

 ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

**Museum Contact:** Christine Renc-Carter, Executive Director

**Telephone:** (727) 712-5210

**Email:** Carter.Christine@spcollege.edu

Images available upon request.

**Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art announces new Fall lineup of exhibitions and programs that celebrate education through the arts**

This fall, the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art (LRMA) at St. Petersburg College’s (SPC) Tarpon Springs Campus launches a new season of exhibitions that celebrate the important connection between education and the arts. This series of exhibitions uplifts the voices of the educators and students in the Tampa Bay community. In the *2023 SPC Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition*, on view September 16 through December 17, 2023, LRMA showcases the current work and incredible talents of fourteen of SPC's award-winning Fine Arts and Humanities faculty and highlights their commitment to arts education in a variety of media including painting, ceramics, mixed media, drawing, and illustration. LRMA also unveils eighteen new acquisitions by internationally renowned artists and educators in *The Space Between: Donald Saff, The Constellation Series* and *NEW ACQUISITIONS: Robert Rauschenberg, the China Series*, on view September 16 through December 17, 2023. Saff and Rauschenberg were instrumental in establishing arts programs at the University of South Florida and Florida Southwestern State College.

In addition, other new exhibitions foster meaningful connections with the community that celebrate local talented high school students in *Visual Metaphors: Pinellas County Schools High School Exhibition*, on view October 21 through December 1, 2023, and the diverse experiences of Hispanic Florida artists in *The Hurricane Within: Vibrancy and Resilience of Hispanic Heritage from the LRMA collection*, on view September 9 through December 17, 2023.

To complement the exhibitions, LRMA is hosting a robust season of programs and events through December. Launched on SPC Day on September 12th, this season of programs includes an Arts Career Day for students, Hispanic Heritage Month programs, seven gallery talks with SPC Visual Arts professors, and a film premier with artist and professor Elizabeth Indianos. On Thursday, November 16th, 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., LRMA and SPC celebrate International Education Week with a day of performances with visiting artists from Japan, demonstrations, music, and food. By highlighting a diverse range of artistic expressions, LRMA aims to inspire, engage, and promote the importance of arts education in our community. We invite you to join us in this celebration of creativity and the transformative power of education in the arts.

***The SPC Visual Arts Faculty Exhibition 2023***

**September 16 through December 17, 2023**

This exhibition highlights current work created by St. Petersburg College’s (SPC) full-time and adjunct Fine Arts and Humanities faculty, recognizes their artistic careers, and honors their commitment to arts education. Through this exhibition LRMA honors our legacy in education and collaboration with SPC by also including two professors emerita, who have been intrinsic to the museum’s established reputation for education in the arts and continued vision in our greater community. Includes 37 works in a variety of media including painting, ceramics, mixed media, drawing and illustration by exhibiting artists: Jonathan Barnes, Nathan Beard, Ragan Brown, Mason Gehring, Barton Gilmore, Kevin Grass, Marjorie Greene Graff, Jennifer Guest, Jim Hagenbuckle, Elizabeth Indianos, Kim Kirchman, Michaela Oberlander, Krishna Sadasivam, McKenzie Smith. This exhibition will be on view September 16 – December 17, and is located in the North and South Galleries.

***The Space Between: Donald Saff, The Constellation Series***

***NEW ACQUISITION SPOTLIGHT: Robert Rauschenberg’s China Series***

**September 16 through December 17, 2023**

LRMA unveils its most recent acquisition in two exhibitions which highlight renowned printmaker and educator Donald Saff, featuring his *Constellation Series* of 16 hand-colored etchings and two-color photographs by internationally known contemporary artist Robert Rauschenberg. These exhibitions explore their friendship and influence in the Tampa Bay Area and beyond.

Donald Saff is an artist, art historian, educator, lecturer, and a major force in the American prints and multiple movement since the 1960s. Saff has played a critical role in the development of the arts in the Tampa Bay region, founding Graphicstudio at the University of South Florida in 1968. By offering a look into Donald Saff’s world, from his creative genius in his print making process, to the mechanical prowess of horology, and his precision and dedication to education, *The Constellation Series* presents the viewer with the greater perspective of the artist himself. This exhibition includes 18 works and will be on view **September 16 – December 17, 2023**

***The Hurricane Within: Vibrancy and Resilience of Hispanic Heritage***

**September 9 through December 17, 2023**

LRMA commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month with reverence to Hispanic arts and culture that have shaped the fabric of our society in the United States. Each year from September 15th through October 15th, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage month. It begins September 15th to commemorate the Independence Day of five Latin American Countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and 18th. It is important to remember that the history of the Caribbean, Central and South America is not a singularity, but rather a multifaceted, multi-ethnic story that spans thousands of years. LRMA commemorates Hispanic Heritage Month with reverence to Hispanic arts and culture that have shaped the fabric of our society in the United States. Including eight works in printmaking and photography by Afredo Echazarreta, Pedro Gonzalez, Tomas Marias, Robert Juarez, Alfredo Sosabravo, this exhibition will be on view **September 9 – December 17, 2023.**

***Visual Metaphors: Pinellas County Schools High School Exhibition***

**October 21 through December 1, 2023**

On view at the Leepa Rattner Museum of Art (LRMA) for the first time, this installation of *Visual Metaphors* is a continuation of an exhibition series, which was previously hosted at the Museum of Fine Arts, St. Petersburg, for the last thirty years. LRMA is proud to continue our partnership with Pinellas County Schools, as well as debut showcasing the incredible talent that makes up our student communities with more than 50 works by students in the 9th through 12th grades.

