Groundbreaking News...
St. John's Museum Announces the Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum

The Board of Directors of St. John's Museum of Art has recognized the longstanding leadership and support of the Cameron family. Since the Museum's conception in 1962, the Cameron Family has continued to support St. John's Museum of Art, providing the leadership and resources that have helped the organization grow from a small regional gallery into what will soon be a major cultural destination for the entire state. In recognition of the most recent gift of $4 million from the Bruce B. Cameron Foundation, complemented by a $2 million gift of historic land from the children of Louise and Bruce Cameron in memory of their mother, the Board of Directors of St. John's Museum of Art has unanimously voted to name the New Museum the Louise Wells Cameron Art Museum. The Museum plans to break ground and formally dedicate the project this summer.

The Camerons' support sets the stage as St. John's Museum of Art embarks upon the Cornerstone of North Carolina Art: Campaign for the New Museum to raise the remaining $4.5 million. This important effort was initiated in January with Ren Brown, Museum Director and Rebecca Laymon, Board President, approaching the Board of Directors and Staff of St. John's Museum of Art who generously donated $320,000. The average Board gift was just over $15,000, an outstanding statement of commitment from a group of individuals not necessarily assembled for their abilities to give, but for their commitment to North Carolina art. The staff rose to this challenge as well, averaging an impressive $2,000 per gift. During the planning stages of the Campaign, friends of the Museum have also contributed an additional $176,500 bringing the total pledges to date just over $495,000. Recognition Opportunity commitments in the new facility such as the Contemporary Art Gallery, the Museum Cafe, Catering Kitchen, Library, Director's Office and Curator of Education Office have already been selected. Numerous naming opportunities remain available, ranging from $10,000 and up. In addition, all donations over $5,000 will be recognized on a donor plaque located in the Museum's entry.

With Frank Block, Campaign Chairman, leading one of the strongest Steering Committees assembled in Wilmington, the campaign is poised to begin its Corporate, Business and Major Gifts divisions. Over the next three months, Bill Holt and Mercer Rowe will be heading the Corporate efforts, Peter Fensel and Bobby Rippy will lead the Business Division, and Bill Anlyan and Bob Warwick will approach Major Gift prospects. In addition, Hilda Godwin will chair two Individual Gifts Divisions, managing the largest corps of volunteers, those who will be encouraging community-wide participation. Museum Director Ren Brown and Chris Luterman, Campaign Coordinator, will be working closely with Rhone Sasser, Chair of the Statewide Cabinet, to cultivate and secure gifts from individuals around the state, as well as our state and federal governments. Wallace Murchison and Micki Hobson continue to cultivate Foundation leads, which will surely prove to be fruitful. The campaign is off to an impressive start, and, with a motivated group of volunteers and equally responsive community, appears destined for success.

From left: Ren Brown, SJMA director; Frank Block, Capital Campaign Chairman; Jeff Etheridge, BB&T Regional President; Rebecca Laymon, SJMA Board President and Wes Beckner, BB&T Wilmington City Executive at the announcement of BB&T's gift of $100,000 for the Capital Campaign.
BB&T Makes a Financial Statement

BB&T Corporation announced the Capital Campaign's first gift from the banking community at the opening reception for Artists of Southeastern North Carolina: A Juried Exhibition on March 25. BB&T's Wilmington City Executive Wes Beckner and Regional President, Jeff Etheridge, were in attendance to make this exciting announcement. Stating that the gift of $100,000 was "an expression of our support for North Carolina's thriving visual arts environment and of our commitment to ensuring that art will be available for future generations," Mr. Beckner's comments were met with resounding applause from the full house of an estimated 600 guests. BB&T's gift will be sponsoring the Contemporary Art Gallery of St. John's Museum of Art's Permanent Collection in the New Museum where prominent North Carolina works will be displayed. The airy 1,495 sq. ft. gallery will be 68' x 22' with 18' high ceilings. Mr. Beckner also spoke to those in the business community who attended the event "...in hopes that other institutions would take their lead and offer their financial support as well...toward the building of this important new facility."

