



Footprints

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

September 2025



"Lewis and Clark with Sacajawea at the Great Falls of the Missouri 1804"

by Olaf Carl Seltzer

"Prior to this acquisition [the Cole Collection] in 1944, the Gilcrease collection included none of the western American art for which it is so well known today." –Anne Morand

"The unique circumstances or twist of fate that brought the vision and spirit of Dr. Cole together with the ambition and mission of Thomas Gilcrease could not have been more providential nor better timed." --J. Brooks Joyner

The Philip G. Cole Collection

The above quote by J. Brooks Joyner comes in the conclusion of an article that he wrote for the Gilcrease Journal in 2001, "The Remarkable Collection of Dr. Philip G. Cole and How It Came to Gilcrease." You can read the article in its entirety on the Gillies website [here](https://thegillies.org/). You can also easily navigate to it by following this path: Log in to <https://thegillies.org/>. Click on Resources; click on Publications (Gillies Journals and Magazines); click on Gilcrease Magazines and Journals; Click on Gilcrease Journal Vol. 9 Summer 2001. The article begins on page 34 of the journal. While you are there, enjoy some of the other amazing articles in past Gilcrease publications, made possible by the efforts of Gillies who have scanned and indexed these resources!

We all know how essential the Cole Collection was to the mission of Thomas Gilcrease, but did you know some of these facts about the collection? (All of these come from Joyner's article.)

- The collection arrived in Tulsa on January 20, 1947, in "sixty-three boxes of paintings and books plus eleven crates with bronzes and pedestals." Thomas Gilcrease "oversaw the opening of each crate..."
- The inventory listed "twenty-seven bronzes by Charles Russell, seventeen bronzes by Frederic Remington and sixteen bronzes by other artists...The inventory also itemized some 560 paintings, forty-six by Charles Russell, sixty-five by Joseph Henry Sharp, twelve by Frederic Remington, eleven by Frank Tenney Johnson, five by William Leigh, [and] eight by Charles Schreyvogel...There were 320 works by Olaf C. Seltzer, including forty-three oils, 103 miniatures from his historical series, ninety watercolors, and dozens of illustrated letters and envelopes."
- "The collection's purchase price of 1947 would scarcely buy a single significant work by one of its major artists today." (And that quote is from 2001!)
- Martin Wiesendanger, Gilcrease's first curator-director, helped facilitate the acquisition of Cole's collection. "...Wiesendanger knew the collection, with its unparalleled quality and significance, must be obtained, as it would fit perfectly into the grand plan for the Gilcrease Museum."

Dr. Philip G. Cole

- Dr. Philip Cole was the oldest child of Dr. Charles Knox Cole of New York and his wife, Harriet Gillette of Illinois. The Coles settled in Montana where C.K., as he was known, became speaker of the Montana Territorial Senate during the 1888-89 session, the last before Montana became a state in 1889.
- As well as being a physician, Dr. C.K. Cole was an investor and rancher. In 1900 the family returned to New York where C.K. invested in a small company founded by George Schrader, who had invented the bicycle tire valve. "Schrader's invention was adapted for automobile tires just as the automotive industry was beginning mass production, proving C.K.'s investment providential...In due time this investment would support the creation of Philip Cole's great collection of the art of the American West."
- Philip Cole completed his medical studies in New York in 1910, specializing in gynecology. After service in World War I, he came home to Helena, Montana, where he married Katherine Pyle, a talented sculptor. "As a wedding gift, C.K. Cole presented the couple with the large Charles Russell canvas of 1910, *The Buffalo Hunt*, [which] had previously hung in the elder Cole's suite at the Waldorf Hotel in New York City."
- This was also the time just after the war when Philip Cole had to make a career decision. His father was by then the principal owner of A. Schrader & Son of New York, manufacturing automotive parts, valves, and gauges, and wanted Philip to take over management of the company. "He was forced to choose between his medical career in the Montana that he loved and life as an industrialist in New York City." He chose New York. With the death of his father, Philip became president of A. Schrader & Son.
- "Although he returned to his home state whenever he could, his dream of owning his own Montana ranch never materialized. Instead, he transformed his homes in the East to reflect western themes and filled them with the art of the West." In the twenty-foot-high galleries of Zeeview, his home in New York, he would personally arrange and rearrange his collection. "He would even commission works specified to a size that would fit a particular opening on his gallery wall." Upstairs galleries were "overflowing with Olaf Seltzer's vast production." Seltzer's miniatures and framed letters lined the stairway.
- Cole died of a massive stroke in 1941 at age 57. "His death set off a chain of events that would culminate six years later with the removal of his beloved collection from Zeeview to the modest sandstone long-house museum of Thomas Gilcrease in Tulsa, Oklahoma."

