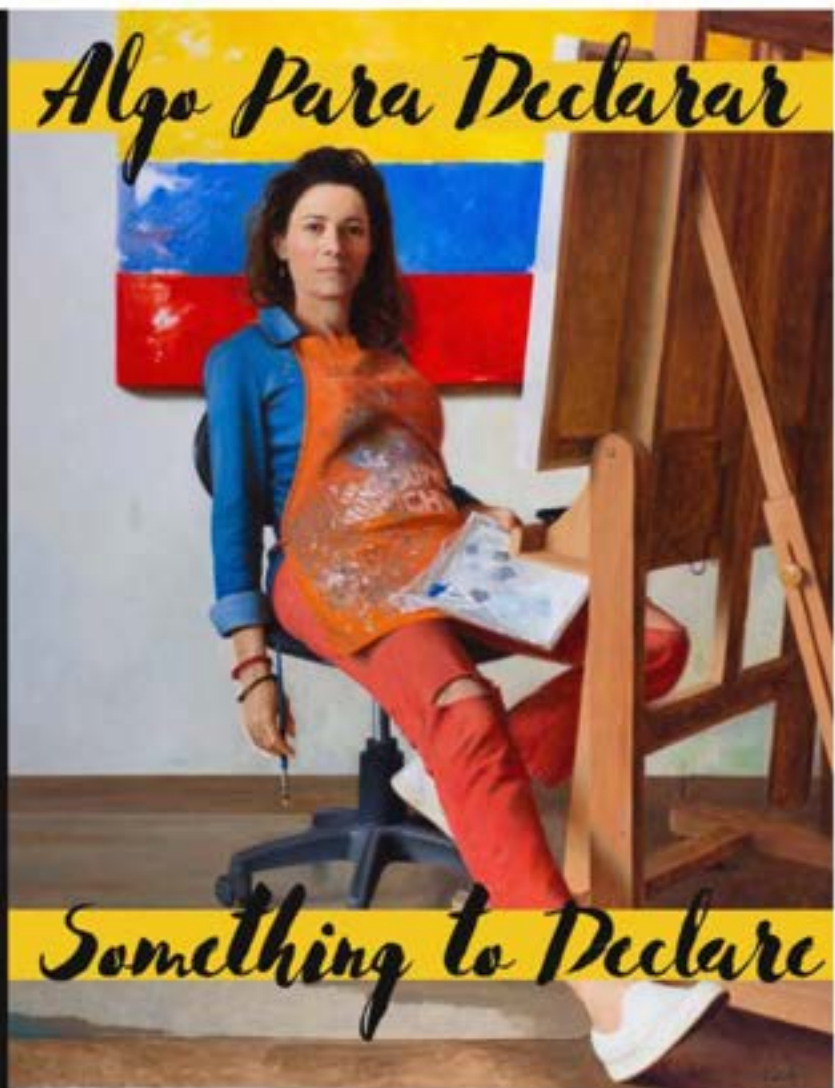
## FY2024 Special Exhibitions

August 12, 2023  
through  
January 6, 2024

Jorge Arcos  
Yehimi Cambron  
Marisa Cerban  
Franklin Delgado  
Pedro Fuertes  
Catalina Gomez  
Dora Lopez  
Morgan Lugo  
Paula Reynaldi  
Maria Sarmiento  
Carlos Solis  
Melvin Toledo



# *Algo Para Declarar*



# *Something to Declare*



**PEACE IN OUR TIME  
DICK & MARGE  
LOWRANCE**

## PEACE IN OUR TIME

Steffen Thomas Meisterwerke  
from the Lowrance Collection

*Presenting Sponsors*

Hathia & Andrew Hayes

Margaret Poythress

Kimberly & Matt Jewell

Carol Lowrance-Penney

Myra & Jeff Hewlett

Linda Larson

January 23 to July 23, 2024

# ¡Dime Más!

## Something To Declare

By John Solis Barcenas, Angel Rubio, Gael Valente and Brandon Cruz-Ortega

The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art has "Something to Declare." And so do we.

