

NEWSLETTER



Julie Middleton
Acting President

From the Acting President

Greetings members of Museum Associates! While Marty Townsend is taking a summer sabbatical from her duties as MA president, I am filling in as acting president. I hope everyone is staying cool as we suffer this atmospheric heat bubble. I have several exciting things to report regarding the Museum and Museum Associates.

Museum Associates has been selected as one of five charitable organizations supported during the 2023 Tigers on the Prowl event. Over the past ten years, Tigers on the Prowl raised funds for numerous Columbia charities. MA is honored to be selected as one of this year's charities. Read about the event in the section further down in the newsletter. I hope many of you will attend.

Museum Associates received \$119,492.55 from the estate of Miriam Dyak, daughter of Saul and Gladys Weinberg. These funds come from a trust established for Miriam by her parents naming Museum Associates, Weinberg Trust, as the beneficiary upon Miriam's death. As instructed, the funds will be deposited into the MA Weinberg Trust for ancient acquisitions. We are very grateful for this gift; however, we are saddened by Miriam's passing.

It's an exciting time for MA and the Museum as we look forward to the Museum reopening and to the events and the programs that are being developed. I also want to express my sincere appreciation to Louise Sarver, MA Board member, who has resigned her position on the Board to further her law degree in Kansas City. Best wishes to Louise and thank you for your dedicated service.

If your email address changes, please be sure to notify us by emailing updated information to the organization's email address at museumassociatesinc@outlook.com. Remember when renewing your membership in Museum Associates, you can do so on our secure website using a credit card through our secure PayPal account at <https://maamuseumassociates.org/>. ■

Museum Renovations Update



Significant progress has been made on the renovations to the Museum's spaces on the lower level of Ellis Library. Removing the old suspended ceiling tiles has opened up the space, giving more of a "gallery" feel to the hallways and to the two large rooms that will house the European and American Art permanent collection and temporary exhibitions. The old fluorescent box lights are gone and will be replaced with museum-grade track lighting. Curator Rima Girnius has been refreshing the research on works that will be on display, writing new labels and wall panel texts highlighting themes and connections among the works, and testing gallery layout designs on scale models.

While the basic renovations to the Weinberg Gallery of Antiquities were completed late last year, Curator Benton Kidd and staff have been working on the details of that gallery—painting the interior of the built-in cases, building new custom floor mounted pedestals and wall mounted cases, and laying out and installing the antiquities piece-by-piece (in many cases using paper or cardboard mock-ups at first), and writing new labels.

The Museum is waiting on a schedule for completion. We will update everyone as soon as we know the details. Please note the Museum's new identity graphic above! ■



Dan Eck, Museum director, shows Julie Middleton a new wall in one of the renovated galleries.

— Dan Eck, Museum Director

Tigers on the Prowl Event



Museum Associates is excited to be included in this year's Tigers on the Prowl fundraising event. Each of the five selected organizations will provide silent auction items and one live auction item. Proceeds from these items will go directly to each organization. Additional artwork is being commissioned and proceeds from the sale of these items will be divided among the five organizations. \$70-\$75 dollars of each ticket sales will go to the selling charity. This is a well attended event and tickets go quickly. Please join Museum Associates at this exciting event.

When: October 17th, 2023
Where: Holiday Inn Executive Center
Time: Doors open at 5:30pm

Tickets: \$150/per person or
Table Sponsor with ten tickets: \$1,250

To purchase tickets (*check payments only*), please make checks payable to **Tigers on the Prowl**. In the memo line, please write **Museum Associates**. Write on a piece of paper the names of the individuals who will be using the tickets. Mail check and list of attendees to: TOTP/Bruce Cox, 1909 Hilda St., Columbia, MO 65201. Please purchase your tickets by **September 1st**.

Central Bank (*main bank on Broadway*) is hosting a reception for the individual artists creating artwork to be auctioned at the event on **September 26th from 5:30–7:00pm**. This reception is **FREE** and open to the public. The artwork will be on display in the bank lobby from September 25th–October 8th. Please plan on attending, to preview the artwork, and meet the artists participating in Tigers on the Prowl. ■

Art of the Book Club—Book It!

The Museum's Art of the Book Club is reading *Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie this fall. The famous novel takes place in Egypt making for good connection to the Museum of Art and Archaeology's antiquities collection.

New is the Book Club's partnership with Osher Lifelong Learning @ Mizzou which will introduce new audiences to the Museum's programming. Four hybrid classes will be offered, each on a **Tuesday: September 12, 19, 26, and October 3 from 3:00–4:30pm** at the city's Moss Building, 1905 Hillcrest Drive, in person or online.

Discussions of the book and film as well as a lecture about ancient Egypt will be led by Art of the Book Club founder Christiane Quinn, and docents Barb Montgomery and Valerie Hammons, prospectively. The Museum's Curator of Antiquities, Benton Kidd, will close out the series with a session on "Egyptomania," the multimillion-dollar pop culture phenomenon that romanticized Egypt and North Africa in literature, art, and architecture. ■

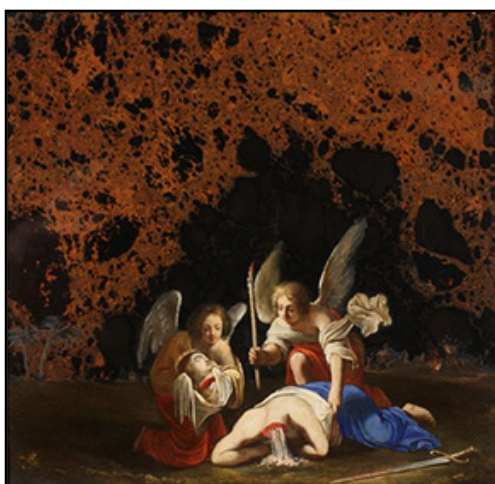


Coffin Fragment Depicting Isis
Egyptian, Ptolemaic period, ca. 100–50 BCE
Wood, gesso, pigment
Gift of Philip Pearlstein (82.433 a–b)

Osher's registration begins **August 22nd**
at www.osher.missouri.edu.

— Marie Nau Hunter, MAA's Deputy Director

Spotlight from the Museum's Collection



Attributed to Louis Cousin (Flemish, ca. 1606–1667 or 1668)
The Martyrdom of Saint Catherine, ca. 1625
Oil on obsidian
Gilbreath-McLorn Museum Fund (2009.126)

Artists employed a variety of materials to create the underlying structure or support for their paintings. The most striking among these are polished slabs of colored stone, often with distinctive markings and striations that artists incorporated in their compositions.

The Museum is fortunate to have in its permanent collection a small devotional painting on mahogany obsidian, a stone formed from rapidly cooling lava. It depicts an episode from the life of early Christian martyr St. Catherine of Alexandria. Apocryphal texts describe how Roman Emperor Maxentius, angered by her steadfast faith, had her tortured and beheaded. Miraculously, milk instead of blood poured from her severed neck as a sign of her purity.

The painting shows a moment not long after Catherine's execution. Her body lies in a crumpled heap as two angels attend to her body. One cradles her radiant head in a cloth while another pulls up her gown to preserve her modesty. The stone's brightly hued veining indicates the presence of the divine and the miraculous nature of the scene. ■

— Rima Girnius, PhD
Curator of European and American Art

Mission Statement

Museum Associates, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation founded for the purpose of helping to provide financial support to the Museum of Art and Archaeology's educational programs, publications, exhibitions, and acquisitions.



520 S. 9th St., Ellis Library, Room 1
Columbia, MO 65211

Website: <https://maamuseumassociates.org/>

Email: museumassociatesinc@outlook.com