



WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM OF ART

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Spring Free at the Wadsworth Announcing Free Admission for the Spring Season, through June 2021

Hartford, Conn. (March 22, 2021)—The Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is extending its current free admission period through the spring season, through June 2021. Spring free from winter hibernations and come visit the Wadsworth. Reserve free tickets online in advance via thewadsworth.org. Walk-up visitors may be accommodated based on availability.

May Flowers

While the Wadsworth's annual *Fine Art & Flowers* event will not take place this year, a scaled-back celebration of the season, *May Flowers*, will feature a different floral creation each weekend April 30–May 23. Live music will be performed in the galleries on Sundays, May 2–23, at 2pm. *May Flowers* is supported by the Women's Committee of the Wadsworth Atheneum.

May Flowers Sunday Music Lineup | Performances begin at 2pm

May 2 | Calida Jones on violin

May 9 | Mother's Day | Debbie Vinick on harp

May 16 | John Hughes on kora (West African harp lute)

May 2 | Jaston Castonguay on piano

On View

With over 50,000 square feet of gallery spaces and a collection that ranges from Greek and Roman antiquities to unsurpassed Hudson River School landscapes and world-renowned Baroque, Surrealist, Impressionist, Modern, and Contemporary works of art, the Wadsworth offers a visual experience for every taste.

Paulanship: Ancient Made Modern

Through July 3, 2021

"...this exhibition reveals how Manship became Manship, how he melded his interests in ancient art and mythological tales with early 20th century sensibilities to make something new, a style that bloomed into Art Deco." —Judith H. Dobrzynski, *The Wall Street Journal*

Paul Manship's sculpture visually defines a melding of ancient and modern sensibilities. One of America's most celebrated sculptors of the early twentieth century, he is known for major public commissions such as Prometheus at Rockefeller Center in Manhattan and the Rainey Memorial Gates at the Bronx Zoo. Manship spent his student years at the American Academy in Rome. His time there was the foundational chapter in a long career, when his ideas and working methods were deeply influenced by the ancient works he studied. While abroad, Manship developed a repertoire of designs that he incorporated into his streamlined Art Deco style. Upon his return to New York City, his dramatic, energetic bronze sculptures reinterpreted the past for the modern age, attracting critical acclaim and establishing a new direction for American sculpture. Together with his signature bronzes, associated sketches and ancient artifacts illuminate how Manship became a master of his craft.

Todd Gray / MATRIX 186

Through July 18, 2021

"The work is history writ in visceral, photographic form: the landscapes that fed the slave trade are juxtaposed with the people who amassed wealth from it, along with the ghosts that remain." — Carolina A. Miranda, *Los Angeles Times*

Todd Gray's photographic assemblages explore the history and enduring impact of European colonialism, slavery, and the African diaspora. A personal subject for the artist, his family has been unable to trace its lineage beyond three generations due to the legacy of slavery. To create new work, Gray mines his extensive archive of photographs created over decades of travel, then selects and juxtaposes images of African subjects and sublime landscapes, formally-designed European gardens, and dazzling Hubble Space Telescope constellations. Framed individually in different styles of thrift-store frames, new frames, and old museum frames, the artist layers and stacks the images in dynamic overlapping compositions of two to or more photographs. Breaking all the rules of formal presentation, Gray conceals and pairs imagery to take us on a complex journey about identity through Africa, Europe, and the cosmos, and through time and space.

Visit thewadsworth.org for a complete list of exhibitions and programs.

The Wadsworth is operating on a reduced schedule with timed entry in line with the state's Reopen Connecticut guidelines. Hours are noon–8pm Fridays, and noon–5pm Saturdays, and Sundays. Visitors are required to wear a face mask/covering, receive a contactless temperature check upon entry, and observe a safe social distance of 6 feet

from others while on the grounds of the Wadsworth and inside the museum. The library, food service, and Austin House are currently closed to the public.

Sustaining support for the Wadsworth Atheneum provided by Newman's Own Foundation and the Greater Hartford Arts Council's United Arts Campaign.

About the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Founded in 1842 with a vision for infusing art into the American experience, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art is home to a collection of nearly 50,000 works of art spanning 5,000 years and encompassing European art from antiquity through contemporary as well as American art from the 1600s to today. The Wadsworth Atheneum's five connected buildings—representing architectural styles including Gothic Revival, modern International Style, and 1960s Brutalism—are located at 600 Main Street in Hartford, Conn. Hours: noon–8pm on Fridays, noon–5pm, Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free through June 2021. Phone: (860) 278-2670; website: thewadsworth.org.

Image captions (left to right): Visitors in the European art galleries on Morgan Level 2; Visitors exploring modern art in Avery Court. Courtesy of the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

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