Director of the STMA, Alyson Vuley, said it best when she stated, "With this exhibit we want to stress the importance of two things: diversity and representation." Our beliefs in our class are very similar. We believe that in order to create a harmonious society there needs to be diversity and representation for the Latin American community.

In the STMA's new exhibit, titled "Something to Declare," we found art that stands for these big virtues in our tiny town.

After giving us a brief history on Steffen Thomas, Ms. Vuley informed us about the art exhibit taking place in the museum. The STMA has created a space for artists originally from various countries in Latin America who now live in Georgia. Some artists are even as close as Athens. The event showcases 12 artists who use mediums ranging from pencil and masking tape to oils and acrylics. We learned that a lot of the artists in the exhibit have regular "day jobs."

For example, Jorge Arcos who is originally from Mexico City, also paints houses, but having the opportunity to showcase his works in exhibits like "Something to Declare" allow him, and others like him, an opportunity to shine. Another artist we found particularly interesting was Marisa Cerban who is originally from Uruguay. She creates art by adding rice and beads into her works. She

has brought to life the vibrant colors and customs of Latin America using everyday material.

One may ask what the inspiration for these artists might be. After viewing their works, we feel they have the mutual goal of eliciting emotions. They are the voices of our Latin American community. They want people to see us and our cultures. They want people in our community and beyond to see where creativity can take us; how beautiful customs and art coming from Latin America can be.

The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art is an amazing place for us to have here in Morgan County. These artists on display reflect who we are. We are able to see ourselves in their work. You definitely want to go and make sure you're able to see it too.

Remember, no matter who you are, you always have "something to declare."

The STMA is open every Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The "Something to Declare" exhibit is open to the public now through Jan. 6, 2024. Admission is free to all schools on field trips.



Maria Solis Barcenas

Artwork on the wall at STAM made by Melvin Toledo. Obra de arte en la pared de STAM realizada por Melvin Toledo.

Tell Me More! Dime Mas! is a special section of the Morgan County Citizen, our local newspaper, produced in collaboration with students from Morgan County High School to encourage participation in local news and promote inclusivity throughout "One Morgan".

Student contributors: Frida Areliano Valencia, Maria Arreola Rodriguez, Monse Contreras Gomez, Brandon Cruz Ortega, Gabriel Lemus, Cynthia Guadalupe Montealvo, Om Patel, Angel Rubio, Harpreet Singh, John Solis Barcenas, Maria Solis Barcenas, Gael Valente



¡We're ready!  
¡Estamos listos!

Something to declare



John Solis Barcenas

Gabriel admira el "Susurro Tolteca" de Jorge Arcos. Gabriel admires the "Toltec Whisper" by Jorge Arcos.

# Fall Program Highlight



STEFFEN THOMAS  
MUSEUM  
OF ART

4200 Bethany Rd  
Buckhead, GA  
steffenthomas.org



*Algo para Declarar  
Something to Declare*

Exhibición Especial  
en el Museo  
12 de Agosto, 2023  
hasta 6 de Enero, 2024

Sábado el 4 de Noviembre de 4-8 PM

# FIESTA DEL MUSEO

**ENTRADA  
GRATIS!**

**FREE  
ADMISSION!**

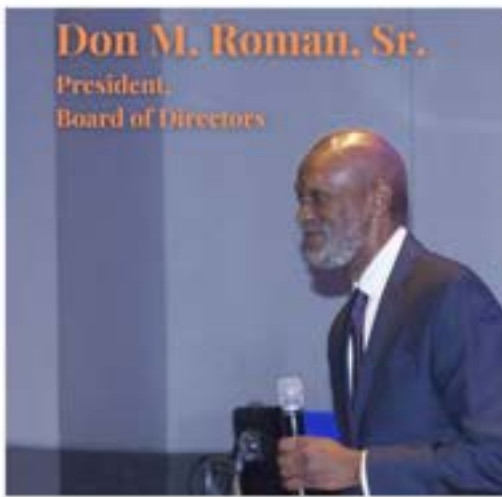
Saturday, November 4 from 4-8 PM

¡musica en vivo con  
ORQUESTA MACUBA  
live music!

TACOS SOLIS  
¡food truck!