Olaf Seltzer

- “...it was through Olaf Seltzer that Dr. Cole discovered the way to complete his vision of celebrating the American West and his beloved Montana...Seltzer needed a patron and Cole saw in Seltzer the man who might help him realize his dream for a comprehensive collection of art of the American West. They were both friends of Charles Russell, both history buffs, and both had an abiding passion for Montana...During the next ten years Seltzer painted literally hundreds of subjects in watercolor and in oil for Dr. Cole.”
- “Cole commissioned Seltzer to create a series of watercolor sketches on the theme of Western Characters in 1928...Five years later these miniatures were followed by a commission to paint another series of small pictures known as the Histories. They were oils painted on board and were not to exceed seven inches in height.”

“Lewis and Clark with Sacajawea at the Great Falls of the Missouri 1804”

- “Painted over a century after the Lewis and Clark expedition concluded, Olaf Seltzer’s Lewis and Clark with Sacajawea at the Great Falls of the Missouri 1804 visualizes the moment that the Corps of Discovery encountered the Great Falls of the Missouri River, in present-day Montana. Seltzer highlights how People of Color have played a critical role in the formation of the United States, by depicting Sacagawea, her infant son Jean Baptiste Charbonneau, William Clark, Merriweather Lewis, and Clark’s slave, York.” [Gilcrease website]
- “Seltzer’s painting was selected for use at the 59th Presidential Inaugural Ceremony. On January 20, 2021, Lewis and Clark with Sacajawea at the Great Falls of the Missouri 1804 was featured in the platform program for the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.”
- Read more about this painting on the Gilcrease website [here](#).



President’s Letter

I hope you are looking forward to hearing from our September 19th Forum speaker, Rhys Martin, as much as I am. If you are familiar with Route 66, you have no doubt heard his name. He is well-known for his enthusiastic promotion of the Route in Tulsa, statewide as president of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association, and now nationally in his position with the National Trust for Historic Preservation as Manager of the Preserve Route 66 Associations.

I really didn’t know much about Route 66 until the Gillies were drafted by former City Councilor Jeannie Cue in 2021 to help organize a volunteer corps for the Route 66 Historical Village on Tulsa’s Westside. My interest was caught originally because I grew up just a little over a mile away from the Village’s location on Southwest Boulevard/Route 66. Now I enjoy volunteering there because of the people from across the country and the world that I get to meet because of their passion for traveling the Mother Road. I’m joined there by several other Gillies who answered the call to become members of the Village Crew: Lynn Cyert, JoAnne Goin, Sharon Patch, Carol Stookey, Mike Vance, and Paul Westbrook.

Here are a few facts that you may or may not know about Route 66 in Tulsa and Oklahoma:

- Out of the eight states through which Route 66 runs (Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California), Oklahoma has the most drivable miles—over 400. “Tulsa’s Route 66 corridor covers 28 miles over two different alignments” (Oklahoma Route 66 Association Trip Guide).

- The Route 66 Historical Village is an outdoor transportation museum with a focus on Tulsa's railroad and oil history. Besides a steam engine and several train cars, the Village is also home to a replica Phillips 66 cottage-style gas station, the largest derrick in North America (built for Oklahoma's centennial to commemorate the first oil strike in Tulsa County just ½ mile from the Village), and the Red Fork Depot, an event center.
- The volunteers at the Village regularly welcome large groups of visitors from Czechoslovakia, Germany, and Italy, as well as travelers from dozens of other countries. In the last two years since we've been keeping track, we have visited with travelers from 49 different states. (We need somebody from North Dakota to come see us!)
- Tulsan Cyrus Avery, now known as the "father of Route 66," was instrumental in the decision to bring what became Route 66 through Oklahoma and the city of Tulsa. The centennial of that decision and the naming of the road (on November 11, 1926) will be celebrated in the coming year.
- Funds from Vision 2025 and the Route 66 Neon Sign Grant program, as well as other grant programs and the efforts of Tulsa businesspeople, have created numerous attractions that bring visitors to Tulsa's stretch of Route 66. Starting with the Blue Whale just outside of Tulsa in Catoosa, other attractions include Mother Road Market (named best food hall in America); Route 66 "giants," Buck Atom, Stella Atom, Meadow Gold Mack, and Cowboy Bob; and numerous murals and pieces of public art.
- Have you visited these pieces of public art on Route 66 in Tulsa:
 - The sculpture "East Meets West" that celebrates Cyrus Avery?
 - The limestone monoliths with their depictions of Tulsa culture in Howard Park (soon to be the location of a 66-foot dinosaur sculpture)?
 - The "Floating Hangar," a mosaic enclosed within a sculpture resembling a piece of oil field machinery?
 - The just-dedicated "Stories in Steel" at the Red Fork Depot with its representations of Westside symbols and names?



