

MUSE LETTER

SUMMER 2012

Museum News
Page 2

Biggs Bits
Page 3

Collection Connection
and Exhibitions
Programming
Page 4

Special Events
& Education
Page 5

Page B
Pages 6&7

Biggs Museum
of American **Art**



Glass Transformed Exhibition

Inspired by translucent shapes that seem to come alive in the light, fine art photographer Celia Pearson will be showcasing her collection *Glass Transformed* at the Biggs Museum. *Glass Transformed* opens Friday, September 7, 2012. This will be the first time Pearson's captivating work will be on view in a Delaware museum. Spanning from still life to abstract studies, the exhibit is presented in forms that vary from framed prints to her more recent fiber installations.

In 2003, Pearson was asked to be the principal photographer of *Pure Sea Glass*, a book written and published by Richard LaMotte. It was this unique introduction to photographing sea glass that sparked Pearson's interest in this mesmerizing subject matter.

"The interplay of light, pattern, hue, texture, and shape has always attracted me ever since I began to photograph forty years ago," says Celia Pearson. "It was natural for me to be lured by the subject of sea glass."

Pearson's work has been published and exhibited widely and is in corporate, private, and museum collections. An established assignment photographer, her portfolio has included national publications such as Metropolitan Home, Southern Accents, and Coastal Living.

Collections of sea glass are the muses for *Glass Transformed* and come from diverse locations such as the Chesapeake Bay, Buzzard's Bay in Massachusetts, the Liguria region of Italy, and Barcelona, Spain.

BIGGS MUSEUM RECEIVES \$5,000 Delaware Community Foundation Capital Grant

The Biggs Museum is one of twenty-two organizations to be awarded a capital grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the Delaware Community Foundation under the Capital Grants Program. The award from Delaware Community Foundation will directly contribute to "The New Biggs" capital campaign for renovation of the museum. In part, funds will be used toward the design and production of educational signage throughout the Museum and for the upgrade of lighting to protect the permanent collections. To date, the Museum has successfully raised \$1.759 million of the \$1.864 million needed to complete "The New Biggs" campaign.

"The Biggs Museum is truly fortunate to be one of the recipients for funding by Delaware Community Foundation under the 2012 Capital Grants Program. Support from the Delaware Community Foundation will enable the Museum to fulfill its long-term goals and to better serve our growing community with newly renovated spaces for visitors to gather, learn and experience art and culture," says Museum Executive Director, Linda Danko.

If you are interested in making a donation to "The New Biggs" campaign, please send a check to the Biggs Museum, Attn: "The New Biggs" capital campaign, P.O. Box 711, Dover, DE 19904 or visit the website at www.biggsmuseum.org. Commemorative gallery naming opportunities are also currently available, for more information on a naming opportunity please call Jennifer Kemske at 302-674-2111 ext. 105. All gifts are tax deductible.



ARTIST CORNER with Celia Pearson

I am so pleased that the Biggs Museum of American Art is hosting *Glass Transformed*.

Sea glass has been a source of wonder to me. I am not alone. While I came to sea glass as a photographer, I have since come to know the large population of collectors who are enamored with these shards of glass transformed by time and the sea.

But there is more. As I photograph, what I see through the camera's lens is inevitably transformed again, shaped by those things that call to me – beauty and light, harmony and balance, vitality.

There is yet another layer. When you, the museum visitor, stand in front of this work you too will transform it. You will see it through your own unique lens.

And so the title, *Glass Transformed*.

See you in September! It will be a pleasure to share my work with you.



"things that call to me-beauty and light, harmony and balance, vitality."

BIGGS BITS



Ellen Priest



David Brinley



Jessica Stephens

Award Winners XII at the Biggs Museum

Newark violinist Xiang Gao, cited by the New York Times as “a rare and soulful virtuoso”, has performed for world leaders such as Chinese President Hu Jin Tao, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton and King Carlos I of Spain - will now be taking his talents to the Biggs Museum of American Art as a 2012 Masters Fellow.

This summer, the *Award Winners XII* exhibition at the Biggs Museum celebrates the achievements of Gao and fifteen other local artists who are recipients of

the 2012 Delaware Division of the Arts Individual Artist Fellowships. Established in 2000, a strong partnership has grown between Delaware Division of the Arts Fellowship program and the museum to include the exhibition, museum programming, and a reception to honor the winners. *Award Winners XII* is one of the most important annual projects at the Biggs Museum in carrying out the museum’s mission to celebrate diversity, provide educational access to Delaware’s fine-arts community, and to bring more awareness of both the museum and art to the community.

