



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

February 2025



This month's featured work entitled *Meat's Not Meat Until It's in The Pan* by Charles Marion Russell seems particularly poignant because of three reasons. 1) It's a snowy scene that we can all relate to at this time of year. 2) Scholars mostly agreed that the perplexed gentleman in this work was intended to depict Will Rogers. Will Rogers' beloved home out in Southern California burned to the ground in early January leaving images of the two chimneys left standing silent amid the rubble. 3) Gillies are traveling up to Claremore to see the Will Rogers Museum on the 31st of January. So, it seems a good choice and it's an 'old friend' we've missed for these past 5 years.

Enjoy this article that appeared in *American Scene* 5, no. 4 (1964): 46-47

By Will Rogers, Jr.

It is my belief that Will Rogers admired Charlie Russell more than he did almost any other public figure. They first met in 1904. "Charlie Russell was trying to sell a few paintings and I was trying to sell a few jokes when I first met him years ago," he once wrote. "We met in the East. Neither of us had much more than carfare... He went up the ladder of fame a lot faster than I did."

"I always wanted to have Russell pictures," he wrote another time, "but his prices rose faster than my salary. I couldn't catch him." There is considerable truth to this. Only after Russell's death and the coming of the talkies did Will Rogers acquire a small collection. When we first moved to Beverly Hills, Charlie Russell and his wife, Nancy, came several times to visit us. My father was never in doubt as to Russell's genius, as the following will show. I was about seven or eight years old and we were at a picnic at Harry Carey's ranch near Saugus. William S. Hart, Tom Mix and other western stars were there.

After the meal Charlie Russell came over to entertain the children. There were several sets of us, and I am sure we had been raising a general cain.

My father came over with him and leaned down to talk to me.

"Son, I want you to remember this man. He is a very famous man. Remember that you have seen him. Pay attention and remember what he says."

As a result, I can still see a short figure in cowboy boots and hat standing up before a sandy hill, holding us spellbound as he told a story in the Indian sign language. I know it was effective, because for years after, we children used these signs.

We met many famous people, but never, either before or since, did my father ever single one out to us as he did Charlie Russell.

The two men were amazingly similar. Both true western cowboys, both brilliant story tellers, both great lovers of people. Their admiration was not of just one talent for another. It was deep and man to man.

One of the most touching things Will Rogers ever wrote was a foreword to one of Russell's books. In another place he said, "He is the only painter of western pictures in the world that the cowpunchers can't criticize. Every little piece of leather or rope is just where it should be. So you see, in these times of scandal, it is a pleasure to point out to you someone who has gained fame and still remains *pure*."

The odd use of that last word in italics hints at the deep emotion Will Rogers always felt concerning Charlie Russell.



Gillies Survey, Winter 2025

By Kathe Crapster, President

If you were not able to respond to the Survey sent out in early January, or if you haven't yet received a personal phone call from Glenda Kilmer, please contact Glenda as soon as possible so that we can understand how you would like to engage with The Gillies moving forward. There will be many opportunities from May through November in which Gillies will be able to engage with visitors in the new museum and we want to make sure that those that want to take advantage of that opportunity have the chance to do so. We will let you know how to sign up for those events soon.

The Gillies owe Glenda Kilmer a huge thank you for volunteering to take on the significant task of reaching out to all Gillies who did not respond to the online survey. Glenda saw a need and volunteered to gather the information for us. Isn't that just 'the Gillie way?' Thank you so very much, Glenda. She entered all the information she gathered onto a massive spreadsheet which she's passed along to me. Moving forward, our IT Committee will update everything in both Volgistics and on our Directory on our website.

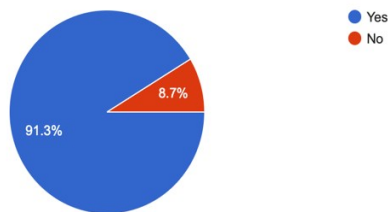
There are about 20 Gillies that Glenda has been unable to reach. If you are one of those folks, please connect with her either by email or phone. kilmertul@gmail.com 918-519-1165

Here are results from the online survey.

(Responses to #4 are considered personal and therefore not included below.)

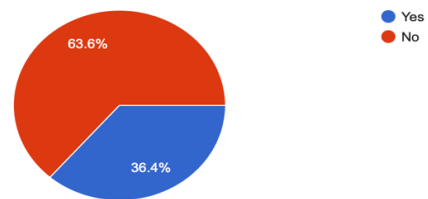
1. Are you planning on being a Gillie volunteer during the year 2025 - 2026?

69 responses



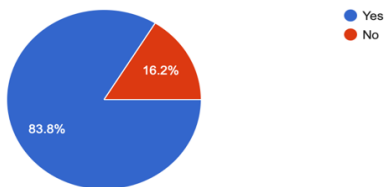
2. If the answer is no, would you like to move to Associate status?