For more information: 706-342-7557

Para informacion en Español: 404-263-3444



# From Don

With a national election looming in less than two months, there is a sense of excitement in the air. Nowhere is that more evident than at the Steffen Thomas Museum of Art as we mark the end of another successful, prideful fiscal year. How could we not be proud of the many accomplishments of this year:

- The exhibition of the Marjorie and Richard Lowrance Collection of Steffen Thomas art, featuring 100 of the best works produced by Steffen over his 60+ year career, bequeathed to STMA in 2021, and curated by Andy and Hathia Hayes.
- *Something to Declare*, the exquisite exhibition of Contrapunto, the collective of Latin American artists based in Georgia, and other invited artists, highlighting the talents and rich diversity of Latin America culture.
- The incredible recognition ((three nominations and one award from the Southeast Regional EMMY® Awards) bestowed upon *Steffen Thomas: Rock and Chisel*, the documentary film by filmmaker Jesse Stephen Freeman on the life, art and legacy of Steffen Thomas.
- The additional screenings of the film across the state – in Athens, in Lagrange, in Macon, and in Rome at Berry College with a special selection of Steffen Thomas artworks. And, thanks to the support of The Halle Foundation, more screenings to come.
- The breathtaking chamber music concert in the Main Gallery featuring the soundtrack of the film, original music by David Kirkland Garner, and a selection of eight lieder by composer Robert Schumann. The energy in the room that night - the excitement, the pride - as we were joined by the Madison Morgan Cultural Center community, was palpable.
- The Three C's: Curating, Collecting and Conserving event, featuring curator Dr. Andi McKenzie from the Michael C. Carlos Museum; collectors Andy Hayes, Natasha Chambliss and myself; and Larry Shutts of Savant & Shutts Art Conservation. Attendees heard insightful presentations, including three distinct approaches to collecting art, all grounded in a sincere appreciation for the artists who produce such great expressions of humanity.

Yet, there is some sadness as I rotate off the board, having served the maximum number of consecutive years permitted under the museum's by-laws. Serving as the Board President of this wonderful institution has been one of the greatest honors of my life. In my opinion, community service is one of the greatest expressions of brotherly (agape) love. I am eternally grateful that I got to share my love with the board, staff and members of STMA and the people that we serve.

As many know, one of the main features which attracted me to STMA was Steffen Thomas' strong embrace of the Brotherhood of Mankind – that we are a family of universal commonalities and that arts education is integral to a vibrant and connected community. I was also impressed how, over 27 years, the museum has used Steffen's beliefs to support disadvantaged and underserved artists and communities.



Over my 6 years of service, I have pushed the board to hold true to Steffen's ideals and to understand what it means to practice brotherhood in our time. Perhaps it is fitting therefore that my term of office is ending with one of our most powerful efforts to date to embrace community. *Queer Perspectives*, on display until January 4, is our attempt to provide a platform for the visual artists representing the many facets of metropolitan Atlanta's and Georgia's LGBTQ+ community. It is a strong show. I urge you to gather your family, your friends, your neighbors, and your co-workers, church members, schoolmates and teammates and come see this incredible body of work. As you view the work of these artists, including a special exhibition by the indefatigable and incredibly talented Freddie Styles, you will see Steffen's philosophy on full display.

As I leave the board, I want to publicly thank the board, past and present, the staff and my comrades in arms - Lisa, Alyson and Pamala - for their undying support. It has been great traveling this road with you. Together, we have broadened the museum's profile in Madison, Morgan County, Middle Georgia, Atlanta and beyond. Together, we have increased the number of visitors, boosted grants and donations, and bolstered programming in vital areas. Truly, we have found and spread Joy in Art.

I especially want to thank Lisa and the Thomas Family for their longstanding support of the museum. Many reading this letter will see Lisa's tireless efforts as a loving daughter's commitment to both her father's legacy and her mother's vision. However, to understand Lisa's special brand of commitment, you have to add in her own love of art, her own commitment to arts education and to the youth of Morgan County and Middle Georgia. Throw in her spunk and resiliency and you will understand how, despite the legendary challenges of small art institutions, she has willed our fledging "little" museum to a place of prominence among Atlanta's proudest cultural institutions. Congratulations, Lisa, on a job well done.

