

Friday Footprints

"Every man must leave a track and it might as well be a good one."

-Thomas Gilcrease

July 28, 2023



"Sol" by Alfredo Zalce

QUOTE: "Color is a power which directly influences the soul." Wassily Kandinsky

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I have had several enjoyable experiences with art this month and expect to have more before the summer is over. It was thrilling to hear Norma Howard speak about the memories that inspired her painting, "Gathering Corn," at the Gilcrease Members Only event on July 15. Having been drawn to this depiction of Choctaw life from the beginning, the discussion of her techniques at the last Gillies/Docents meeting made me appreciate the painting even more. I visited the brand-new Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts earlier this month. My favorite there, "A Familiar Kind of Riddle" by Peter Pincus, was a completely different kind of artwork—colored porcelain tiles mounted on wood. But, oh, the colors!

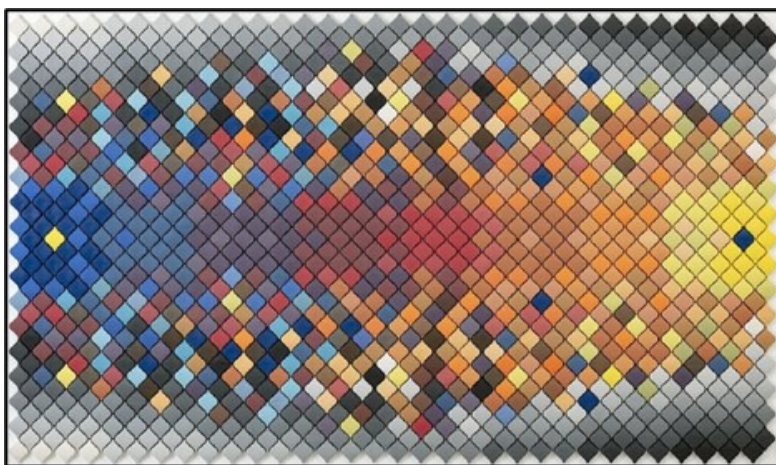
The featured art for this issue of *Friday Footprints*, "Sol" by Alfredo Zalce, was another painting that caught my eye because of its subject matter—a huge blazing sun seemed an appropriate symbol for July—but something else about it just pulled me in. A segment on *CBS Sunday Morning* about Native artist Jaune Quick-to-See Smith engaged me not only because she had been featured on Gilcrease's Facebook page just a couple of days before her profile aired, but because I really like her meaningful collages. I wondered what it was that drew me to these particular artworks, and the answer was obvious. Color!

What draws you to a piece of art? Memories it evokes, a sense of awe it inspires, or something more elemental—its lines, its shapes, its colors? Whatever it is, you don't have to travel to find it. If you can, it's always a wonderful experience to visit a museum or gallery, but if you can't, don't forget that you have the Gilcrease online collection at your fingertips, as well as the collection of the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts—or the Metropolitan Museum of Art, for that matter!

Watch the *CBS Sunday Morning* segment on Jaune Quick-to-See Smith at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRQB9-9f8EA>

....Becky Hatchett



"A Familiar Kind of Riddle" by Peter Pincus
at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts



"Indian Self Rule" by Jaune Quick-to-See
Smith at Gilcrease Museum

The Docent Corner

Hello, Gillies,

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Our next Gillies/Docents meeting will be in HCAR on August 4th at 10:00 a.m., with coffee and goodies available after 9:30 a.m. (Thank you, Dick and Lana.) Come one! Come all! You won't want to miss this one.

After President Becky Hatchett's remarks and Susan Neal's update, Jenny Keller, Associate Curator of Contemporary Culture and Community will be there to present on "Early North American Cities: Cahokia." It is my understanding (at this point) that an exhibit on early cities will have some gallery space in the new museum, so this presentation will be a chance to enrich our knowledge of pre-colonial indigenous American culture.

In addition to Jenny's presentation, Becky is inviting staff members to join us at Gillies/Docents meetings as an opportunity for us to meet them and for them to share a bit about what they do. For our August meeting, J. J. Cody Fox, Member and Donor Engagement Specialist, will join us to discuss and answer any questions you may have about museum membership: renewals, expirations, current applicable discounts, our plastic cards, etc. Please join us on August 4th!

...Alana Trisler, Docent Chair



Friday, August 4 – Gillies/Docent Meeting at HCAR. Refreshments available at 9:30 a.m.; meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, September 15 – General Membership Meeting and Forum, 10:00 a.m. at Oklahoma Joe's, 6175 E. 61st Street. Speaker to be announced soon.

All Gillies are invited to the monthly Gillies/Docents meeting.