11 responses



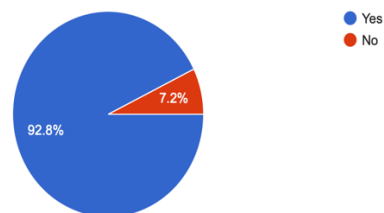
3. In the immediate future, Gillies will most likely be asked to be greeters or way-finders in the new museum. We hope other opportunities will also become available, but we don't know for sure. Would you be willing to volunteer for upcoming events which may involve being greeters, host or hostesses, helping people navigate the new museum, and more?

68 responses



5. Dues will begin again in May 2025, Will you continue your membership in The Gillies by paying the \$30 dues?

69 responses



Glenda is still making phone calls to gather as much accurate information as possible. Once we receive all of her information, we will merge it with what we learned from the online survey.

Exciting Times Ahead!

By Kathe Crapster, President

You may have been wondering why we initiated the Gillies Survey? Why now? Our Director, Brian Lee Whisenhunt, has now shared dates for opportunities to Gillies to be of service. Here's what we know so far:

- Beginning in May, the *UNcrease* program will begin. At this time, we know that Gillies will be serving in many capacities while activities are ongoing in various locations in the new building. Here are the dates for *UNcrease*:

Thursday, May 22

Saturday, June 14

Thursday, June 26

Saturday, July 12

Thursday, July 24

Saturday, August 9

Thursday, August 28

Saturday, September 13

Thursday, September 25

Saturday, October 11

Thursday, October 23

Saturday, November 9

- Another event at Gilcrease will be *Scrollathon*. It will take place from October 6 through the 10th. There will be four workshops each day with 25 participants each. Gillies will be there to assist. We will share more information about *Scrollathon* in the fall. But, you can Google it to learn more right now at: <https://www.scrollathon.com/what-is-a-scrollathon>
- Artist Stephen Towns will be in Tulsa March 24 through April 11 as an artist in residence. **He will be our Docent speaker in April.** Watch for information about him in the March *Footprints* issue.
- Stephen will also be in town on November 4th or 5th giving a lecture on the TU campus. We anticipate that Gillies will serve there as well. We will share more about Stephen Towns in future *Footprints* articles. But, if you want to learn about Stephen Towns now, check out these two websites: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stephen_Towns And <https://www.stephentowns.com>



Nominations for Officers Open Until February 7th

By Kathe Crapster, President

Here is the information that was emailed to everyone on January 7th letting you know that the deadline to submit letters of nomination had been extended until February 7th. Additionally, you were informed that because the chair of the nominating committee, Faye Finley, was having technology issues, that letters of nomination were to be sent via email to Nannette Tresner @ ndtres@aol.com

What: Nominations for 2025-2026 Gillies Officers

(President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer)

How: 1. Ask your nominee for permission to submit his/her name.
2. Write a letter of nomination including the skills and virtues of your nominee for the office.

Where: Send your letter of nomination via email to:

Nannette Tresner

Email: ndtres@aol.com

When: Letters must be received by February 7, 2025

The Nominating Committee will meet on February 12th in HCAR. Committee members are: Faye Finley (Chair), Keith Bowers, Dick Clark, JoAnn Goin. Judy Howard, and Past President Nannette Tresner. The alternates are: Bill Hellen and Dian Peacock. All nominees with letters of nomination will be considered by the Nomination Committee.

When the Nominating Committee meets in February, they will select a single slate. The slate will include one candidate per office to be filled. The office of President for 2025-26 will be filled automatically by our current President-Elect, Becky Hatchett.

The slate will be handed over to the current president, who will publish it in the March 2025 *Footprints* newsletter.

Subsequently, elections will be conducted at our General Membership meeting which will be held at 10 a.m. on March 14th at Oklahoma Joe's.



In our new museum, we hope that much more of the collection will be on exhibit. Here's one that has rarely been seen by Ila Mae McAfee entitled *The Hunter and Hunted*. It is an oil on canvas done in the early 20th to mid 20th century.