So, I end with words of encouragement and good cheer, a challenge and a question to you, our loyal members. First, the challenge. As Alyson and staff continue to roll out rich programming, please turn out regularly. Renew your memberships promptly each year. And spread the word. Invite others to join the museum. In other words, lean in to the future. Add your shoulder to the wheel, as we all embrace the opportunity to establish STMA, this hidden jewel, as a permanent community asset - a place of prominence in the landscape of Middle Georgia.

Thus, the question. When it is said and done, what will the 22nd Century say about OUR dreams, OUR vision, OUR commitment, OUR legacy? Steffen and Sara created a wonderful legacy. Let's build on theirs to create our own legacy - like Steffen, to live our values and beliefs through our commitment to our fellow citizens of the world; like Sara, to be bold in our vision for the museum and faithful to its execution; and like Lisa, to be unwavering in our mission, to be willing to adapt, to lead or to follow, over years or decades, to do our part to carry the museum to ever higher heights.



(*Six Figures*), ca. 1960-65, watercolor on paper,  
STMA Permanent Collection

# Spring Program Highlight



## The 3 C's



STEFFEN THOMAS  
MUSEUM  
OF ART

Sunday, April 21

2-5 PM

Tickets \$20 for STMA members,  
\$35 for not-yet-members.  
Space is limited.



Dr. Andi McKenzie  
Works on Paper Curator  
Michael C. Carlos Museum  
Emory University

## Curating

## Collecting

Natasha Chambliss

The Chambliss Collection. Owner of Lines Gallery, Inc. Board Chair for the Atlanta Printmakers Studio.



Dr. Andrew Hayes

Watson School of Education, UNCW, Professor Emeritus. Art collector for over 50 years. Curator of *Peace in Our Time: Steffen Thomas Meisterwerke from the Lowrance Collection*.

Don Roman

President, STMA Board of Directors (2019-2024); Fine Arts Consultant and Estate Planning Specialist; African American Studies pioneer; Owner, The Roman Gallery, A Private Space



## Conserving

Savant & Shutts Art Conservation

After 20 years each in the field of professional art conservation, Michelle Savant and Larry Shutts established Savant & Shutts Art Conservation in 2017. They provide art conservation services to institutional, government, and private collections.

This program is offered in conjunction with the current exhibition *Peace in Our Time: Steffen Thomas Meisterwerke from the Lowrance Collection*, on view January 23 to July 23, 2024.

Steffen Thomas Museum of Art  
4200 Bethany Road  
Buckhead, GA 30625  
706-342-7557  
steffenthomas.org

# STEFFEN THOMAS

## *Rock & Chisel*



films®

Thanks to generous support from The Halle Foundation, STMA is in the second year of touring Jesse Stephen Freeman's documentary film, *Steffen Thomas: Rock & Chisel*, in venues across Georgia. Screenings are all free and open to the public and often feature a Q&A with the filmmaker.

- The Plaza in Eatonton
- Oxford College of Emory University
- Sycamore Place Gallery in Decatur
- Cine in Athens
- The Halle Estate in Atlanta
- The Martha Berry Museum, Berry College in Rome
- LaGrange College in LaGrange
- Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
- Macon Museum of Art and Science, Macon

### Upcoming:

Thomasville Arts Center in Thomasville on September 27

Morris Museum of Art in Augusta on October 17

Sign up for the STMA mailing list for announcements on future screenings!



THE HALLE FOUNDATION



Trilon, ca. 1960-65  
hammered copper over cement  
Collection of the City of Atlanta

A film by  
**JESSE STEPHEN FREEMAN**

# FY2024 School Programs

Inspired by educators like Martha Berry and Dr. George Washington Carver, both of whom Steffen created portrait busts, Steffen became an Art Supervisor for the National Youth Administration of the WPA in the late 1930's. Likewise, we continue to be inspired by these educators and by Steffen's commitment to arts education, through STMA's school and community arts outreach programs.