Visual, performing, and literary artists in all disciplines have the opportunity to apply for the Delaware Division of the Arts annual



Carol Tippit Woolworth

distinguished fellowship prizes. Fellows are chosen out of a group of over a hundred applicants from the state of Delaware each year.

“The Fellowships recognize the best and most talented artists residing in Delaware. It is a fantastic opportunity for all of them to come

Award Winners XII is one of the most important annual projects at the Biggs Museum in carrying out the museum’s mission to celebrate diversity, provide educational access to Delaware’s fine-arts community, and to bring more awareness of both the museum and art to the community.

together to be recognized in the museum setting at the Biggs, and for the public to get to know them through the Award Winners exhibition and related programs,” says Kristin Pleasanton, Program Manager with the Division of the Arts. In addition to Gao’s musical integrity, the exhibition will feature the following 2012 Delaware Division of the Arts recipients in the Award Winners XII exhibition:

Visual Arts: Carol Tippit Woolworth • David Brinley • Ellen Priest • Jessica Stephens • Nicholas Serratore • Ramona Maziarz • Sally Van Orden • William Bretzger

Literature: Abby Millager • Anne Marie Cammarato • Gary Hanna • James Miller • Mahasveta Barua

Music: Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe • Xiang Gao

Award Winners XII will be on view through October 21, 2012. Along with this exhibition the Biggs Museum will be offering a variety of summer art workshops and demonstrations for adults, some of which will be led by the 2012 individual artist fellows. These classes bring professional artists to the museum to teach about the visual and literary arts.

Take your Best Shot for Biggs Shot!

The Biggs Museum is pleased to announce a “call for entries” for the *Biggs Shot 2012* competition. *Biggs Shot 2012*, the third juried photography competition hosted by the Biggs Museum, will feature the work of professional and emerging photographers, working and/or living in the Mid-Atlantic region. Photographs selected by Juror Sara Stolfi will be displayed in the *Biggs Shot 2012* exhibition at the Museum. The theme for the competition is open, and any photographic medium can be submitted for consideration, including film, video and digital formats. The competition is open to all photographers, both amateur and professional from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C. and New Jersey. The deadline for entries is September 15, 2012. More information, including applications can be found online at www.biggsmuseum.org or by calling 302-674-2111.



COLLECTION & CONNECTION EXHIBITIONS programming

Studying Up at the Biggs Museum: Delaware Art and Antiques

We are Studying Up with art history classes within the Biggs Museum's galleries with Curator, Ryan Grover. Ryan's classes will focus on American, and especially, Delaware art and antiques from the 1600s to the present. Each class session is just \$5.00, reservations are required and space is limited. Please register with Becky Cooper at 302.674.2111 x 101 or online at www.biggsmuseum.org. All classes take place on Wednesdays from 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Schedule of Class Topics:

- 9-12-12, American Pilgrims, before 1720
- 9-19-12, American Baroque, c 1720-60
- 9-26-12, American Rococo, c 1750-80
- 10-3-12, American Federal, c 1770-1810
- 10-10-12, American Classicism, c 1800-1840
- 10-17-12, Focus Day: Delaware Silver, 1720-1860
- 10-24-12, Victorian and Revivals, c 1840-1900
- 10-31-12, American Arts and Crafts, c 1900-20
- 11-7-12, American Modernism, c 1910-50
- 11-14-12, Contemporary Art, after 1970

Philadelphia's French Connection

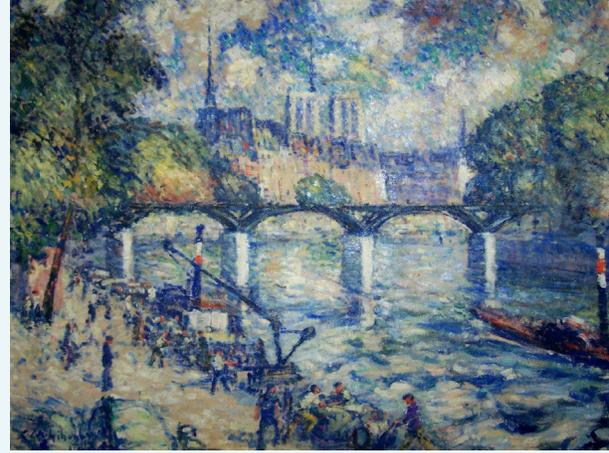
As the second phase of construction progresses, the Biggs has temporarily de-installed some of its 20th century collections.

Removing the modern paintings and sculptures from the third floor, to make way for hammers and paint, reminded us of the many stories this portion of the collection holds.