**“Felted Flower Community Garden” micro fundraiser benefits LRMA’s educational programs**

LRMA recently hosted a *Felted Flower Community Garden* workshop with award-winning fiber artist Leaann Kreotsch as part of the Museum’s *Material Mastery: Florida CraftArt Permanent Collection of Fine Crafts* summer exhibition, which was on view through August 27th. For the community workshop, thirty amazing women gathered in SPC’s fine arts studio and turned essentially raw wool into colorful flowers in a matter of 3 hours. The community members and the Tampa Bay Surface Design Guild assembled the flowers into a magical garden which is now on display in LRMA’s lobby gallery. As a micro-fundraiser, for just $5 per ticket, you have a chance to win one of these whimsical potted felted flowers. The drawing of winning tickets will take place at LRMA’s Spring 2024 exhibition opening reception on January 19, 2024 when the Museum will celebrate the grand opening of its Pattern & Decoration Movement exhibition. Contact LRMA’s Visitor Services for more information on purchasing raffle tickets at (727) 712-5762.

**RELATED PROGRAMS**

LRMA is hosting a series of engaging programs throughout the fall. Admission to all programs is by suggested donation. For more information, please visit [www.leeparattner.org/calendar](https://url.avanan.click/v2/___http%3A//www.leeparattner.org/calendar___.YXAzOmZsb3JpZGFjcmFmdGFydDphOm86ZTNjMWNjNTc4ZTA3YjZiMzc1NjkxYmMwNzFhMWUwNGM6Njo0YjEyOmVmNTQ2ZTA1MzIwNjQzZjhiZjZmZGZhNWIwNzcyNTNhMWEyOTBiYmYwNDg4ZmQ2YjZlNDhhZTZjNjI5ZGU1YjA6cDpU)

10/6 Focus Friday: Bosco Sodi

Honoring Hispanic Heritage Month

Fri., Oct. 6

12-1 pm

Admission is by donation

10/12 Elizabeth Indianos Film Screening

 This Blessed Plot, This Earth

Thurs., Oct. 12

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Admission by donation

Interactive Gallery

In partnership with the City of Tarpon Springs Cultural Center’s exhibition “Introspective: Public/Private”, a retrospective of artist Elizabeth Indianos, LRMA will host a film premier on Oct. 12th of her play “This Blessed Plot, This Earth” which was filmed at the cultural center in front of her beautiful mural.

10/24 Krishna Sadasivam Artist Talk

Tues., Oct. 24

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Admission by donation

Interactive Gallery

10/25 Barton Gilmore Artist Talk

Wed., Oct. 25

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Admission by donation

Interactive Gallery

**November**

11/2 Jennifer Guest Artist Talk

Thurs., Nov 2

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Admission by donation

Interactive Gallery

11/3 Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art presents

Focus Friday: Hiram Williams

Honoring Veterans Day!

Fri., Nov. 3

12-1 pm

Admission is by donation

11/8 Marjorie Greene Graff Artist Talk

Thurs., Nov 8

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Admission by donation

Interactive Gallery

11/9 Nathan Beard Artist Talk

Thurs., Nov 9

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Admission by donation

Interactive Gallery

11/9 Visual Metaphors: Pinellas County High Schools Exhibition

Reception and Awards Ceremony

Thurs., Nov. 9

6:00 - 8:00

Admission by donation

Interactive Gallery

11/16 ArtBreak Japanese Performance Art with visiting artists Scara Abe and Koho

Thurs., Nov. 16

12pm-2pm

Admission by donation

SPC Tarpon Springs Campus, Fine Arts Building Lobby

LRMA and SPC celebrate International Education Week with visiting Japanese Artists featuring performance art, demonstrations, music and more.

11/30 Kevin Grass Artist Talk

 Thurs. Nov. 30

 6pm-8pm

 Admisson by donation

 Interactive Gallery

**December**

12/1 Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art presents

Focus Friday: Virtual Talk with Artist Steven Kenny

Fri., Dec. 1

12-1 pm

Admission is by donation

Please visit [www.leeparattner.org/calendar](http://www.leeparattner.org/calendar) for Zoom link.

12/7 Jim Hagenbuckle Artist Talk

 Thurs., Dec. 7

 6pm – 8pm

Admission by donation

Interactive Gallery

**Also on View**: *Abraham Rattner: French Watercolors*; *Artistic Journeys with Abraham Rattner, Esther Gentle and Allen Leepa; Elemental: Fine Crafts from the Collection*; *Made in Florida: The Art of Giving.*

**About the Leepa-Rattner Museum of Art**

Opened to the public in 2002, LRMA is a modern and contemporary art museum with a collection of more than 7,000 works of 20th and 21st century art. The museum’s permanent collection includes works by Abraham Rattner, a renowned figurative expressionist; Esther Gentle, Rattner’s second wife and a printmaker, sculptor and painter; Allen Leepa, Rattner’s stepson and an abstract expressionist artist; and an extensive collection of works by notable 20th century artists such as Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall, Fernand Léger and Henry Moore. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, a distinction held by only 6 percent of all U.S. museums.

LRMA is located just west of U.S. Highway 19 at 600 E. Klosterman Road, on the Tarpon Springs Campus of St. Petersburg College. Museum hours are 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission by donation. The museum is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Additional information available at **leeparattner.org.**

# # #

**For more information, contact Christine Renc-Carter or visit leeparattner.org.**

**High-resolution photography available upon request.**