

NEWSLETTER



Julie Middleton
President

From the President

We made it through the winter months with February still ahead. I hope you had a happy holiday season and welcomed in 2024 with a bang. This year promises to be an exciting one for the Museum of Art and Archaeology as they prepare to reopen the Museum with Art in Bloom on the same dates as MU's Donor Recognition Weekend, **April 27 & 28, 2024**. A grand reopening celebration for Museum Associates members and invited guests will take place from **6-8pm on Friday, April 26**. Mark your calendar and watch for more information as it becomes available. Museum staff are working fast and furiously to reinstall artwork and prepare for the doors to once again welcome visitors.

CoMoGives was a success with the campaign raising a total of \$2,056,712.34! Museum Associates donations totaled \$4,555! A hearty thank you to those individuals who supported us with their donations during the 2023 CoMoGives campaign. We will continue to be involved with this beneficial donor program, so look for us during the 2024 CoMoGives.

I am happy to report that the three evenings of Holiday shopping in December at the Museum Store were a success. The Store grossed just under \$3,500. Shoppers were happy to have an opportunity to find that special gift for friends and relatives and comments on the Museum Store were positive. We will keep you posted as the Store moves closer to being open on a regular basis once the Museum reopens.

The Museum Associates Board of Directors has been invited again to participate as a charitable non-profit organization in the 2024 Tigers on the Prowl (TOTP) event. The Board has voted to participate with the event happening in October. As soon as we have the event dates, I will share that information with you. I hope you will plan on attending this event and supporting the charities identified by TOTP. It will be exciting to see the artwork local artists create for this year's TOTP live auction.

I wish to close with a Happy Valentine's Day wish for each and every one of you. As the artwork in my article depicts, love is an enduring and restoring element in our lives. This month celebrate it and share it with those you love and cherish.

If your email address changes, please 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 PayPal account at <https://maamuseumassociates.org/>. ■



Albrecht Dürer (German, 1471–1528)
The Offer of Love, 1876
Heliogravure reproduction of original engraving on paper
Museum purchase (79.168.88)

Upcoming Museum Exhibitions

Approximately April 5–May 5 (dates subject to change)

Juan Roberto Diago: Foraged Materials, Assembled Histories

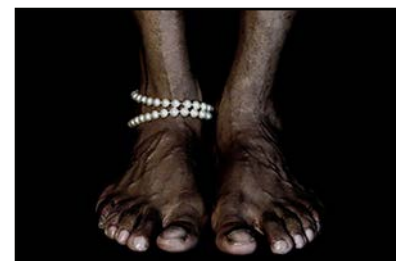
Diago's interest in rewriting history to address race is a common thread in his work. He often uses reclaimed materials and found objects to underscore that history is always a process of assembly and reassembly; it is always PRESENT and in process of becoming. More specifically, he shows how the legacies of enslavement and resistance to it remain embedded in the contemporary world.

Approximately April 5–August 31 (dates subject to change)

Pointed Questions: Rene Peña's Everyday Objects

Departing from the traditions of photojournalism and documentary photography that dominated the fine art scene since the Cuban Revolution (1953–1959), Peña photographs familiar objects and household item—often used, broken, and mass-produced—that are laden with cultural assumptions and judgments. His works are as much about the subjects they depict as the associations they raise in viewers' minds.

These exhibitions were developed in conjunction with [Afro-Cuban Legacies](#), an international, interdisciplinary conference examining Afro-Cuban expressive cultures since the 1960s, and were curated by Dr. Kristin Schwain, Professor of Art History, University of Missouri-Columbia. The exhibitions are made possible by public support from the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, with additional support from Museum Associates, Inc. ■



Rene Peña (Cuban, b. 1957)
Sin título, de la serie
"Untitled Album" (2007)
Digital print on paper
Courtesy of the artist



Save the Date!

A perennial favorite, **Art in Bloom will return April 27 & 28, 2024**, as part of the Museum of Art and Archaeology's reopening celebration. Mark your calendar and watch for more information as April approaches so you don't miss seeing the pairings of art and fresh flowers arranged throughout the renovated galleries. A reception will be held for Museum Associate members the evening of **April 26th** in the Museum. The Museum is now located in the lower east level of Ellis Library on Lowry Mall, in the heart of the MU campus.

[Image detail: *Kimono*, Japanese, late 19th–early 20th century, silk, gift of Mrs. D. David McLorn (76.183)] ■

Spotlight from the Museum's Collection

The Demon Pazuzu

Ancient world lore teems with fearsome creatures, many so ferocious that only the bravest could defeat them. Other monsters were invincible, perpetually lying in wait, always ready to strike again. The demon Pazuzu was one such unvanquishable foe that threatened humanity continuously. King of the Mesopotamian wind demons, Pazuzu smote the land with all manner of pestilence, from storms to plagues of locusts. His appearance was a horrific mutation of animal and human traits that included four wings, an anthropoid torso (though often scaled), taloned feet, a canine muzzle, horns, and bulging eyes.

Though evil creatures in antiquity could wreak havoc, their images were also regarded as protective. In Mesopotamian culture, Pazuzu was represented countless times, on pendants, figurines, and other images, which were often placed in graves to protect the deceased. In the 1970s, Pazuzu was once again cast as the malevolent destroyer by William Peter Blatty, who resurrected the demon to bedevil a young girl in *The Exorcist*, the infamous novel and film. ■

— Benton Kidd, PhD
Curator of Antiquities



Pendant of the Demon Pazuzu
Assyrian, 7th–6th century BCE
From Mesopotamia (Iraq)
Terracotta
(68.138c)

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.



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