New Museum Boasts Strong Local and Statewide Appeal

The Cornerstone of North Carolina Art: Campaign for the New Museum has already drawn both strong local and statewide support with the first major gifts arriving in March. A very generous, anonymous gift of $100,000 was received from a local contributor. In addition, Statewide Cabinet member and Kinston resident Leo Brody has made a $100,000 gift. Clearly, this support is an indication of the anticipation that is mounting for the arrival of this new facility and the programs and services it will offer our region. Gifts from donors throughout the state will not only help to provide the bricks and mortar for this state-of-the-art facility, but will ensure a comfortable home for the future of North Carolina art, art education and visual arts appreciation.

Changing the Way You Look at Art

As staff and volunteers continue their efforts to share the plans for the New Museum, it has become evident that through this campaign, we will be building much more than simply a new physical structure. With outreach and education efforts expanding exponentially throughout counties and schools and plans for new programming to coincide with this project, the Museum will be ideally positioned to be a catalyst with which to change the composition of the art community. Art is for everyone – from the casual browser to the devoted scholar. Museum stereotypes of the past will quickly be dispelled through appeal to all individuals – inviting persons of all ages, races and economic backgrounds to embrace North Carolina's rich visual art heritage. Thus, it is with great anticipation that we look forward to not only opening the doors to this new facility, but welcoming the entire community to discover all that North Carolina art has to offer.

St. John's Museum of Art invites all our members to participate in the Campaign for the New Museum. Call the campaign office to find out how you can make a difference with a tax deductible donation or to volunteer your time.

763-0281
Artists of Southeastern North Carolina: A Juried Exhibition

On View Through June 6

This exhibition featuring 89 works by 77 area artists was chosen by juror Fereshteh Daftari, Assistant Curator, Department of Paintings and Sculpture, Museum of Modern Art, New York. St. John's Museum wishes to thank the artists who submitted 323 works for review, artists whose generous participation made 1999 a record-breaking year for this annual event.

Portraits by Isamu Noguchi
June 18 - September 12

American sculptor Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988) produced a staggering body of work during his six decades as an artist. Such work ranged from objects that could be held in one's hands to monumental gardens and landscapes, from stone and metal to paper and wood. Pioneering many of the modern aesthetics of abstracted form, heightened by surface texture and contrast, Noguchi placed the refined and polished next to the raw and rough. In doing so, he changed how the world looked at sculpture and revolutionized the concepts of what sculpture could be.

Although born in Los Angeles (to an American mother and a Japanese father), at the age of two, Noguchi and his mother moved to Japan. In his teens, his mother, fearing racial prejudice and unhappy with the educational system in Japan, sent him back to America for a formal education. After high school, he entered Columbia University, where, after just two years of study, he left to pursue his interest in art.

Noguchi began his career in clay, working in an academic style that quickly brought him success. However, his interest was in the new Modern movement. In 1927 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship that allowed him to study sculpture in Paris. Two days after his arrival, he was employed in the studio of sculptor Constantine Brancusi as an assistant. Noguchi remembered that Brancusi “...showed me how to square a block out of limestone. This is how I learned of the honesty of sculpture as a prerequisite for overcoming the easy attractions of clay – a moral duty I have never forgotten.”

Suzanne Ziegler, 1932, whitewashed wood, by Isamu Noguchi.
Tsuneko-san (Head of a Japanese Girl), 1931, white ceramic by Isamu Noguchi

Returning to America two years later, Noguchi supported himself by sculpting portrait heads cast in bronze. Portraits by Isamu Noguchi represents eleven of his finest works in portraiture created between 1931 and 1949 in cast bronze as well as plaster, clay and wood. This exhibition underscores the realization that the portraits form the largest set of sculptures of a single theme within Noguchi's prodigious career. In addition, they represent one of the longest-running interests of his career surpassed only by landscape and theater: he was concerned with both the topography of the human face and with the human drama. As he would later say in his autobiography, "Humanity is an interesting thing after all. The whole life you see expressed in the face, right? One tries to find what it is in those eyes, that brow ... what is this person? What is this face?"

