

PRESS RELEASE

Hilliard University Art Museum
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
710 East Saint Mary Blvd
Lafayette, LA 70503

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Friday, September 28, 2018 Fourth Annual Bienvenu Lecture 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

“The Power of Observation” led by Author and Scholar Bonnie Pitman

Free and open to the public

**LITE Center of Lafayette
537 Cajundome Boulevard, Lafayette**

Lafayette, LA - On Friday, September 28th at 7:00 PM the Hilliard University Art Museum will host Bonnie Pitman as she serves as the guest lecturer for the Fourth Annual John Bartholomew Bienvenu Lecture Series. Bonnie Pitman is the Director of Art/Brain Innovations, Center for BrainHealth, and Distinguished Scholar in Residence for the Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History at The University of Texas at Dallas. This lecture will address how the close observation of art makes us better storytellers, communicators, professionals, writers and artists.

The lecture is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM in the LITE Center of Lafayette. This LITE Center is located at 537 Cajundome Boulevard. A book signing will take place in the LITE center immediately following the lecture. Parking is readily available in the lot adjacent to the center.

Biography:

Bonnie Pitman joined The University of Texas at Dallas as Distinguished Scholar in Residence in 2012 to research and develop partnerships between UTD and cultural and health-related institutions. She serves in the Office of the Provost, and with The Edith O’Donnell Institute of Art History, The Center for BrainHealth and the School of Art and Technology.

The former Eugene McDermott Director of The Dallas Museum of Art, she is a national leader in the public engagement of art with diverse audiences. As Director of Art/Brain Innovations, Pitman expands her research and teaching to foster brain health with programs on observation, meditation, and compassion and her “Do Something New” practice. These initiatives connect neurological research with the experience and process of seeing, looking and observing.

About the Series:

John Bartholomew Bienvenu was a much loved citizen of Lafayette who led a varied and full life. A

noted psychologist specializing in early childhood diagnostics, John was a graduate of UL Lafayette holding both BA and MA degrees. Near the end of his career, John took a passionate turn towards art, particularly as a watercolor painter with his own unique style, dubbed "Bienvenu Primitive." John was involved with many art associations, including service as the Secretary of the Lafayette Watercolor Guild and President of the Lafayette Art Association. His art received numerous awards and commendations and was sought by many collectors. This passion for art is what inspired Mrs. Gloria Callais to honor the life of her dear brother with the establishment of this lecture series. Mrs. Callais has been a generous supporter and contributor to UL Lafayette and we are honored to share in her brother's legacy at the Hilliard University Art Museum.

Interviews may also be arranged.

Museum Hours, Admission & General Information

The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard, on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum Hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; closed Sunday and Monday. General Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors (62+), \$3 Students (5-17). FREE for Members, UL Students/Staff/Faculty with identification, and visitors under 5. Guided tours of the galleries are available Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission. For general information, please visit hilliardmuseum.org or call (337) 482-2278.

About the Hilliard

The Hilliard University Art Museum operates on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and was originally founded in 1964 as the Art Center for Southwest Louisiana. Featuring a state-of-the-art modern facility that was erected in 2004, the museum houses more than 2,200 objects in its permanent collection, and is the largest art exhibition space between New Orleans and Houston. The Hilliard serves a wide range of educational and cultural needs by fostering cross-disciplinary intellectual discourse on campus, and throughout the region. At the core of the Hilliard's mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the art of our time, while celebrating the great diversity of Louisiana's heritage.

Concurrent Exhibitions

June 8, 2018 – January 18, 2019. "Salvador Dalí's Stairway to Heaven." Curated by David S. Rubin.

June 15, 2018 – December 29, 2018. "A. Hays Town and the Architectural Image of Louisiana." Guest Curated by Carol McMichael Reese, Ph. D.

August 10, 2018 – February 9, 2019. "Past the Frame: Abstraction and Its Environs in the Work of Allan Jones." Guest Curated by Christopher Bennett, Ph. D.

September 7, 2018 – January 19, 2019. "Shirin Neshat: Fervor."

September 7, 2018 – October 14, 2018. "Louisiana French: Myths and Movements." Presented in partnership with Festivals Acadiens et Créoles.