

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Jolie S. Johnson, Marketing & Membership Manager

Phone: 337-482-6060

Fax: 337-262-1268

Email: Jolie.Johnson@louisiana.edu

New Exhibition Opens at Hilliard University Art Museum on March 19

Condition Report: Preserving our Community's Art Collection

LAFAYETTE, LA – The Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum is excited to open a new exhibition on Saturday, March 19th that highlights the key concepts of conservation science – which inform the museum's stewardship of its permanent collection. It offers a behind the scenes look at the daily preservation practices at the museum and presents a selection of artwork typically unseen, due to their fragile condition. Among the ten pieces featured in the exhibit are an early 20th century botanical drawing by Harriet Joor, a Thomas Sully portrait from 1812, and a recently restored painting by John McCrady. The exhibit will be on display until August 13, 2016.

The museum's curatorial consultant, Laura Blereau, believes that this exhibition is paramount to the conservation and educational mission of the museum. "By drawing attention to works with minor flaws, the exhibit aims to educate our audience on the most common problems that can occur in long-term storage – be it the result of gravity, pests, mold, or light. Professional conservators often play a part in remedying these situations, before an artwork goes on view."

This exhibition is presented in conjunction with a \$25,000 conservation grant the museum received in the fall of 2015 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The funds were used to place ultraviolet film filters on the second floor windows which provides stronger protection against light and high temperatures. This will allow the museum to exhibit works on paper which comprises approximately 75% of the permanent collection. The improvements made to the second floor will allow the museum to have a designated and prominent space for exhibiting works from the collection while utilizing it as an educational resource.

Along with the exhibition, the Hilliard is launching an "Adopt a Work of Art" Program. Many objects in the museum's permanent collection need cleaning and conservation before they are ready to exhibit. Donations may be made to our general conservation fund or you have the option to support a specific work of art in our collection for \$1500. This level of sponsorship provides you recognition on the object label anytime it is on display, acknowledgement on our website and our bi-annual newsletter. Multiple donor levels are available and range from \$250 - \$2500. This would make for a unique gift or a special way to honor a friend, relative, or organization. All donations are tax-deductible. If you would like to be a part of this program, contact Museum Director LouAnne Greenwald to discuss the many ways you can support our museum's mission.

The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard. Lafayette, LA. Museum hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Wednesday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm; and

Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Adults \$5, Seniors (62+) \$4, Students (5-17) \$3, Children (under 5) free, and UL Students/Staff/Faculty free with identification. Complimentary guided tours of the galleries are available every Friday & Saturday at 2 PM.

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