St. John's Museum wishes to thank The Isamu Noguchi Foundation, Inc. for organizing this exhibition. A walk-through tour is scheduled for Friday, June 18 at 12:00 noon.
Complex Gifts: Introducing the Artists of Signature Home
July 8 - September 12

Biblical narrative and big-finned Chevys celebrate life, freedom and unaffected expression in *Complex Gifts*, an exhibition of over twenty works by six untrained artists from Signature Home in Morganton, NC. Swirling circus scenes by Brooks Yeomans, purple hot rods by Ricky Needham and brilliant paradisiacal beasts and plants by Harold Crowell are featured works in this remarkable exhibition. The exhibition also includes pottery and hand-tied fishing flies of Bill Smith, original music for piano and keyboard by Thomas McCravy and performances by pianist and vocalist Charlene Sawyer. Each of the gifted artists honored in this exhibition work at Signature Studio, a studio and gallery for artists whose "exceptional talents overshadow the disabilities and challenges they face in everyday life."

In 1993, Signature, this country's only home for artistically gifted adults challenged by developmental disabilities, was opened by the Western Carolina Center Foundation. Western Carolina Center's fine arts and creative therapy programs are designed to help residents find and develop any creative potential they might possess. Dr. J. Iverson Riddle, former director of Western Carolina Center expounds on the benefits he has witnessed to several individuals involved in the creative therapy programs. He cites the growth of Harold Crowell as example, "When Harold first came here, he was very depressed and unfriendly. He was sometimes aggressive, and he sometimes heard voices that others could not hear. Now he's one of the most jovial, warm, affectionate people to be around. I don't believe that anything else would have done that for him but art." St. John's Museum gratefully acknowledges Lea Anne Webb and Marsha Riddle at Signature Studio for organizing this exhibition. A walkthrough tour and featured performances by the artists is scheduled Thursday, July 8, 3:00-7:00 pm.
Aaron Wilcox: Tension
June 18 - July 18

Ceramicist Aaron Wilcox moved to Wilmington in August 1998 to assume positions as part-time lecturer at UNCW and art instructor at Cape Fear Academy. Wilcox received an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art in May 1998 and of his work in porcelain states, "Ceramics does not exist on the periphery of the context of Art; it is an integral part of Art. Relevant work must acknowledge the history of the medium while being an active participant in contemporary Art discourse." A walk-through tour with the artist is scheduled Friday, June 25 at 12 noon.

Hiroshi Sueyoshi: Containment
June 18 - July 18

A native of Tokyo, Hiroshi came to this country over twenty years ago to help design and build Humble Mill Pottery in Asheboro. He worked at Seagrove as a production potter and taught in Sampson and Wilson Counties and at Cape Fear Community College where he is currently an instructor. Containment features work employing the Japanese techniques of neriage and nerikomi, processes of sandwiching and faceting uncolored and colored porcelain to render the look of "rock." The color penetrates the object rather than existing as surface decoration. A walk-through tour with the artist is scheduled Friday, June 25 at 12 noon.

Classes at the Cowan House

Classes, workshops and demonstrations are held in the Cowan House, located at 208 South Second Street in the Museum complex. Pre-registration is required. We will be happy to take your registration over the phone (763-0281) and ask that your payment arrive in our office within four working days of your phone registration. We also accept VISA, Mastercard or Discover Card. Charges will be processed the first day of class. Registrations are not formally acknowledged; you will only hear from us in the event of a schedule change. Class sizes are limited (6-12 students in most cases), so register early!

Classes for Adults

Experimenting with Abstraction
Lorraine Scalamoni-Voynow
Tuesdays, May 4 - June 8
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Class Fee: $85
Lorraine Scalamoni-Voynow has teaching experience at the Fashion Institute of Technology and Parson's School of Design. In this course, Loraine will demonstrate how an artist translates reality into an abstract work. Students will learn the various steps involved in this process by studying abstract works in the Museum's collection. Bring 18" x 24" newsprint pad and charcoal stick to first class.