Thanks to the support of Georgia Power Foundation, Walmart Foundation, and STMA members, we are able to offer free tours to K-12 schools from all of our surrounding counties. This past year, we served over 400 students from Morgan, Greene, Putnam, and Newton Counties.

During the exhibition of *Something to Declare/Algo para Declarar*, Jenny Cofield's Communications class from Morgan County High School toured the exhibition and interviewed Alyson. See page 5 for the English version of the article they published in our local newspaper! Debbie Vogel brought AP Art students from Lake Oconee Academy to tour the exhibition and do studies of their choice of artist. Several students created work inspired by the exhibition for their final projects. Very impressive!

In March, 350 students participated in a program offered in conjunction with *Peace in Our Time: Steffen Thomas Meisterwerke from the Lowrance Collection* and sponsored by Central Georgia EMC Foundation's Operation Round Up grant. Each student received a sketchbook and pencil to keep. They toured the exhibition and did closer-looking activities including drawing in the galleries, reading labels, and writing critiques. They took their sketches and notes back to their art rooms and created artworks inspired by Steffen's art from *Peace in Our Time*, using grant-funded art materials (oil pastels and paper), and wrote artists' statements. Teachers then selected works for the students exhibition and competition. Juried by Mandy Adams, Trish Thurman, and Lisa Conner, 16 cash prizes were awarded for first and second place, best artist's statement, and director's choice for elementary, middle, and high school levels. The students' art and writing were on view all summer in the Education Gallery.

## Student Art Exhibition

On view at STMA  
May 18 - July 27

Putnam County Elementary School  
Montessori School of Covington  
Lake Oconee Academy  
Morgan County Middle School  
Morgan County High School



This program was  
made possible by



# Financial Report FY2024

## PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

Gross Profit:	\$308,101
Other Income:	\$29,407
Total Expense:	\$331,473
<b>Net Income:</b>	<b>\$6,035</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

### Assets

#### Current Assets

Checking/Savings:	\$2,920
Unrestricted/Temporarily Restricted:	\$7,845
Designated Funds:	\$65
Edward Jones	
Operating Reserve:	\$31,046
Endowment Fund:	\$189,832

Other Current Assets (Inventories):	\$16,810
Fixed Assets:	\$17,172
Other Assets: (includes Permanent Collection)	\$1,561,795
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$1,827,485</b>

### Liabilities & Equity

Total Current Liabilities: (includes SBA loan)	\$191,969
Total Equity:	\$1,635,516
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity:</b>	<b>\$1,827,485</b>

\*Figures are preliminary until Statement of Review is finalized

# Strategic Plan 2020-2025 Summary

Steffen Thomas's philosophy of The Brotherhood of Mankind - that we are a family of universal commonalities and that arts education is integral to a vibrant and connected community - informs all we do. In Steffen's own words, "This world is too small for less than brotherhood - too dangerous for less than truth."

STMA undertook a strategic planning process in 2020, complete with a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats), and the Board of Directors approved the revised strategic plan at their October 2021 meeting. This analysis contributed to the differentiation of several broad objectives, each with associated goals and strategies. They include:

1. Ensure the museum's **financial stability** through a combination of grant-seeking, the development of Planned Giving and Major gifts programs, and the expansion of inventory available in the gift shop and online to generate additional revenues.
2. Improve **operational stability** through leadership and communication, staff development and training, volunteer and internship recruitment and training, and the design and implementation of multi-year plan for the Steffen Thomas Legacy Archive Project.
3. Expand **programs and exhibitions** as a way to broaden our exposure, define new audiences and raise the museum's profile locally, regionally, and nationally.
4. Increase **public access** to the collection through continued development of the archival database, making the database available online, and encouraging use for academic and scholarly research.

Our guiding focus is to continue to use the strengths of the museum to create new opportunities and relationships while also forging ways to lessen the weaknesses and to build underlying financial and Board administration duties to guarantee that Steffen's legacy will continue. We are committed to discovering new audiences, new sources of financial support, and novel approaches to the stewardship of all the resources entrusted to our care.

We will accomplish our 2020-2025 Strategic Goals through a combination of discovery, creativity, and focused work, informed by our stewardship of the many resources that we hold in trust. We have the duty to: care for our permanent collection through conservation, documentation, research, and access; present thoughtful and engaging exhibitions; responsibly use the financial resources provided to us; and communicate the fulfillment of our mission to key stakeholders.