MESSAGES

Death of a Gillie:

Marjory Pick Hooker
Jan Benelli

Get Well Card sent:

Diane Cox

Change in contact information:

Beverly Wilcox - New email address: bevwilcox33@gmail.com

Please send changes in contact information (address, phone, and email) as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to the Gillies Secretary Lynn Cyert at cyert@nsuok.edu.

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

Remember those writing assignments from the first week of school? Enjoy these glimpses into the summer trips taken by some of your Gillie friends!

Dian Peacock "...could not resist seeing Shoshone Falls shortly after they let open the flood gates" in June. She writes: "They had an 80-year record snowfall this year after about a 10-year drought. This might have been similar to how Moran viewed the falls." Dian comments that it was a "trickle" when she viewed the falls in the summer of 2021.



Dan Lowrance encountered a familiar figure on vacation in Williams, Arizona.



Carol Stookey visited the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts in Little Rock which reopened in April after a 3-year construction project.

After a recent segment on *CBS Sunday Morning* featuring the architect who had designed a new building for the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts (A/MFA), my curiosity got the better of me and I wanted to see it. It was in Arkansas? Yes! A great weekend getaway to Little Rock! Honestly, I didn't even know there was an Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts. So armed with our timed FREE admission tickets, Becky Hatchett and I headed down I-40.

When we arrived, we were greeted by a member of their guest services team and we learned that the museum had been closed for three years for construction of the new building. The original 1930's building had been torn down and this REIMAGINED (that's how they are branding it) museum just opened in April. Of course, we shared a bit of our Gilcrease history.

This was exciting...we walked up the grand staircase, visited the "Cultural Living Room," walked through the galleries, and had lunch in the restaurant. Our greeter friend tracked us down and took us to meet their Director of Guest Services and we learned about how they are managing their grand opening. We then took a Docent led tour. There were two Docents with different options. It was an absolutely fabulous day!

To learn about the museum and its collections — <https://guide.arkmfa.org/audio-guides>

To learn more about the A/MFA (Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts) — <https://arkmfa.org/>

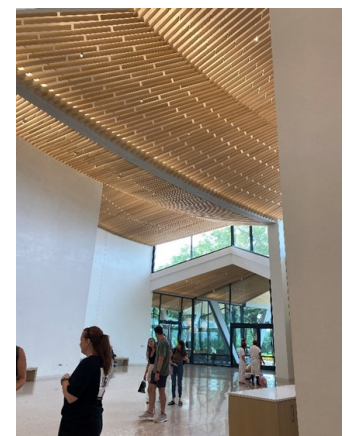
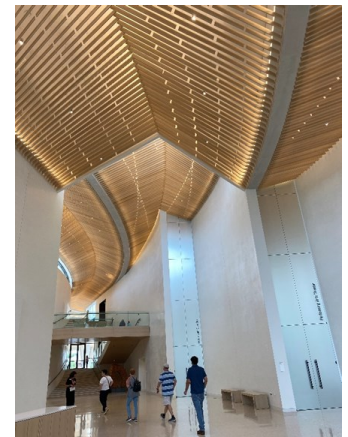
To learn more about the building — <https://studiogang.com/project/AMFA>



The façade from the original building was incorporated into the reimagined museum.



The space that the museum calls its "cultural living room" can also be booked for events.



GILCREASE MEMBERS ONLY EVENT

The Gillies that attended the Gilcrease Members Only event in Broken Arrow on Saturday, July 15, were in for quite a surprise. After exploring the Arts302 gallery and gift shop, and sampling Native American treats prepared by Nātv, a farm to table restaurant just down the street, we all sat down expecting to hear Audrey Jacob, Director of Art and Artist Registry for the Choctaw Nation, talk about “Gathering Corn” by Choctaw artist, Norma Howard, the latest installation of artwork for *Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood*. Instead, we were introduced to Norma Howard herself!

Admitting she rarely spoke to groups, she proceeded to hold us spellbound with stories about her childhood, her growth as an artist, what inspires her, and how she achieves the vivid colors and distinctive shapes that define her paintings. She credits imagination and memory for much of her inspiration, along with a hunger for beauty and the significance of Choctaw family life. She often spins a tale with a large dose of dry humor.

In talking about “Gathering Corn,” she shared a memory of standing outside with her father, just home from work, looking at a moon like that, until her mother came out to call them in to dinner. She admitted, in answer to a question, that she is the little girl hiding behind her mother’s skirts in “Gathering Corn.” Her father was the person who had the most influence on her, but it was her brother who sold her first painting for \$12.50.