Beginning in the first half of the 19th century, American art students completing their academic instruction at one of the few new art schools in the United States, would often continue their studies with popular European artists in countries such as Italy (for sculptors), Germany and France. Many of the artists displayed on the Museum's third floor received some, often much, European art instruction. Exciting ideas were coming to light in the art world's capitals. American patrons, hungry for the latest fashion, came to celebrate the influence European, especially Parisian, artistic innovators had upon Americans studying abroad.

Many of the works in Galleries 20 through 23 exhibit an enduring French influence on American art: the Barbizon Style, America's first *plein air* masters, the French-inspired Impressionist movement and Post-Impressionistic works by New York artists, Childe Hassam and Elmer Livingston MacRae.

The Staff and Board of Trustees are delighted to unveil one of its latest additions to the permanent collection, *The Seine* by Clarence Montfort Gihon (1871-1929). This Post-Impressionistic work was painted by a Philadelphia painter while living in Paris. Gihon exhibited regularly in the largest American exhibitions of the turn of the century. The artist studied in New York with William Merritt Chase, whose work is also represented in the Museum's collection, and Kenyon C. Cox and in Paris with J.P. Laurens and Benjamin Constant. Gihon's Pointillist approach to painting offers a Philadelphia perspective to this Post-Impressionist style that is demonstrated within the Museum by New York artists. *The Seine* will be displayed at the conclusion of the Phase 2 construction project in September.



Award Winners XII Exhibition Programming

For complete program descriptions and registration information, please visit www.biggsmuseum.org or call 302-674-2111 ext 101.

Poetry Reading by Gary Hanna

Wednesday, August 22
12:00 to 1:00 p.m.
FREE!, All Ages Welcome

Digital Photography Workshop with William Bretzger

Saturday, September 8 and Saturday, September 15
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(Please bring lunch)
\$75 per person

Jewelry Making by Jessica Stephens

Tuesday, September 18 and Thursday, September 20
5:30 to 8:30 p.m.
\$75 per person

Pastel Techniques with Nicholas Serratore

Saturday, September 29
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
(Please bring lunch)
\$50 per person

Winds of Change Jazz Performance

by Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe
Saturday, October 6
1:00 p.m.
Free, All Ages Welcome

Delaware Division of the **Arts**

*Pre-registration is required for all programs

The Biggs Museum offers three, free family-friendly monthly programs in addition to presenting a collection of fine and decorative art to the public year-round and free of charge.

AUGUST

Mini-Masters: Paper Bag City
Wednesday, August 15
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Free, Children Ages 3-5
Children will create a house using a paper bag and crayons.

SEPTEMBER

Biggs Kids: Glass Transformed
Saturday, September 1
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Free, Children Ages 5-10
In anticipation of the *Glass Transformed* exhibition we will learn what the color and type of glass means to a sea glass collector. Participants will be surprised to learn the most common color and shape of sea glass while constructing a vibrant sea glass mosaic to take home.

First Friday: Glass Transformed Opening Reception
Friday, September 7
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Free, All Ages
Glass Transformed is the first museum presentation within the State of Delaware of the photographic work of Celia Pearson. Based in Annapolis, the artist has traveled as far as Italy to photograph unique sea glass collections. Spanning from still life to abstract studies, the exhibit is presented in forms that vary from framed prints to her more recent fiber installations. Pearson's work has been published and exhibited widely throughout the United States.

Mini-Masters: Glass Transformed
Wednesday, September 19
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Free, Children Ages 3-5
Participants will be lead through the *Glass Transformed* exhibition to learn the importance of the color, shape and type of glass. Each child will then create a beautiful sea glass mosaic to take home.

OCTOBER

First Friday: Delaware By Hand Trunk Show
Friday, October 5
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Free, All Ages Welcome
Join us in celebrating and supporting the Delaware artists and artisans who comprise Delaware By Hand (DBH). The featured objects include hand blown glass, woodwork, textiles, jewelry, pottery and sculpture that will be available for purchase.

Biggs Kids: Pumpkin Patch
Saturday, October 6
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Free, Children Ages 5-10
Participants will learn about the history of pumpkins in America before creating their own pumpkin patch to take home.

Mini-Masters: Pumpkin Patch
Wednesday, October 17
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Free, Children Ages 3-5
Participants will read along with "The Little Pumpkin Patch" story before creating their own pumpkin patch to take home.