## GRANT FUNDING FY2024

- \$1,500 for free admission for K-12 school tours from Georgia Power Foundation
- \$2,000 for art supplies for K-12 art education program and student exhibition from Central Georgia EMC Foundation's Operation Round Up
- \$5,000 for Special Exhibitions and art access for rural communities from Frances Wood Wilson Foundation
- \$5,330 to publish online searchable database (PastPerfect Online) from Watson Brown Foundation Junior Board of Trustees
- \$9,180 for general operating from Georgia Council for the Arts' Bridge Grant
- \$50,000 from The Halle Foundation for screening *Steffen Thomas: Rock & Chisel* around Georgia for 2 years.

# STEFFEN THOMAS MUSEUM OF ART

## Fiscal Year 2024 SPONSORS & PATRONS

### CHAMPIONS

Atlanta Jewish Foundation - The Taylor Family Fund  
Art Associates Atlanta  
Nancy and Roman Boruta Family Foundation  
Dr. Charles and Lisa T. Conner  
Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, Inc.  
Sue Foy  
Georgia Council for the Arts  
Greater Atlanta Community Foundation - The Conrads Family Fund  
Drs. Andrew and Hathia Hayes  
Mary Nell McLaughlin  
Ned and Beverly Phares  
Rosenberry Charitable Trust  
Lawrence and Michelle Shutts  
Smith Communications, Inc.  
S.T.A.R, LP of GA  
The Halle Foundation  
Watson Brown Foundation Junior Board of Trustees

### AMBASSADORS

Mrs. Charles T. Burnett	Pam and Charles Burnett
Central Georgia EMC Foundation	Betty Gause
Dr. Kathryn Meier	Norfolk Southern
Margaret Poythress	Lynn Thomas Tate
Douglass Thomas	Mrs. Steffen Thomas, Jr.
The Walmart Foundation	Frank Walsh
Susan Thomas Weibel	Peter and Karen Wibell

### BENEFACTORS

Lawrence and Carol Horn	Georgia Power Foundation
House Smart Services - Steve Woodward	Keenan Media
Sandy Moon	Morgan County Citizen
Roman Consulting LLC	Robert & Lili Baldwin Turnell Foundation
Summit Grove Associates, LP	Terra Bella Landscaping

### ADVOCATES

Al Besse and Scott Evers	Arnall, Golden and Gregory LLP
Kimberly Jewell	Hiram and Babs Johnston
Carol L. Penney	The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Willing & O'Donnell Charitable	Steven and Kathy Whitworth



August 10, 2024

# QUEER PERSPECTIVES

January 4, 2025



Royce Soble, *Red Shoes and the Blues*, 2024, mixed media on wood panel.

featuring

Nat Blooming

Yousef Bushehri

David Clifton-Strawn

Perrine Gaudry

Krista M. Jones

LaSalle

Rial Rye

Royce Soble

Jeffrey Wilcox-Paclipan

Ezra Witkowski

Cassie Wright

Clint Zeagler

with a special exhibition by

Freddie L. Styles

*Queer Perspectives* exhibition and programs are sponsored by:

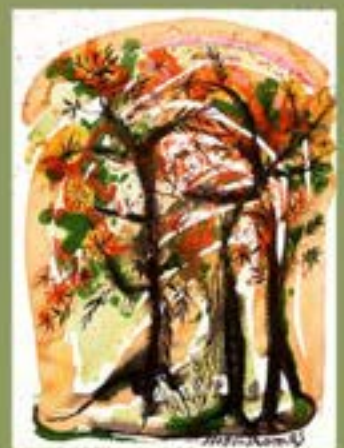
**Dirk Brown and Tim Burns**

Trish and Chris Thurman

and funds raised by STMA supporters at Founder's Day



Upcoming  
exhibition:



# TOUCH GRASS

Steffen Thomas, Senora Lynch, and Raven Waters

January 25 to June 28, 2025



Please contact us if you are interested in being a sponsor of this exhibition.