



Footprints

"Every man must leave tracks and they might as well be good ones." - Thomas Gilcrease

June 2025



Watching the Breakers

(1891)

Winslow Homer

(1836-1910)

“...the greatest significance of Gilcrease Museum is, as its founder envisioned, that in the heart of America an outstanding collection of materials relating to the country and hemisphere exists for the entertainment and enlightenment of the public.”

President's Message

These words by Anne Morand (1951-2013), former curator of art at Gilcrease from 1977-2003, appear in the introduction to “The Fine Arts Collection” chapter in *Treasures of Gilcrease*, published in 2003, and are quoted in the article, “Building the Gilcrease Collection,” on the museum’s website, which you can read [here](#). This year in *Footprints* I hope to use this article to help me call attention to some of the museum’s great works and to the art dealers and collectors that contributed to Mr. Gilcrease’s “outstanding collection.” (More about that below.)

The new Gillies year begins with our first Gillies/docent meeting on **Friday, June 6**, at 10:00 a.m. in the PACCAR classroom at HCAR. Our speakers will be Laurel Benson, the new Director of Learning and Community Engagement, and Mia Hoskison, Community Engagement Manager, who have just returned from the American Alliance of Museums Conference. See more about their presentation in Docent’s Corner in this newsletter. Planning for the 2025-26 Gillies/docent meetings is underway. You can look forward to hearing more about our beautiful new building and its future galleries and exhibitions.

Gillies can also anticipate some wonderful learning opportunities through travel this year. See contributions by Travel Chair Cindy Strasheim in this issue for events happening soon. Meanwhile, Gillies will continue to serve in Archives, Anthropology, Conservation, and Digitization, and through Speaking of Gilcrease, as well as through new service opportunities, such as Scrollathon and Uncrease, both happening later this Gillie year. We have so much to look forward to!

Becky Hatchett
Gillies President 2025-2026



Archives staff and Gillies (L to R): Vela Lightle (intern); Onyx Montes (Manager of Fellowships & Programs); Charles Hilton (Archivist); Deanna Storm; Beverly Wilcox; Janet O'Connor; Elaine Faulkner; Jana Gowan (Librarian); Pat Davidson; Dr. Billy Smith (Associate Director of HCAR); Charley Wyatt. Not pictured: Karen Morris, Carol Stookey

Mr. Gilcrease's Collection: *Watching the Breakers*

In the late 1940s and 1950s Mr. Gilcrease expanded his collection with purchases of “significant” art works by “artists outstanding in the American canon.” To further this goal Gilcrease formed relationships with art dealers and galleries in New York City, such as M. Knoedler & Company. *Watching the Breakers* was only one of the “significant” artworks he purchased from Knoedler. Others included Eakins’s *Frank Hamilton Cushing*, Whistler’s *Nocturne, the Solent*, Audubon’s *The Wild Turkey*, and Peale’s *James Madison*.

From *Treasures of Gilcrease*: “*Watching the Breakers* was part of a series of spectacular seascapes that Homer painted at Prout’s Neck, Maine, between 1890 and 1910...His contemporaries considered these seascapes his greatest achievement, prompting Thomas Eakins to call him the greatest painter of the era...

“The last three decades of Homer’s life were the most creative, and from the 1890s came the greatest number of his masterpieces. Almost every year of that decade produced clusters of memorable images, many inspired by Prout’s Neck, a rocky peninsula about ten miles south of Portland. Homer bought land and built a residence there in 1882, first spending summers, but eventually living there full time...

“Literary and social critics have observed the general impulse toward the end of the 19th century to deify women. *Watching the Breakers* reveals stately women set against an exploding sea; it embodies the timeless values of womanhood, such as calm in the face of all adversity.”

Did You Know?

- M. Knoedler & Co. was founded in New York City in 1846.
- It closed in 2011 after 165 years as a highly trusted art dealership amid allegations of fraud in the sale of at least 40 paintings, forgeries purported to have been painted by the likes of Jackson Pollock and Mark Rothko. Its president, Ann Freedman, had apparently trusted a friend, unknown to other fine art dealers, who convinced Freedman that she had obtained the paintings from an anonymous client, Mr. X, who turned out not to exist.
- The Getty Research Institute purchased the dealership's archives—business records from the 1850s to 1971, including correspondence among clients, artists, and staff, and card files on clients and artworks. They have been digitized and are available [online](#).
- Two documentaries have been made about the scandal: “Made You Look: A True Story about Fake Art” and “Driven to Abstraction.”