Basic Drawing and Composition
Lorraine Scalamoni-Voynow
Wednesdays, May 5 - June 9
1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
Class Fee: $85
Beginning and intermediate artists will learn about line, tone, shape and composition. Students will work in black and white media and learn the fundamentals of using color. This class will be geared to all levels.

Model Drawing Class
Lorraine Scalamoni-Voynow
Wednesdays, May 5 - June 9
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Class Fee: $85
Students draw from the nude figure to develop an understanding of form, volume and space. The poses will vary in length, and different media will be explored. This class is open to all artistic levels. Bring 18" x 24" newsprint pad and charcoal stick to first class.

Mixed Media
Lorraine Scalamoni-Voynow
Thursdays, May 6 - June 10
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.
Class Fee: $85
Open to all levels, this course explores the varying effects which can be achieved with different materials. Students are free to choose their media which might include photographs, old sketches, paint, pencil or found objects. Bring 18" x 24" newsprint pad and charcoal stick to first class.

Artists' Drawing Group
Non-Instructional
Thursdays, May 6 - 27
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Class Fee: $7 per session
An opportunity for artists and lay persons to enhance their drawing/painting skills working from the live model. Some sessions will consist of two 20-minute poses and others might involve a single three-hour pose. Persons interested in modeling, both nude and/or clothed in costume, please call the Museum.

Etching and Monoprinting
(teens and adults)
Susan Bachmann
Tuesdays, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
1st session: June 1 - July 6
2nd session: July 13 - August 17
Class Fee: $90 per session; materials extra
Students will be exposed to basic etching techniques and learn how to operate a printing press. They will create images on metal plates and produce consistent editions of prints. This class will benefit all levels of experience and offers C.E.U. credit for teachers.

Papermaking Workshop
Fritzi Huber
Saturday, June 19, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 20, 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.
Class Fee: $95
In recent years Fritzi Huber has been awarded an Emerging Artist Grant and a Projects Grant from the Arts Council of the Lower Cape Fear, Wilmington, NC. She has led successful workshops at Savannah College of Art and Design and at San Diego State College. In this two-day workshop, Fritzi will take you step by step through the papermaking process. You will create your own paper and from this you can create your own assemblage, sculpture, weaving or design.
Classes for Children

Kinetic Sculpture Part II
(Grades 1-6)
Brenda Pate
Saturday, May 22
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Class Fee: $15
Learn more interesting facts about moving sculpture and then create your own. Balance and suspension will be put to the test with our fanciful creations.

Summer Teen Portfolio Program
(ages 12 and older)
Lorraine Scalmoni-Voynow
Monday - Friday, June 7 - 11
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Class Fee: $85
Students will learn what it takes to become a professional artist. Lorraine will help each student develop and assemble a portfolio for college admissions or just for fun! Bring an 18" x 24" newsprint pad and charcoal stick to the first class.

Bicycle Decorations
(All Ages: Parents, Guardians, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Children)
Lucie Perry
Saturday, June 26
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Class Fee: $15
Create fantastic decorations for your stroller, bicycle, tricycle, skateboard, or just for fun!

Children's Day Camp:
Animals in Art
(ages 4-8)
Natalie Driggs
Monday, July 26 - Friday, July 30
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Class Fee: $85
Children will work with various media to create all kinds of creatures. For instance, they will use real dead fish to make fish prints, make reptiles out of men's ties and construct giant 3-D insects. There will also be plenty of games, stories and treats.

Kaleidoscope Kreations
(ages 4-8)
Brenda Pate
Saturday, August 14
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Class Fee: $15
A kaleidoscope is full of infinite color and pattern. Children will explore the history of kaleidoscopes and then create their own.

The educational programs at St. John's Museum of Art are partially funded by Mr. & Mrs. K.E. Austin, Jr.; The Glaxo Foundation; The Janirve Foundation; and Wachovia Bank.
What’s New in the Museum Shop?
Lots! Just a Sampling...