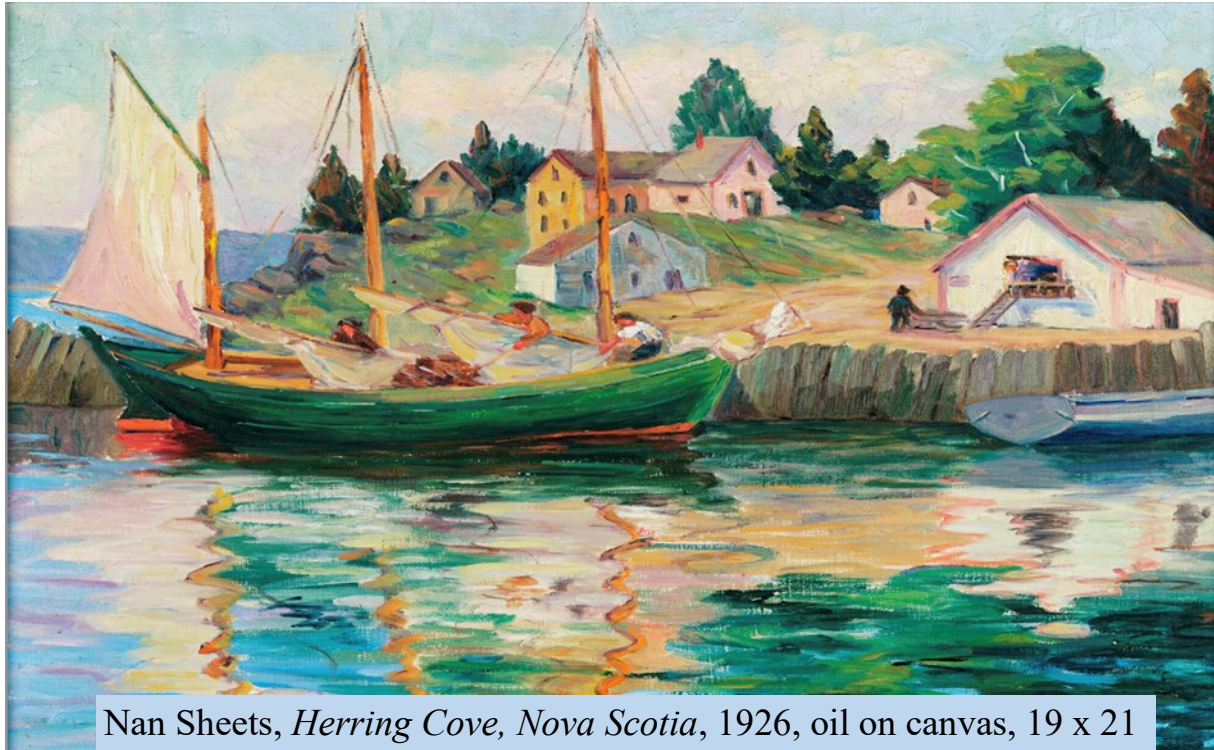
Places To Go

By Cindy Strasheim, Travel Chair

Oklahoma City Museum of Art

From the Vault: The 80th Anniversary Exhibition

Opens February 8, 2025



Nan Sheets, *Herring Cove, Nova Scotia*, 1926, oil on canvas, 19 x 21

Philbrook

Cultures Collide in Mind-Blowing Philbrook Exhibition



Einar de la Torre
(Mexican, b. 1963)
and Jamex de la Torre
(Mexican, b. 1960).

Oxymodern

(Aztec Calendar),
2020. Blown-glass
and mixed-media, 120 x
120x 12".

Places to Go

By Cindy Strasheim, Travel Chair

- **“Fever Dreams”** A very limited time art exhibition in the McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa. *“Fever Dreams”* brings together a curated selection of paintings that explore the surreal landscapes of the unconscious mind. Each artwork captures the intense and disorienting experiences of fever dreams, showcasing the complex emotions and narratives that emerge from the subconscious. University of Tulsa graduate students enrolled in the Museum Collections and Exhibitions class organized the *“Fever Dreams”* exhibit which features works from the McFarlin Library’s Special Collections. **On view through April 1,**
- On view now at 101 Archer:



- **Dylan, Guthrie centers offer ‘Complete Unknown’ tours** on weekends through March 2. *“Bringing it All Back Home: The Complete Unknown Tour”* will be offered at 2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through March 2. The tour will begin at the Woody Guthrie Center and continue at the Bob Dylan Center. Sam Flowers, senior manager of guest services, will lead the tours, which will focus on the legacy of these two artists, which inspired the film. The Bob Dylan Center and Archives played a major role in making sure the look of the film was as authentic as possible. – From article By James D. Watts, Jr., Tulsa World, Jan. 12, 2025



Docents' Corner

By Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

A big thank you to the Gillies team – Kathe Crapster, Becky Hatchett, Julie Gentz, Deanna Storm, and Sharon Patch for sharing your National Docent Symposium experiences with us at our January Gillies/Docents meeting. We are proud that you represented Gilcrease museum!



And it keeps getting better and better! You won't want to miss February's Gillies/Docent meeting. **Laura Bryant**, Gilcrease's Anthropology Collections Manager and NAGPRA Coordinator, will join us to discuss the intersection of NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990) compliance and the Gilcrease collection. This is an important focus of museums with native collections and it is certainly impacting Gilcrease's collection. Join us to hear what Laura has to say!

Where: PACCAR in the Helmerich Center. **When:** Refreshments available at 9:30 and the meeting begins at 10 a.m.

Mark Your Calendar!

February 7.....Executive Committee Meeting @ 8:30 a.m. in HCAR

February 7.....Docent Meeting in HCAR

Refreshments at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting begins at 10 a.m.

(See speaker information above.)

February 14Board of Directors Meeting @ 10 a.m. via Zoom

March 7.....Executive Committee Meeting @ 9 a.m. via Zoom

March 7..... Board of Directors Meeting @ 10:00 via Zoom

March 14.....General Membership Meeting at Oklahoma Joe's

Refreshments @ 9:30

General Membership Meeting begins @ 10:00 a.m.

General Election of New Officers @ 10:15 a.m.

The Forum @ 11 a.m. Speaker: John Wooley!

Lunch @ noon(ish)

(Lunch details will appear in the March issue of Footprints!)

Secretary's Report

Get Well cards sent to Kathy Horne and Sunni Wager.

Condolences card sent to Karen Morris and the family of Sunni Wager.

No changes of information were submitted.