

# PRESS RELEASE

Hilliard University Art Museum

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

710 East Saint Mary Blvd

Lafayette, LA 70503

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**Saturday, February 11, 2017**  
**Play Day: Spring Celebration**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

Featuring traditional paper crafts, tea samplings, art activities, lawn games, and more!

**Free and open to the public**

**Lafayette, LA** - The Hilliard University Art Museum invites the community for its second play day event as they welcome in the year of the fire rooster! This free day encourages families and friends to play and experience art together through different forms of activities in the museum. Play Day falls on the last day of the Spring Festival or Chinese Lunar New Year, also celebrated as the Tet holiday in Vietnamese culture.

Visitors will enjoy learning more about New Year's traditions, viewing a Qigong demonstration, creating a traditional paper craft, listening to a special story time of *Bringing in the New Year*, and playing lawn games with Olympic Grove. There will also be activities in the galleries that encourage family exploration and play time to celebrate the newly opened spring exhibitions, *Spiritual Journeys: Homemade Art from the Becky and Wyatt Collins Collection*, *Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make do*, and *Yun-Fei Ji: Looking for Lehman Brothers*. Food trucks (Olympic Grove & Rice Kings) will be at the museum for visitors to purchase food and beverages. While you are welcome to bring a picnic blanket and chairs to relax on the museum's great lawn, we ask that you please leave your ice chests at home.

This event is a part of the Hilliard Museum's education initiative that kicked off during the summer of 2016. With education at the core of our mission, the museum has placed a focus on development of programs and lesson plans. Olivia Morgan joined the museum's staff this summer as a full-time Educator in order to plan a comprehensive program of educational activities targeting K-12 students that tie in to curriculum standards as well as family programs that promote play and life-long learning among parents and children. As a part of this initiative, the museum will offer a free admission day three times a year to complement each exhibition season. "The museum's goal is to make the galleries and the exploration of art more accessible to the people of Acadiana. We hope that people of all ages can come together and enjoy the exhibitions. As a former classroom teacher, I know how valuable it is to include experiential learning for the standards to come alive." states Olivia Morgan.

In addition to lesson plan development and play day, the museum has brought back its successful Toddler Time program on the first Wednesday of every month at 10 AM. Parents and their children will enjoy story time led by a certified Kindergarten teacher and participate in a hands-on art project. The program will be free to attend, however, a suggested donation of \$5 will help with the cost of supplies.

**Schedule of events:**

While most of the art activities will be ongoing throughout the day, below are time sensitive parts of the day's program.

10:30 am	Qigong Demonstration
11:20 am	Calligraphy Demonstration
11:00-1:00 pm	Tea Tasting with the Lafayette Chinese American Association
1:00 pm	<i>Bringing in the New Year</i> Story Time
2:00 pm	Play Day activities end. Museum will remain open until 5 pm.

The Hilliard Museum wishes to thank the partners for Play Day: Spring Celebration – The Chinese Student Association, the Lafayette Chinese American Association, and Raising Canes as well as The Curator's Circle Fund at the Community Foundation of Acadiana, Anonymous, Kiwanis Club of Lafayette, Robertson Energy and Capital, Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Scurlock, and Carolyn French, Michael Huber, Byron Reyes and UBS Financial Services.

### **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](http://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**

Spiritual Journeys: Homemade Art from the Becky and Wyatt Collins Collection  
February 3, 2017 – August 12, 2017

Yun-Fei Ji: Looking for Lehman Brothers  
February 3, 2017 – May 6, 2017

Sandra Eula Lee: Make of / Make do  
December 27, 2016 – May 6, 2017

Spotlight on Shawne Major  
December 9, 2016 – May 13, 2017