

VISUALIZE

Museum Hosts “Joie de Vivre” New Year’s Eve Gala

Hundreds of revelers gathered at the Mississippi Museum of Art on New Year’s Eve to enjoy an evening of “joie de vivre.” Guests were treated to an enchanted evening in old Paris in anticipation of the museum’s upcoming exhibition, *Raoul Dufy: A Celebration of Beauty*. Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres were followed by dinner and dancing, topped off with champagne and fireworks at midnight. The partying continued into the wee hours with more dancing and a late-night breakfast.



Marlena and Philip Pickering, Frank and Lisa Hadden



John and Ginger Arledge, Sherry and Mike Gleason



Andy Prosser and Katy Simmons



Gib Ford



Allison and Haley Fisackerly



Andrew and Jan Mattiace

UPCOMING

American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast: George Ohr, Dusti Bongé, Richmond Barthé

APRIL 11 - JULY 12, 2009

Twentieth-century painters Walter Anderson and Dusti Bongé, and sculptors George Ohr and Richmond Barthé, each a native of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, have all gained recognition for their artistic accomplishments far beyond the region. While each pursued an individual, idiosyncratic vision in their work, they collectively represent the rise of modernism in the state. In the words of exhibition curator Patti Carr Black, each “seemed to move inexorably and freely toward his or her art under the wide skies of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and its tradition of uninhibited striving.” This traveling exhibition is organized by the Mississippi Arts Commission and underwritten by the National Endowment for the Arts. An illustrated catalogue will be available for purchase in The Museum Store.

UPCOMING

Eudora Welty in New York

APRIL 11 - JULY 5, 2009

The Museum celebrates the centennial of Eudora Welty’s birth with an exhibition of her photographs. This collection of pictures by one of America’s greatest literary figures reprises Welty’s first solo show held at New York City’s Lugene Galleries in 1936. Among the works included are poignant images of her fellow Mississippians during the Great Depression as well as a number of Welty’s compassionate images of New Yorkers coping with hard times. The exhibition is organized by the Museum of the City of New York.



“ This collection of pictures by one of America’s greatest literary figures reprises Welty’s first solo show held at NYC’s Lugene Galleries ... ”

Name Change: One Artist - Twelve Persons - Thirty-Five Years

AUGUST 1 - NOVEMBER 29, 2009

One of the most original and innovative figures in American contemporary art is Mississippi-born, New York City resident Ed McGowin. His work has been shown in major exhibitions in this country and abroad, and is included in the collections of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Guggenheim Museum of Art, Hirshhorn Museum of Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Early on, McGowin became aware of the art world’s tendency to pigeonhole artists into stylistic tendencies, often stifling their innate creativity. To escape this trap, in 1970 McGowin launched his *Name Change* project, legally changing his name twelve times and making a different kind of art under each identity. For example, while Thornton Modestus Dossett’s small carved and painted sculptures focus on race relations, Isaac Noel Anderson’s large-scale installations reveal his belief in technology, and Alva Isaiah Fost investigates the possibilities of painting on plastics. For the MMA showing, McGowin will select works by the various personas that demonstrate the remarkable range of his creativity. An illustrated book will be available for sale in The Museum Store.



Everett Updike (for Ed McGowin), *Dog and Pears*, 1990 acrylic on wood panel, carved and painted wood frame, 30” x 30”.
Collection of Dr. Jay and Stacy Underwood, Jackson, MS

Jim Henson’s Fantastic World

DECEMBER 19, 2009 - MARCH 14, 2010

This remarkable exhibition offers a rare peek into the imagination and creative genius of this Mississippi-born, multi-talented innovator and creator of Kermit the Frog, Big Bird, and other beloved characters. The approximately 100 original artworks on view include drawings, cartoons, and storyboards illustrating Henson’s talent as a storyteller and visionary. Puppets, television props, photographs of Henson and his collaborators at work, large color murals, and videos are included. The exhibition is organized by The Jim Henson Legacy and toured by the Smithsonian Exhibition Traveling Exhibition Service in cooperation with the Henson Family, the Jim Henson Company, The Muppets Holding Company, LLC and Sesame Workshop. Jim Henson’s *Fantastic World* is made possible by the Biography Channel.