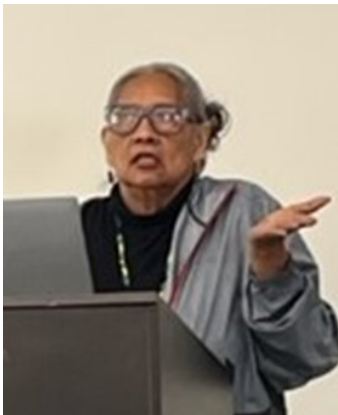
Her paintings have always been done in watercolor, she explained, because “that was all the Ben Franklin store had.” She taught herself to let one part of the painting dry so that the paint wouldn’t bleed into other parts. She described her specific shading technique as “basket weave brush strokes.” She recalled apologizing for her materials to an art professor who told her that the important thing was “not the materials, it’s you.”

In conclusion, she said that “the little girl she was thanks Gilcrease” for the chance to show her art. She encouraged all of us to “follow our little boy’s or little girl’s dreams.”

Our very own Judy Baggett won one of the door prizes, a basket of *Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood* items from Curations, and many of us got to take home the floral arrangements that had decorated the reception area. But what has stayed with us all was the opportunity to hear from an artist and find much that we have in common with that little girl with imagination and dreams.



Leona Graham and Judy Baggett



Artist Norma Howard



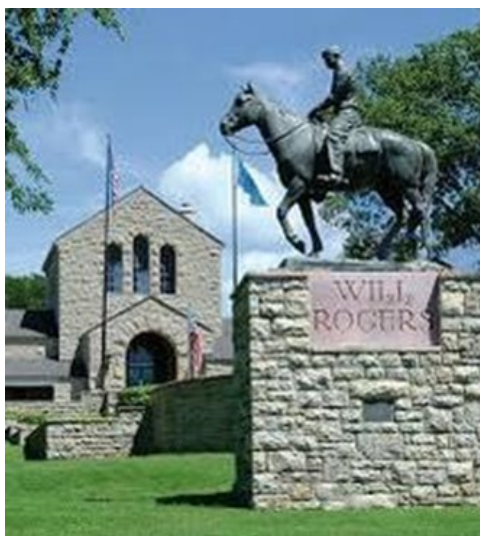
Sharon Patch, Carol Stookey, Silvia Furgason, and Becky Hatchett with artist Norma Howard

GILLIES TRAVEL

The Travel Committee met on July 14 and had great discussions. Here's a preview of what they are planning for this year:

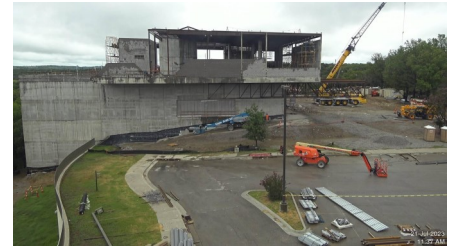
- September--a day trip to the Price Tower and cafe in Bartlesville
- October--movie opening in Tulsa for "Killers of the Flower Moon"
- November--day trip to the Creek Council House in Okmulgee
- Early December--holiday shopping at Pioneer Woman's Mercantile in Pawhuska
- Jan-April 2024:
 - Spring old-fashioned picnic at the Will Rogers Memorial in Claremore
 - Red Heat Ceramic Studio session, Tulsa
 - Oscar Jacobson Native Art Center & Fred Jones Jr. Art Museum in Norman

Members of the committee are Carli Amersek, Kathe Crapster, Marsha Gulick, Janet Hayes, Karen Jarvis, and the chair is Karen Morris. They will be sharing details as they have the trips confirmed.



Following is the link to the live camera showing the construction site for the new Gilcrease Museum from the top of the HCAR building.

<https://api.ibeamsystems.com/api/cameras/b6f50bc149/large/latest/?timestamped=true>



Did You Know:

- Alfredo Zalce, who was born and died in Mexico, lived to be 95 years old.
- His parents were professional photographers who encouraged his artistic interests.
- He expressed himself in a wide variety of mediums, which included paintings in oil, acrylics, water-colors, and on batik; woodcuts and lithographic prints; and jewelry although he was especially known for his murals.
- Along with his slightly older contemporaries and friends, Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, and Jose Clemente Orozco, his artworks often featured political and social criticism.
- Other Zalce paintings in the Gilcrease collection include “*Mercado de Flores*” which was one of the favorite stops with kids on the First Visit tour; and “*El Coscomate*,” which was featured in a video hosted by Alison Rossi for Cinco de Mayo 2020.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=615182206010401>



“Mercado de Flores”

by Alfredo Zalce



Editor: Becky Hatchett,
Gillies President
Publisher: Rod Schneider