Places to Go

The Art of Woody Big Bow

An exhibit featuring works by Kiowa artist [Woodrow Wilson “Woody” Big Bow](#) is now in the ONEOK, Inc. Gallery of the [Oklahoma History Center Museum](#). Born in Carnegie, Big Bow was the grandson of Kiowa chief Zepko-ette. He studied art at the University of Oklahoma under the instruction of Oscar B. Jacobson.

Big Bow is best known for the Thunderbird insignia he designed for Oklahoma's 45th Infantry Division. The exhibit includes sketches and other iterations of the 45th Infantry logo from the Oklahoma Historical Society's collection. okhc@history.ok.gov

Oklahoma History Center
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105 405-522-0765



Places to Go (continued)



The ongoing of First Friday Garden Tour at Tulsa Botanic Gardens will be on June 6. Join Garden Curator Jeffrey Fox for a walking tour in the A.R. and Marylouise Tandy Floral Terraces exploring what's blooming and other plants of interest! Tour is free with Garden admission; however, spaces are limited to first-come, first-served sign-up sheet in Visitor Center that morning.

Florigami in the Garden showcases 20 installations of museum quality metal sculptures inspired by origami, the centuries-old Japanese art of folding paper. The artist, Kevin Box, grew up in Bartlesville and graduated from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Reciprocal passes don't apply to this exhibit.



June 26th Gillie Trip to Pawnee, OK

Carpool or drive separately



Itinerary

10:00 am Pawnee Bill Ranch & Mansion guided tour \$18 2 hours maximum.

<https://www.okhistory.org/sites/pawneebill>

12:00 pm Click's Steakhouse Buffet lunch \$-\$\$ 1 hour maximum

1:30 pm Pawnee Historical Society & the home of Dick Tracy

<https://www.pawneechs.org/> 1 hour maximum



2:45 pm Pawnee Cultural Center and Museum/Dialogue with Herb Adson

(A bear claw necklace that has been repatriated from The Gilcrease is now on display at the Pawnee Cultural Center.) <https://pawneenation.org/museum-of-the-pn/>

If you would like to go along, contact Cindy: 402-469-5357

Photos from the May Luncheon at Indian Springs





FYI

Minisa Crumbo Halsey and her husband, Jim Halsey, have just been announced as 2025 inductees into the Tulsa Hall of Fame. Minisa, artist, teacher, and daughter of Woody Crumbo, was a member of the 2013-14 Gillies Intern class and served as an active Gillie until 2017. Her husband Jim is agent to 29 inductees into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony will take place on Monday, October 6, 2025. You can read more details about the induction ceremony and see the names of the other inductees [here](#).

Docents' Corner

By Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

Hello All! The June Gillies/Docents meeting is upon us, and I am happy to announce the presenters for the June 6th meeting. Laurel Benson, Gilcrease's new Anne and Henry Zarrow Director of Learning and Community Engagement and Mia Hoskison, Community Engagement Manager will be with us. In May, they both attended the American Alliance of Museums Conference in Los Angeles whose theme was "Museums and Trusts." They will share trends and topics relevant to our museum and to the Gillies. Many of you know Laurel, but it will also be our first formal introduction to her as the LCE Director. She is excited to work with the Gillies, so you won't want to miss her ideas/plans on how best to use our talents and time. I am very excited to have them both at the June 6th meeting and I hope you will be able to attend.

Gillies/Docents Meeting
Friday, June 6, 2025
Refreshments: 9:30am
Meeting: 10:00am
PACCAR in HCAR

Secretary's Report

The following members have changed their status from Active to Associate: Tom Pendergraft, Mary Castro, Ken Fike, and Marcia Clark.

The following have resigned their membership in The Gillies: Jane Watson, Ursula Gould, Judy Reiners, Cindy Hale, Mindy Paschal, and Rick Paschal.

A sympathy card was sent to Rod Schneider.

Please send changes in contact information (address, phone, and email) as well as news about a Gillie who is ill to Gillies Secretary Julie Gentz at Julie.gentz55@gmail.com

May 2025 Hours

Service Area	Hours
Anthropology	50
Archives/HCAR	60
Board of Directors	35
Conservation	8
Docent Tour	6
Docent Training	6
Executive Committee	15
Footprints Newsletter	6
General Membership Meetings & Planning	131
SOG Presentations	28
Travel Committee	11
Total	356

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 1	Gillies Dues are due!	
Friday, June 6	Executive Committee meeting in HCAR GILLIES/DOCENT MEETING (Refreshments & visiting at 9:30 a.m.)	8:30 am 10:00 am
Friday, June 12	Board of Directors meeting via Zoom	10:00 am
Thursday, June 26	Pawnee travel opportunity (See Cindy Strasheim's article in this newsletter for details)	