

Friday Footprints

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

-Thomas Gilcrease

January 26, 2024

Rural Courtship by Daniel Ridgway Knight



**"Art and love are the same thing:
It's the process of seeing yourself in things that are not you."**

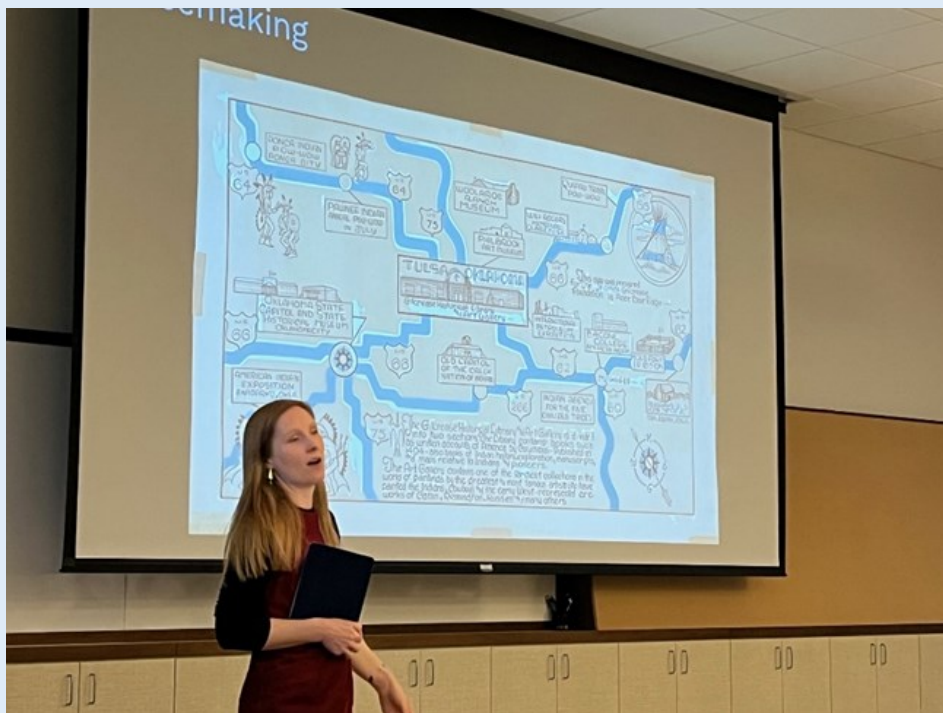
Chuck Klosterman

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We all know the story. This painting, *Rural Courtship*, was the first piece of art that was purchased by Thomas Gilcrease—in the same year that he moved into the Gilcrease House. It spoke to something in him, just as the art that we admire speaks to something in us. I thought this quote by author and essayist, Chuck Klosterman, was intriguing and provides an explanation for the feelings that we have for the pieces of art that become our “favorites.”

I think that's why there was so much excitement about Head Curator Laura Fry's presentation to the Gillies at our last Gillies/Docent meeting. All of us are looking forward to seeing our old favorites in the new museum and finding new favorites, never displayed before, that will give us that feeling of recognition that Klosterman describes.

Since “Place” was the theme of the presentation, it was especially moving to see the Acee Blue Eagle map with Gilcrease Museum at the center of art and culture in Oklahoma that Laura showed us, an item from the Gilcrease collection that was re-discovered as the art was being packed up for storage during building construction. You can see it in more detail elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Gilcrease website [here](#).



I am also really enjoying the videos on Gilcrease's [Instagram](#) page for updates on construction and what Gilcrease staff members are doing day-to-day to prepare for the opening of the new museum.

.....Becky Hatchett

Happy Valentine's Day!

Docent Corner

Greetings all Gillies and Docents,

Please join us for the February 2024 Gillies and Docents meeting - Friday, Feb. 2 at 10:00 a.m. in HCAR. (Refreshments begin at 9:30 a.m., thanks again to Dick, Lana, and the Hospitality crew.)

Alison Rossi will be our guest presenter and will delve into the piece selected to be the next Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood (GIYN) installation: *Tehuana Woman* by Miguel Covarrubias (1904–1957). After doing only a little digging, I was intrigued by the life and work of this Mexican illustrator, painter, and ethnographer. I think you will be, too. We hope to see you on February 2nd!

...Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

**Mark your
Calendar**

Friday, February 2, 2024 - Gillies/Docent Meeting at HCAR

Refreshments are available at 9:30 a.m.; the meeting begins at 10:00 a.m.

Director of Education and Community Engagement Alison Rossi will be speaking/training about the upcoming art and programs for Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood

Thursday, February 8, 2024 - Executive Committee/Board of Directors meetings by Zoom

Executive Committee at 9:00 a.m.; BOD following at 10:00 a.m.

For Your Information



Thank you to Deb Glass who has been storing the Gillies History scrapbooks since the museum closure. Here they are, being received by Gilcrease Archivist Charles Hilton for placement in the Archives at HCAR.

MESSAGES:

Diana Folsom, Director of Digital Collections at Gilcrease, lost her husband.

Sympathy cards may be sent to Diana Folsom, 2612 E. 5th Pl, Tulsa, OK 74104.

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.

Speaking of Gilcrease 2024

Nine docents attended a meeting at HCAR on Monday, January 8, to be introduced to seven new Speaking of Gilcrease presentations. A big thank you goes to Kathe Crapster who took on management of this project to create new SOG programs vetted by Gilcrease curators. Utilizing the recent OLLI programs as well as guides written by Gilcrease staff, these are the new presentations:

The *Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood* presentation came directly from the docent training manuals that were created by **Alison Rossi**, Gilcrease Museum Anne and Henry Zarrow Director of Learning & Community Engagement.

The *Americans All!* presentation was created and curated by **Mark Dolph**, former Gilcrease Curator of History.

Gillies created the following presentations which were subsequently vetted by the curatorial staff:

A Horse, Of Course! by **Nannette Tresner**

National Parks by **Julie Gentz**

Nocturnes by **Alana Trisler**

When Rivers Ran Wild and Free by **Nancy Hammond**

Women In Art by **Karen Morris**

*Thanks to all who contributed to this project
and to all the potential new presenters!*

Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood

Gilcrease in Your Neighborhood, Gilcrease Museum's project to engage the community with the art of Gilcrease during the museum's closure, will take place again in 2024. Noting the success of the program in outdoor venues, the art will be displayed in five Tulsa-area locations: Gathering Place, Keystone Ancient Forest, Oxley Nature Center, Ray Harral Nature Park in Broken Arrow, and the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area.

Two artworks will be displayed in these five locations for six months each. The first artwork, currently being installed at the locations, was one of the paintings featured in the original GiYN voting. It is *Tehuana Woman* by Miguel Covarrubias.



Tehuana Woman will also be available on foamboard to be transported to other locations for docent talks and mindfulness experiences. Alison Rossi, Director of Learning and Community Engagement and manager of the GiYN project, will be speaking about *Tehuana Woman* at the Gillies/Docent meeting on Friday, February 2. She has encouraged docents that have received training to schedule and present talks about any of the GiYN artworks, including the current one.

Opportunities for presentations could be meetings of community groups, such as clubs and organizations, retired teacher groups, etc.; church groups; or at any of the 31 locations that participated in GiYN last year and want new presentations.

Additional talks may also be scheduled at the five locations being used this year, particularly Oxley Nature Center and Ray Harral Nature Park.

Gift to Museum in Honor of Susan Neal

All Gillies should have received an email from the President last week about a project to honor Susan Neal on her retirement. A big thank you goes out to Lynn Cyert, who has coordinated with curators Laura Fry and Dr. Chelsea Herr to present this project to the Gillies.

Gillies who attended the Gillies/Docent meeting on Friday, January 4, heard Head Curator Laura Fry speak about the Study Gallery that will be located just inside the new museum entrance and will highlight the techniques and tools of some of Gilcrease's most popular artists. Also included in the Study Gallery will be an exhibit highlighting the "genealogy" of pottery making—the legacy of artistic work passed down through families. In support of this new exhibit the curators suggested some possible purchases the Gillies could make. The one that was approved by the Board of Directors would be a commission to Santa Clara Pueblo potter Susan Folwell, whose grandmother, mother, and sister are all potters.

Below, see the work of Susan Folwell and her mother, Jody. Dr. Herr noted: "This piece is more 'traditional' than some of Sue's other works, but it's a fantastic representation of the lineage between her mother and herself."