New works from Ben Owen III and other Seagrove Potters
Frosted resin bee, dragonfly and butterly votive in lime, lemon, apricot, garnet and ice. ................................................ $14.95
Fabulous new collection of John Kirslis bug pins ................................................................. $28.95 - $75.95
Handmade wire and bead votives, vases and bookmarks from Moon Mambo ....................... $12-18
Photo albums, birthday and baby books from Michel Publishing ........................................ $10-21
Dogwood, Azalea, Camellia, Gardenia and more of your favorite hand-painted flower "sculpture" pins from Kathleen Horner .................. $18
The Cook’s Canvas - same great cookbook, better NEW price ........................................... $20

And coming up, Double Discount Day – Mark your calendar for our first Member Appreciation sale day, Thursday, May 20!
Shop one day only and receive a 20% discount off your total purchase!

We’re on the Road Again...
You’re invited to join the Museum for a fabulous four-day, three-night trip to Washington, DC, June 23 - June 26. Includes motorcoach travel; accommodations at the Hotel Washington; full breakfast each morning; two dinners; lunch and tour at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond; tours of the Mary Cassatt exhibition at the National Gallery of Art and the Georgia O’Keefe exhibition at the Phillips Collection; dinner and symphony performance at the John F. Kennedy Center of Performing Arts and a tour of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Cost is $625 per person, based on double occupancy. Space is limited so make your reservation now, 763-0281.

St. John’s Museum is also conducting a one-day excursion to Brookgreen Gardens, Murrells Inlet, SC on Friday, May 21. Meet the artist Grainger McKoy whose exhibition of wooden and bronze bird sculptures is on view. Includes motorcoach travel and admission to Brookgreen Gardens. Pack a lunch or purchase your own at the Cafe. Cost of the trip is $27 per person. Reservations required by May 7, 763-0281.

Art In Schools Update
The Art in Schools Program has capped off its first full school year of activity with several receptions and student exhibitions in surrounding counties. A March 16 reception at the Historic Train Depot in Burgaw kicked off a two-week exhibition of student artwork resulting from the program’s six-month tour of Pender County. An exhibition of Claude Howells’s serigraphs was featured at the annual Celebrate the Arts reception held March 21 in Columbus County, where the exhibition will tour through this October. Tours of Brunswick County and several schools in New Hanover also have been scheduled for the program, which is also the subject of a feature article in the North Carolina Arts Council’s quarterly magazine.

Students, parents and teachers view artwork on display at the March 16 reception held in Burgaw’s Historic Train Depot to celebrate a six-month tour of Pender County by the Art in Schools Program.
May


Mon. 3 Annual Volunteer Guild Luncheon. Refreshments in the Hughes Gallery. $12. 11:30 a.m. Reservations required by April 28, 763-0281.

Tues. 11 St. John's Museum of Art's Annual Meeting and Election of Board of Directors. 5:30 p.m. St. John's Lodge.

Thurs. 20 Double Discount Day in the Museum Shop. For one day only, receive a 20% discount off your total purchase! 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

June

Sun. 6 Artists of Southeastern North Carolina: A Juried Exhibition closes. 4:00 p.m.

Sat. 12 Family Day Celebration. Enjoy art, crafts, music and storytelling during this day of family fun at St. John's Museum! Free and open to the public. 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Thurs. 17 Opening reception for the exhibition Portraits by Isamu Noguchi. Hughes Gallery. 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. $5; $2 members.

Fri. 18 Day of Sculpture: Walk-through tour of Portraits by Isamu Noguchi at 12:00 noon; lunch and video screening of Isamu Noguchi: The Sculpture of Spaces (pack a lunch, the Museum will provide lemonade and iced tea) from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. and lecture "Henry Bacon's Collaboration with Sculptors" by Dr. Joyce Schiller, Head Curator of Reynolda House Museum of American Art from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Cowan House Studio. $5 members; $7 non-members. Reservations, 763-0281.

July

Sun. 4 Museum closed for July 4 Holiday!

