

Living & Arts

ARTS BRIEFS

Carlos Museum expands Art of the Americas

February begins a renewed gallery of 4,000 years of items.

By Howard Pousner
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The new year will bring a new view of what used to be the Ancient American Galleries at Emory University's Michael C. Carlos Museum.

Closed since late May, the galleries will reopen with an updated focus, covering a wider time frame and broader geography, and with a new name — Art of the Americas — on Feb. 9.

The reinstated galleries will feature more than 425 works spanning 4,000 years, from 2000 BC to the 20th century.

Native North American art will be included in the re-installation, expanding the galleries' prior focus on South and Central America.

Rebecca Stone, the Carlos' Faculty Curator of Art of the Americas, organized the exhibit, which includes new art works from Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Significant additions include more space dedicated to Panamanian art, a new textile display and other art from Costa Rica, and several new cases of Colombian ceramics.

For the first time, the galleries will present cross-cultural displays, highlighting similarities and differences between neighboring cultures.

In addition to the new acquisitions and loans, other changes include the rewriting of display labels and case text to incorporate new research and discoveries. Many pieces



A mola of a swimming sea turtle from 20th century Panama. This recent Michael C. Carlos Museum acquisition will be installed in the Emory University museum's Art of the Americas galleries, opening Feb. 9. Spanning 4,000 years, from 2000 BC to the 20th century, the exhibit will feature more than 425 works of art. BRUCE M. WHITE PHOTOS / MICHAEL C. CARLOS MUSEUM

previously on exhibit are being regrouped in different case designs.

The presentations reflect information small and large gleaned since the Ancient American display was mounted a decade ago. For instance, from observing whale sharks at the Georgia Aquarium, Stone discovered similar features on a female effigy that she had assumed was a woman transforming into a jaguar. The features, the curator came to realize, actually suggest a woman transforming into a whale shark.

A small exhibition of modern Southwestern ceramics will be on view in a changing exhibit space in the galleries when they

reopen and will remain on view through 2013. "Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors: The Mellon-Clum Collection of Modern Southwestern Pottery" will include seed pots, red- and black-ware, vessels inspired by basketry and a large case of objects produced by the Quezada family of potters of Mata Ortiz, Mexico.

More on the Art of the Americas Galleries: www.carlos.emory.edu/new-art-of-americas.

THEATER

Alliance gets grant for playwriting contest winner

The National Endowment for the Arts recently



The exhibit also includes a vessel in the shape of a male head (ca. 1-500 AD) from the central Andes of Peru's north coast, created by the pre-Incan Moche civilization.

announced that the Alliance Theatre has received a \$40,000 NEA Art Works grant to support the 2013 Alliance National Graduate Playwriting Competition winner "Bike America."

Written by Mike Lew from the Juilliard School's Drama Division, "Bike America" will receive its world premiere on the Alliance's Hertz Stage on Feb. 1-24. The story of Penny, a student who struggles to find her place in the world, the play speaks to millennial generation restlessness.

The Alliance playwriting competition solicits scripts from leading U.S. master of fine arts/graduate programs, helping student playwrights make the transition to the professional theater world.

The NEA Art Works grant also will underwrite a staged reading series for the four competition finalists.

The competition and

"Bike America" production also are supported by a 2005 gift by the Kendeda Fund and a grant by the Steinberg Charitable Trust.

ARTS

Georgia advocacy group improves digital outreach

Georgia Arts Network, designated the state's official arts advocacy organization by Americans for the Arts in 2010, has launched a revised website at www.gaartsnetwork.org.

The nonprofit organization changed its name from the Georgia Assembly of Community Arts Agencies last year, seeking to align its name with a broader mission of representing artists, arts organizations, arts educators and arts supporters across Georgia.

The website features news affecting the state-

wide arts community and will be expanding to include a Georgia arts events calendar.

Next up for the Arts Network is the annual Arts Advocacy Day at the state capitol Jan. 29.

FILM

Lefont plans revival screening of 'Wages of Fear'

The Lefont Film Society, which presents a series of revival and art-film screenings at the Lefont Sandy Springs theater, is bringing back a cinema classic for its 60th anniversary, among other notable December and January bookings.

"Wages of Fear," the 1953 white-knuckle thriller starring Yves Montand as one of four down-on-their-luck men who sign up for the dangerous duty of trucking nitroglycerin 300 miles over South American mountain roads to extinguish an oil well fire, will show Jan. 5-6.

The society's final showing of this year will be "Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel," documenting the 50-year reign of the fashion journalist/taste-maker, Dec. 29-30. Anticipating potential Oscar buzz, organizer Donna Lefont also is bringing back the French comedy-drama "The Intouchables" (Jan. 12-13) and the rock 'n' roll biography "Searching for Sugar Man" (Jan. 19-20). Academy Award nominations are to be announced on Jan. 10.

Screenings at 10:30 a.m. \$8.50. Lefont Sandy Springs, 5920 Roswell Road, Atlanta. 404-255-0140, www.lefonttheaters.com

HALL OF FAME

Selection process for rock

Atlanta
Symphony
Orchestra