Susan Folwell and
Jody Folwell, *Large
Jar with
Asymmetric Rim
and Mosquito Man
Design* (2023)



Below, see two other works by Susan Folwell. On the left, *Rabbit Stew* (2017) and on the right, *Adaptation* (2023). About *Adaptation* Dr. Herr said: "...it is an excellent example of a piece that we could commission from Folwell in response to one of the Taos Society of Artists paintings in the Gilcrease collection. We have a good relationship with her (although we do not have any of her works in the collection), and we think she would be excited to create a work that responds to our collection."



Susan Folwell is represented by the Charles King Gallery in Santa Fe and you can see more of her work [there](#). You can also see and hear the artist herself in this [video](#).

More Info about Gift...

This is the letter that went out to Gillies by email on January 14 about donations for the gift in honor of Susan Neal.

Please note that the donation is tax-deductible. A letter to use for tax purposes will be mailed to you by the Gillies Treasurer as soon as the \$5,000 fund amount is reached and checks are deposited.

Because we want to honor Susan Neal on the occasion of her retirement from Gilcrease, the Gillies Board of Directors has decided to give the Gillies members the opportunity to contribute money towards the commissioning of a piece of pottery for the new museum. The pottery would be made by a Santa Clara Pueblo potter, Susan Folwell. Ms. Folwell was selected to receive the commission in consultation with the Gilcrease curatorial staff.

The piece would appear when the museum re-opens and it would be labelled as a gift from the Gillies to honor Susan Neal on the occasion of her retirement.

The piece we would like to commission would be made by Ms. Folwell in response to a piece already in the Gilcrease Museum collection, made by one of the Taos artists. The artist would pick the piece in the Gilcrease collection to which she wishes to respond in consultation with the Gilcrease curators. The piece would become part of a pottery genealogy exhibit in the new museum.

This honoring gift requires us to have at least \$5,000. If you wish to contribute towards this gift to honor Susan Neal, please send a check made out to **The Gillies Association** BEFORE MAY 1 to:

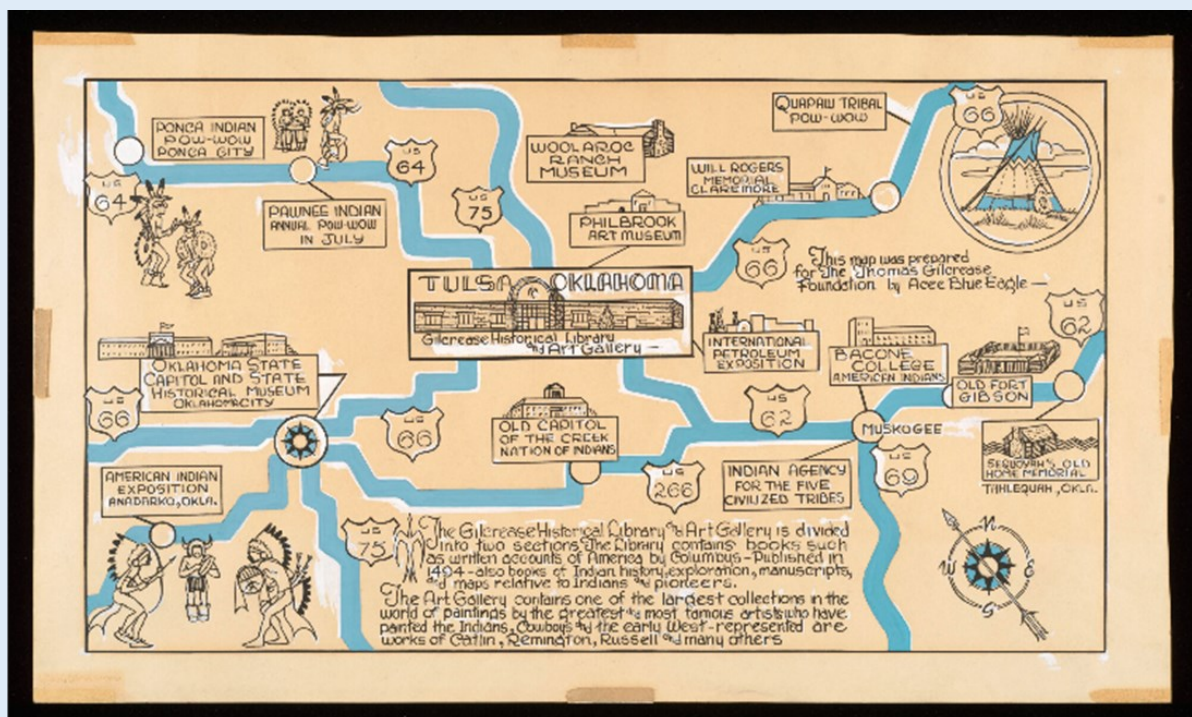
Tom Duncan
7313 E. 63rd Place
Tulsa, OK 74133