TEE OFF with the Biggs Museum

The Biggs Museum invites you to the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament to be held Friday, September 21, 2012 at Wild Quail Golf & Country Club in Wyoming, Delaware. Proceeds from the event will support the Museum's educational programming and temporary exhibitions.

The festivities will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Golfers will play 18 holes in a scramble format. Following the tournament players will have a chance to mix and mingle during cocktail hour and dinner. The cost is \$125 per person or \$500 for a foursome and includes green fees, golf cart, gift pack, lunch, beverages on the course, cocktail hour, dinner, silent auction and awards.

If golf is not your cup of "tee" please join us for cocktails, dinner and the silent auction. These tickets are \$40 per individual. Sponsorships are also available. For more information on the Biggs Museum Golf Tournament and to get involved please visit www.biggsmuseum.org or contact the Biggs Museum at 302-674-2111 ext. 101. This is one of the Museum's largest fundraisers of the year so we hope everyone will come out, have a good time, and help us to raise some much needed funds!



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MORE for our MEMBERS!

Brand New Members Only Events Added to the Calendar

The Biggs Museum is always looking for innovative ways to show appreciation to our family members. In the past, members have received invitations to the annual Member's Appreciation Brunch held every spring. With expansion of the Museum comes additional thanks for all you do to help keep the Museum a FREE haven and resource for the community. Beginning this year, all Museum members will be receiving not one, but THREE invitations to private MEMBERS ONLY events, giving you a special insider's look to our temporary exhibitions. Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 14 for the first MEMBERS ONLY event to be held in conjunction with Celia Pearson's *Glass Transformed* exhibition. Join us from 12:30 to 2:30 as we celebrate you during an afternoon of tea, coffee, mimosas and pastries. Nationally recognized photographer, Celia Pearson will be with us sharing stories and reflections about the lure of sea glass, the creation of the exhibition *Glass Transformed*, and her winding lifelong photographer's path - a path that a year ago brought her to the door step of the Biggs Museum. Sea glass has not let her go, she says, since it "chose" her nine years ago when she was commissioned by author Richard LaMotte to photograph for his book Pure Sea Glass. Pearson's work has been published and exhibited widely, and is in corporate, private, and museum collections. There will be plenty of time for questions at the end. Reservations are required.



Want to see more photos from Biggs Museum programs and hear more about our special events? 'Like' us on Facebook. Search 'Biggs Museum of American Art.'



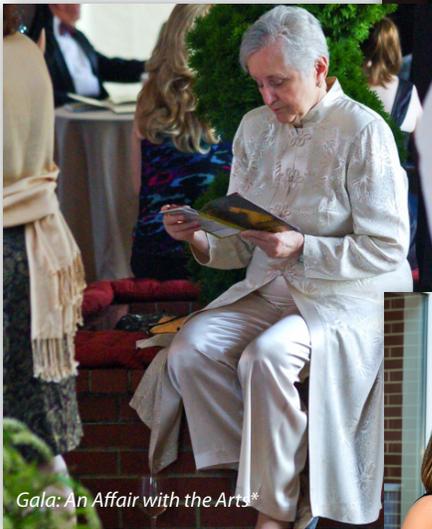
New Year's Eve Bash



New Year's Eve Bash



New Year's Eve Bash



Gala: An Affair with the Arts*



Gala: An Affair with the Arts*



Gala: An Affair with the Arts*



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Gala: An Affair with the Arts*

* Gala photos by Platypus Dream Photography



Art a la Carte



Biggs Kids



Junior Docent Program



Hair Affair

Hair Affair



First Friday



Bike Delaware Public Program



Lockerman Exhibition Opening



Lockerman Exhibition Opening



E Jean Lanyon Exhibition Opening

Biggs Museum of American Art

P.O. Box 711
Dover, DE 19903

CONTACT & INFORMATION

THE BIGGS MUSEUM

406 Federal Street

Dover, DE 19901

Tel: (302) 674-2111

Fax: (302) 674-5133

admin@biggsmuseum.org

www.biggsmuseum.org

FREE General Admission for All Ages

Open Tuesday - Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunday: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Museum closed Mondays

Museum open on select Holidays.

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The Biggs Museum thanks its sponsors for their generous support.



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BIGGS MUSEUM PROGRAM REGISTRATION:

All events and programs are held at the Biggs Museum. Pre-registration and pre-payment (where applicable) are required for all programs and events (including *Biggs Kids* and *Mini-Masters*). Pre-registration can be completed by:

Phone: (302)674-2111, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or Visit the **On-Line Gift Shop** at www.biggsmuseum.org. Visit the Education Section to register for *Biggs Kids* and *Mini-Masters*.