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We hope to see you at The Forum and luncheon on September 19th! See the page 12 for more information about the luncheon and RSVP by September 15th to channonclark@prodigy.net.

Becky Hatchett

Don't Forget Your Gillies Questionnaire Response for The Director of Curatorial Affairs, Alex Mann

A BIG "THANK YOU" to all the Gillies who have submitted responses to the questionnaire Becky Hatchett sent out on Wednesday, August 20. I have been stunned by the richness and depth of the responses. It is a tribute to the love of and the connection Gillies feel for the Gilcrease collection.

If you have not submitted a response, here is a reminder:

What is a Gilcrease collection piece that is special to you and why? It doesn't have to be your favorite – but one that inspires you, intrigues you, and that you like to share with others.

Email or text your response to Alana Trisler by September 19, 2025

Email: aetrisler09@gmail.com or Text 918-688-2454



Gillies Cook!

Apologies to Janice Henshaw for omitting her name as the contributor of last month's recipe, "Oatmeal Craisin Cookies." She is well-known for these yummy creations, so hopefully, many of you knew who the Gillies Cook was!

This month's contributor is Nannette Tresner who made this comment about her recipe, Pumpkin Pie in a Jar. "My family loves this as a dessert during the holidays. I make it a day or two in advance and cover the cups with plastic wrap to keep them from drying out in the refrigerator. I cheat and top them off with Reddi-Wip before serving."

Pumpkin Pie in a Jar

Yield: about 16 (in 9 ounce cups)

Ingredients

(for the graham cracker crust layer)

1½ cups graham cracker crumbs

3 tablespoons brown sugar

½ teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon salt

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled

(for the whipped cream & cream cheese layer)

2 cups heavy whipping cream

1 ½ cups sifted powdered sugar

8 ounces cream cheese, at room temperature

2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

(for the pumpkin layer)

1 cup milk

1 15 oz can pumpkin (not pre-spiced pumpkin pie filling)

2 packages (4 serving size) vanilla flavored instant pudding & pie filling

1 ½ teaspoon cinnamon

¼ teaspoon ginger

1/8 teaspoon cloves



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Pumpkin Pie in a Jar

(continued)

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place mixing bowl and beaters into freezer to chill.

Sift together graham cracker crumbs, sugar, cinnamon, and salt. Add melted butter and stir until evenly moistened. Spread mixture in a 9" x 13" pan and bake for 5 minutes. Stir and bake for another minute or two, or until crumbs are fragrant and nicely browned. Remove from oven and cool completely.

Using chilled bowl and beaters, whip the heavy whipping cream until stiff. Add powdered sugar and beat just to combine. Remove whipped cream mixture to another bowl and place in refrigerator. Add the cream cheese to the same chilled bowl and cream until very smooth, about 1 to 2 minutes. Blend in the vanilla. Now add half the whipped cream mixture to the bowl with cream cheese mixture and fold gently until thoroughly combined. Place the remainder of the whipped cream mixture back in the refrigerator.

Pour the milk into a large bowl. Add the pumpkin, pudding mixes, and spices. Beat with a wire whisk for about 2 minutes until well blended. The mixture should be thick.

To layer

Use a large scoop (one that holds about 3 tablespoons) to place one scoop of the whipped cream mixture in the bottom of each cup. Tap on counter to level.

For the second layer sprinkle 2 tablespoons of the graham cracker crumb mixture on top of the whipped cream layer.

Use the large scoop to place one scoop of the pumpkin mixture on top of the graham cracker crumbs. Spread with a spoon.

Use the reserved whipped cream to place on the top before serving.



If you have sampled a favorite dish from one of our great Gillie cooks and would like the recipe published in "Gillies Cook!," please email your suggestions to bhatchett5183@sbcglobal.net!

