

PRESS RELEASE

Hilliard University Art Museum

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

Jolie Johnson, Marketing Director
jolie.johnson@louisiana.edu
(337) 482-6060



Friday, March 10, 2017 Third Annual Bienvenu Lecture 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

“Monet: Method & Meaning” led by Scholar Paul Hayes Tucker

**Free and open to the public
Fletcher Hall 134, UL Campus**

Lafayette, LA - On Friday, March 10, 2017 at 7:00 PM the Hilliard University Art Museum will host Paul Hayes Tucker as he serves as the guest lecturer for the Third Annual John Bartholomew Bienvenu Lecture Series. Paul Hayes Tucker is Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Boston where he taught for 36 years after earning his Ph.D. in the History of Art from Yale University. A specialist in 19th and 20th century art, Tucker is considered the world’s leading authority on Claude Monet.

Monet is world renowned for his ravishing views of his native France, his gardens at Giverny, and the English capital of London. Rendered with heightened color and remarkably varied brushwork, the more than 2,500 canvases that he produced by the time he died in 1926 at the age of 86 appear as if they were spontaneously executed by an artist passionately moved by the motifs he selected. They therefore rightfully earned him high praise—even during his lifetime—and now prices that would have far exceeded his wildest expectations.

But his work is much more complicated than what those dazzling images suggest. For while he was immensely sensitive to light and color and deeply committed to the art of painting, he also was a serious craftsman who drew prodigiously, employed pastels with considerable aplomb, and constructed his pictures with the care of a criminal plotting a crime, as his friend Degas claimed was his own method for making art. Monet was also a man of the world, a prodigious reader, and a student of history.

This lecture will explore these little known aspects of the father of Impressionism and will suggest multiple ways to think about the meaning of his art.

The lecture is scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM in Room 134 in Fletcher Hall on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s campus. Parking is available in the Girard Park Circle Parking Tower or the St. Mary Public Parking Lot, both accessible from Girard Park Circle. The lecture will be followed by a signing of Tucker’s books which can be purchased through the Hilliard Museum Store.

Biography:

Paul Hayes Tucker is Professor Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Boston where he taught for 36 years after earning his Ph.D. in the History of Art from Yale University. He also served on the faculties of the Institute of Fine Arts (NYU), the University of California Santa Barbara (USCB), and Williams College, his alma mater.

A specialist in 19th- and 20th century art, Tucker is considered the world's leading authority on Claude Monet. Tucker has written and edited 11 books, curated more than half a dozen international exhibitions, and contributed numerous essays to museum catalogues and art historical publications. Tucker has received numerous academic awards, has been heard many times on NPR, and has appeared frequently on television including Good Morning America, The Today Show, and The Charlie Rose Show.

Now a resident of Santa Barbara, he is presently writing a textbook on modern art.

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

February 3 – August 12, 2017. Spiritual Journeys: Homemade Art from the Wyatt and Becky Collins Collection, guest curated by Gus Kopriva.

February 3 – May 6, 2017. Yun-Fei Ji: Looking for Lehman Brothers, guest curated by Dr. Christopher Bennett, UL Lafayette Art History professor in the Department of Visual Arts.

December 27, 2016 – May 6, 2017. Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make do, guest curated by Dr. Christopher Bennett, UL Lafayette Art History professor in the Department of Visual Arts.

December 9 – May 13, 2017. Spotlight on Shawne Major.