Thurs. 8 Walk-through tour of Complex Gifts by featured artists in the exhibition. 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Free with Museum admission.

Fri. 30 Walk-through tours of Portraits by Isamu Noguchi and Complex Gifts. 12:00 noon. Free with Museum admission.

August

Fri. 6 Friday Lunch Series "20th Century Sculpture Video Discussion Group." Museum staff will show videos and lead discussions on various 20th century sculptors. Bring a bag lunch. 12:00 noon. Cowan House Studio. Free.

Fri. 13 Friday Lunch Series continues. 12:00 noon. Cowan House Studio. Free.

Fri. 20 Friday Lunch Series continues. 12:00 noon. Cowan House Studio. Free.

Fri. 27 Walk-through tour of Portraits by Isamu Noguchi and Complex Gifts. 12:00 noon. Free with Museum admission.

St. John's Singles' Garden Party and Croquet Tournament in the Sculpture Garden. 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. $5 Museum members; $7 for non-members; free to members of St. John's Singles (requires Museum membership plus $20 annual singles' membership fee).

Fri. 21 Day trip to Brookgreen Gardens. See the article on page 8 for more information. Reservations required by May 10, 763-0281.

Wed. 23 - Sat. 26 Join SJMA for a fabulous four-day, three-night trip to Washington, DC. See the article on page 8 for more information. Space is limited. Reservations, 763-0281.

Fri. 25 Walk-through tours of Aaron Wilcox: Tension and Hiroshi Sueyoshi: Containment at 12:00 noon.

St. John's Singles' Summer Barbecue. Call the Museum for more information, 763-0281.

**ADMISSION TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

$3 per person; $2 Members; Students and Museum Docents Free

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New Members Since November 1998

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Mt. & Mrs. Talf Stephenson

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Sarah E. Ashley
Mr. & Mrs. Watson Barnes

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Richard & Sydney Black

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Welcome New Members!

The 1999 St. John's Museum of Art Membership Campaign kicked off on February 11 with a reception for all the team captains and ambassadors. Every Thursday, the team captains and ambassadors reported in with their new memberships. On Sunday, March 21, Kelly Tinsley and Leslie Tinsley hosted an Art Party for children and their parents. By the close of the campaign, the Museum boasted 72 new members.

Sandra Elam garnered the most new members as a team captain. The individual who brought in the most new members is Nancy Andre. A special thanks to all those who contributed to the Membership Campaign: Nancy Andre, Kay Ballard, Wanda Copley, Sandra Elam, Judy Fulk, Rebecca Laymon, Linda Murachison, Kelly Tinsley, Leslie Tinsley, and especially to Campaign Co-chairs Diana Corbett and Margee Herring. A job well done!

Membership is a year-round opportunity at St. John's Museum. Check the list of new members in each issue of the newsletter. If your friends aren't members, ask them to join! For more information or to have information sent to a friend, call the Museum office.

The Museum is also initiating the use of Membership Cards. Beginning this summer, as you renew your membership, you'll be sent a membership card. Use this card for your free admission, discounts in the Museum Shop and Sales Gallery and for discounted admission to opening receptions and other events. If you have any questions, please call 763-0281.

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Minnie Evans' Family Celebration Fair on February 28 attracted an overflow crowd to the Museum's Cowan House where work created by school children especially for the celebration was hung.

Minnie Evans' son George (center) with Jesse Barnhills (left) and Ellie Snow (right), both New Hanover High School students, who won honorable mention in the art competition.
Anne Walsh

Anne Walsh is one of St. John's Museum's most active volunteers. The chairman of the Information Desk, Anne schedules volunteers three shifts per day, four days a week. Giving exciting tours to adults and children for ten years as a docent, she also took on the time consuming task of docent scheduler this year. As if this isn't enough to keep her busy, Anne is always willing to lend a helping hand and, with Jean Schaefer, chaired the Ticket and Sales Information Committee of the Antique, Art and Garden Show. We all feel very fortunate to have such a capable and enthusiastic volunteer working with us at St. John's Museum of Art!