In the event we do not collect a minimum of \$5,000 to commission this piece of pottery, we will return your check to you. If there is any money left over after we commission the pot and pay for packing, insurance, and shipping, if necessary, that money will be contributed to The Gillies Artist in Residence Endowment Fund.



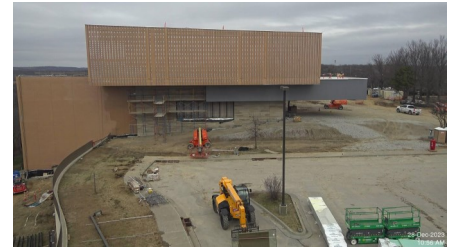
Did You Know?

- Daniel Ridgway Knight, the artist that painted *Rural Courtship*, was born in 1839 in Philadelphia and died in 1924 in Paris. At the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, his fellow students include Mary Cassatt and Thomas Eakins.
- After 1871 he lived permanently in Paris. By 1874 he had decided to specialize in painting French peasants, especially women, in outdoor leisure activities, and spent the next 50 years of his life painting for clients in France and America who admired both his landscape backgrounds and his peasant subjects.
- The young woman in the painting is looking down at her knitting while her suitor tries to engage her in conversation. Knitting was an important skill for women of this time and an economic factor in a marriage contract.
- The map-sketch that Laura Fry showed us at the January Gillies/Docent meeting states in the upper right that “This map was prepared for the Thomas Gilcrease Foundation by Acee Blue Eagle.”
- The Oklahoma artistic and cultural events, museums, and institutions depicted in the Acee Blue Eagle map (clockwise from upper left) are: Ponca Indian Pow Wow, Ponca City; Pawnee Indian Pow Wow; Woolaroc Ranch Museum; Philbrook Art Museum; Will Rogers Memorial, Claremore; Quapaw Tribal Pow Wow; Old Fort Gibson; Bacone College, Muskogee; Sequoyah Old Home Memorial; International Petroleum Exposition; Indian Agency for the Five Civilized Tribes, Muskogee; Old Capital of the Creek Nation; American Indian Exposition, Anadarko; Oklahoma State Capitol and State Historical Museum, Oklahoma City. The Gilcrease Historical Library and Art Gallery in Tulsa is in the center of the map.
- The caption at the bottom reads: “The Gilcrease Historical Library and Art Gallery is divided into two sections. The Library contains books such as written accounts of America by Columbus—published in 1494—also books of Indian history, exploration, manuscripts, and maps relative to Indians and pioneers. The Art Gallery contains one of the largest collections in the world of paintings by the greatest and most famous artists who have painted the Indians, Cowboys and the early West—represented are works of Catlin, Remington, Russell and many others.”



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>



Black History Month Did You Know?

- The celebration of Black achievement that became Black History Month began in 1926 with the efforts of Carter G. Woodson, the “father of Black history,” who introduced the idea of setting aside a week in February to encourage the teaching of Black history in public schools. Woodson first suggested the second week in February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.
- By the 1960s the weeklong celebration had evolved into Black History Month and was officially recognized by President Gerald Ford during the 1976 bicentennial.
- Under Learning Resources on the Gillies website is a section entitled “[Black Artists and Black History](#).” Visit the links under this section to learn more about Oklahoma and Gilcrease-related resources on Black history. Information about the 2020 exhibit “[Memories and Inspiration: The Kerry and C. Betty Davis Collection of African American Art](#)” and documents from the 2021 exhibit, “[Enslavement to Emancipation: Toward a More Perfect Union](#)” are also available on the Gilcrease website.



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