Places to Go

Discovering Ansel Adams Oklahoma City Museum of Art Through September 28, 2025



Discovering Ansel Adams features over 100 photographs that share Adams's most celebrated works while revealing aspects of his development that are frequently overlooked. Together with original archival materials from the Center of Creative Photography's Ansel Adams Archive, these photographs demonstrate how Adams transformed from a fourteen-year-old tourist with a camera into a renowned photographer between 1916 and the 1940s. Along the way, photographic prints from his early visits to the American Southwest, his mountaineering experiences as a young man, and his quest to photograph America's national parks will enchant visitors.



Wall Flowers: Patrick Gordon Paintings September 24, 2025 – January 3, 2026

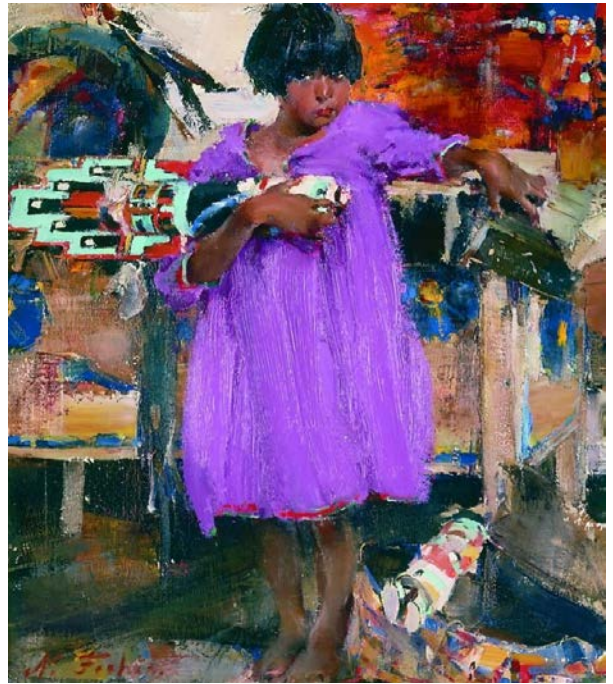
Philbrook Museum of Art presents Patrick Gordon's first museum retrospective, which features over fifty paintings that span a career of more than fifty years. The exhibition includes paintings from his earliest experiments in watercolor to his recent huge, saturated florals. These hang alongside stirring, sensitive portraits, still lifes that highlight Gordon's deep commitment to the Tulsa community, and a selection of his lesser-known politically engaged works. His paintings explore ideas of identity and the notion that what we choose to surround ourselves with—a favorite flower, a special souvenir, or a carefully designed room—can say a lot about who we are. Gordon helps us see how art, decoration, and everyday objects can tell powerful stories—sometimes quietly, sometimes boldly—about feeling seen, being at home, and celebrating who we are.

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Nicolai Fechin: An Artistic Journey
Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art
October 3, 2025 – April 5, 2026

Nicolai Fechin: An Artistic Journey explores the life and work of a Russian artist best known for his colorful portraits of New Mexico. His work, however, encompassed a much broader range of subjects and cultures encountered through a lifetime of travel and reflection.

Fechin's search for health, patronage, and artistic inspiration led him from Russia to New York, New Mexico, Southern California, and beyond. This exhibition, comprised of more than fifty works spanning the entirety of his career, examines the influence family, friends, training, and travel had on the artist.



Not a destination, but a fun activity to do when you arrive at your destination.
Introducing Flat Will Rogers



Have Will, Will Travel!

Will Rogers loved to travel. He became one of the most famous people in the world in a time when transportation was evolving, something he embraced with passion. Now, you can take Will Rogers with you as you explore Route 66 and points beyond! The Oklahoma Route 66 Association is proud to launch **Flat Will**, a fun and interactive way for people of all ages to honor Oklahoma's Favorite Son and take him on new adventures, just in time for the Route 66 Centennial in 2026. Read more about Flat Will on the Oklahoma Route 66 Association [website](#)!

Docents' Corner

Alana Trisler, Docent Chair

Dear Gillies and Docents,

This is a bit of a rehash of last month's Docent Corner article reminders:

- September: There is no September Docents' meeting but please bring your happy faces to Oklahoma Joe's on September 19 for the Gillies Fall General Membership meeting – refreshments at 9:30 with the meeting beginning promptly at 10:00. The Forum speaker will be Rhys Martin, president of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association.
- October: For our October 3 Docents' meeting, we have tentatively scheduled Jame Anderson with the SmithGroup who will share the design elements that connect the new museum building to the surrounding land and people whose stories it tells.
- November: November 7 Docent's meeting: Executive Director Brian Lee Whisenhunt. What more is there to say? Won't want to miss this one!
- December: No Docents' meeting.

