

Moments for Joy

The Trail Gallery

GALLERY GUIDE



This temporary exhibit space features a variety of artwork sure to inspire a Moment for Joy this Spring. The Trail Gallery is located in staff office windows that parallel the walking path between the Museum and Buck Creek. Guests are welcome to view the works from outside the museum while still adhering to social distancing guidelines.

While the Museum is temporarily closed to the public due to COVID19, our staff is determined to continue engaging the community in the appreciation of the visual arts. Enjoy!



SPRINGFIELD MUSEUM OF ART
A Smithsonian Affiliate

Currently on Display:

Rookwood Pottery

Rookwood Pottery is based in Cincinnati's Over-the-Rhine neighborhood. The company was founded in 1880 by Maria Longworth Storer and is credited today as being the first large manufacturing business owned by a woman in the United States. Inspired by Japanese and French ceramics, Storer wanted to develop the decorative art pottery movement in America. Rookwood pottery is known for its ability to be both functional and decorative, with a timeless flair. Following a few decades of reduced activity, the company has successfully reestablished itself in recent years with a return to their original neighborhood in 2006.

SMoA's collection of Rookwood Pottery showcases the company's development over time with a variety of vases and decorative paperweights. From the beginning, glaze chemistry and surface decoration were important components of what made Rookwood unique. After a few years of initial success, Rookwood hired the country's first ceramic chemist, Karl Langenbeck, and an internationally respected ceramic artist, Kataro Shirayamadani. Both assisted in creating the company's standard look that makes Rookwood Pottery so recognizable.

The earliest piece on display is an open-necked vase from 1891. The delicate petals of the flowers at its base show the care and craftsmanship of Rookwood's artists. The soft transition of the background, from dark blue to light pink, marks a distinct eye for color that can be seen in the rest of the Rookwood pieces. During Rookwood's hey-day, the company notes having over 500 different glazes on hand! Notice how each paperweight is a different color? Which pieces is your favorite?



Dorothy Doughty's Porcelain Birds

Dorothy Susan Doughty (1892-1962) was a British artist who worked mainly in sculpture and pottery. Her primary body of work is a collection of American birds produced between 1933 and 1960. In all, there were thirty-six pairs and three individual birds in the series. After designing the miniature sculptures in model forms, they were produced by a British porcelain manufacturer called Royal Worcester. As you can see by the six in our collection, the birds are extremely intricate and fragile alluding to their realistic quality. Can you imagine the sounds these birds would make if they were alive? What birds have you seen this Spring?



Earthtones: An Exploration of America's Natural Landscapes by Elizabeth Wetterstroem

When it comes to making art, Wetterstroem is torn in two disparate directions – one in function, and one in nature.

“With my functional work, I primarily focus on the comfort of use by the consumer. I want each piece to be clean and invoke a sense of pleasure or satisfaction upon being held. I do this with the hope that the very process of experiencing everyday life might be made brighter and more joyous.

Alternatively, I make other work that attempts to convey an artist's view of nature, pieces that embody the colors and textures of particular landscapes. I believe that the artist experiences nature differently, seeing within a landscape a series of brushstrokes and chisel marks, that ultimately form a whole scene. By displaying the details of a landscape through a combination of clay and glaze, I encourage my audience to discover the world around them.

Currently, I am allowing myself to explore both paths, letting each one inform the other, with the goal of someday being able to walk in both directions.

Each piece in Earthtones strives to embody the colors and textures of a specific landscape in the United States, namely those of the National Parks.

Elizabeth Wetterstroem is a ceramic artist based in Dayton, Ohio. She is a recent graduate of Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio where she received bachelor's degrees in art history and studio art with a concentration in ceramics. Elizabeth currently works as a museum assistant with a curatorial focus at the Springfield Museum of Art, as well as a living history assistant at Carillon Historical Park in Dayton. Her love of the landscape, specifically, America's southwest and Utah, continually influences her art practice.



Figures by Females: Sculptures by Helen Bosart Morgan and Mary Leyman Cover

This mini exhibit of two local female artists in the Museum's collection is just a small taste of what is to come in 2020. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, SMOA will present a long-term exhibition of women artists in the Permanent Collection. The show will feature both Ohio based female artists and women artists from around the country and abroad. We are excited to share these works with you when the Museum resumes normal operations in the coming months!

Helen Bosart Morgan (1902-1986) was a native resident of Springfield, spending her entire life here. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Wittenberg University in 1923 and continued her education at the Art Institutes of Dayton and Chicago. She was a Fellow of the International Institute of Arts



and Letters and the National Association of Women Artists. Her career was multifaceted given that she worked in a variety of sizes and media, ranging from the large twisted metal sculpture in our Sculpture Trail to subtle figure drawings on paper. Morgan was an active artist and participant in the community serving as a founding member and first president of the Springfield Art Association. Established in 1952, the Association would later become our own Springfield Museum of Art.

The Museum has over 60 pieces by Helen Bosart Morgan, along with several objects by other artists that were in her own private collection. The four works on display here show her skill at rendering the human form. In Farewell, Morgan breaks the body into simple shapes while in Reclining Female Figure, she takes those shapes and refines them into a highly defined likeness. In her other two pieces, she goes a bit further and adds unique characteristics that capture the personality of her subjects.



With significantly less biographical information available, little information is known about Mary Leyman Cover other than she was born in 1907 and passed away in 1994. An artist similar to Morgan, Cover was versatile in her artmaking. The Museum's collection of Cover's work includes oil, acrylic, and mixed media paintings on canvas, Masonite panels, and several window screens. She also created wooden, ceramic, bronze, and plaster sculptures. Seen here are two wooden busts of female figures, perhaps the small piece was originally a maquette for the larger sculpture. What do you think?