**For all Gillies/Docents Meetings:
Refreshments at 9:30
Meeting begins at 10:00
PACCAR Classroom in HCAR**



In Case You Missed It....

- If you weren't present at the Gillies/Docent meeting on August 1, you missed a great presentation by Director of Curatorial Affairs, Alex Man. Alex used art from the Gilcrease collection and other museums to illustrate the very interesting connections that can be made between well-chosen pieces of art, just by doing a little bit of research.



In other words, as our Intern Training Chair Kathe Crapster, remarked, “It was all about bridges and transitions! Gillies love doing that!”

Asked about his trademark bow tie, Alex explained that he developed that habit because his regular neckties kept touching the art he was examining.

I think that story says a lot about our new Director of Curatorial Affairs!

- Elaine Faulkner, who has served as a Gillie since 1982, was recently profiled by the museum on Instagram and Facebook. She was asked about her favorite artworks in the museum. She mentioned “Sierra Nevada Morning” by Albert Bierstadt, and works by Thomas Moran, Olaf Seltzer, Frederic Remington, and Charles Russell. Examples of their works in the Gilcrease collection were shown in the short video.



Gillies General Membership Meeting and Forum

Friday, September 19, 2025
Oklahoma Joe's BBQ
6175 East 61st Street, Tulsa
(Enter the banquet room through the back door)

9:30 a.m.	Meet and Greet
10:00 a.m.	Call to order; Sondra Mullins will serve as Parliamentarian Approval of the minutes of the General Membership Meeting, May 9 Secretary's Membership Report – Julie Gentz Treasurer's Report – Susan Lorton Auditor's Report – Marsha McElroy
10:20 a.m.	Executive Director's Remarks – Brian Lee Whisenhunt
10:45 a.m.	Forum Speaker – Rhys Martin
12:00 noon	Lunch

Buffet Menu

Chopped Brisket
Salad
Fried Okra
Barbecue Beans
Water, Iced Tea, Coffee

Price: \$21.50 (includes tax and gratuity)
If a soft drink is wanted, it will have to be purchased by the individual.

RSVP by September 15 to channonclark@prodigy.net

The Gillies welcome Rhys Martin as our speaker for the 2025 Fall Forum. Rhys Martin works for the National Trust for Historic Preservation as the Manager of the Preserve Route 66 Associations. This initiative provides grants and advocacy to help Route 66 tell the American story as we approach the centennial anniversary of the founding of Route 66 in 2026. He serves as the president of the Oklahoma Route 66 Association and serves in various other volunteer organizations.

Rhys found a love of travel in 2009 when he sold all his possessions to backpack through southeast Asia and Europe. He returned home to develop an interest in traveling Route 66 as a photographer and writer.

Rhys's writings and photography have appeared in *Tulsa People*, *Nimrod*, *Oklahoma Magazine*, *The Tulsa World*, *The Oklahoman*, and numerous publications and travel shows. He is the author of *Lost Restaurants of Tulsa*, a book featuring the iconic Tulsa restaurants through history that are no longer with us. He is a Tulsan and loves to share his experiences of the Mother Road.



Secretary's Report

Get well/thinking of you cards were sent to: JoAnne Goin, Carli Amersek, and Norma Wallace.

A sympathy card was sent to Brian Lee Whisenhunt and family.

Norma Wallace's new address is: University Village Retirement Community, 8555 S. Lewis Ave., 12-C, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137.

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

August 2025

Service Area	Hours
Anthropology	70
Archives/HCAR	43
Board of Directors	27
Conservation	25
Executive Committee	6
Digitization	12
<i>Footprints</i> newsletter	19
Hospitality	10
Route 66 Outreach	3
SOG Presentations	24
Travel Committee	6
Technology (IT)	8
Total	253

Mark Your Calendar

Executive Committee Meeting by Zoom	Thursday, September 11	9:00 a.m.
Board of Directors Meeting by Zoom	Thursday, September 11	10:00 a.m.
Membership Meeting & Forum	Friday, September 19	
Oklahoma Joe's		
Meet and Greet		9:30 a.m.
Meeting and Speaker		10:00 a.m.
Lunch		12:00 noon
Travel Committee Trip to Durant	Wednesday, September 24	