



ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART



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ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART LAUNCHES ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

Artist Michael Mallard Transforms AMA's Hodges Gallery into an Art Studio

[For Release June 11, 2021 – Albany, GA]— Visitors to the Albany Museum of Art will be able to see the creative process in action this summer. Artist Michael Mallard, who has become the AMA's first artist-in-residence, is utilizing the Hodges Gallery as his studio for the next several months.

"We are delighted that Michael Mallard is kicking off this program for us," AMA Executive Director Andrew J. Wulf, Ph.D., said. "As a South Georgia native, he is an asset to the museum and to this community."

"It's something I've never done before," Mallard said. "I'm thankful for the opportunity."

Mallard is well known in the Georgia art community. In addition to his own work as an artist, he is an associate professor of art at Albany State University, where he has worked since 2014. He was interim exhibitions chair for the AMA in 2016, and previously taught art at Andrew College, Cuthbert, Ga.; Union University, Jackson, Tenn.; Bluefield College, Bluefield, Va.; North Greenville College, Tigerville, S.C., and the University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill. A member of the Executive Committee of the AMA Board of Trustees, he holds an MFA in Painting from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Ill., and a BFA in Painting and Drawing from the University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

Working on his art in a high-visibility setting will be new for Mallard.

"This is brand-new territory for me," Mallard noted. "I've always had a very private studio. Painting in public is a new thing, but it's a good experience. They'll see my failures as well as my strengths. Some parts of the painting won't work so well, and I'll be struggling to bring it together. Some things I'll have to paint over because they don't work in the painting. They'll see the process, and they can ask questions and make comments."

Wulf said the artist-in-residence program will benefit both the public and the artist.

"The introduction of an artist-in-residence program follows a special trend in museums today that is all about leveraging the work of all types of artists, from young to mature, and giving them time and space to work in a safe, well-lit studio at the museum," Wulf said. "It supports their development in the arts."

"Most importantly from an educational point of view, it gives visitors, as well as the artists, ample opportunities to interface and for the artist to share their process, their story with everyday museum visitors."

Initially, Mallard said, he plans to work in his AMA studio on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Hours when he will be at the AMA may vary depending on his summer teaching schedule.

Friday, June 11 was Mallard's first day working in the AMA studio space, where he discussed his work with students from an ASU summer art camp who visited the museum. The campers saw Mallard apply the first brush strokes in months to an untitled painting that he started early last year.

"When COVID came, I didn't go into my studio," he said. "Today is actually the first day I've painted on this piece since COVID."

While he may also do some drawing in the AMA studio, Mallard said his immediate plans are to focus on painting.

"I'm looking forward to painting, to getting some painting accomplished here," he said.

Describing his style as Post-Modernist, Mallard brings an unusual amalgamation of experiences, ideas and thoughts to his work.

“Our lives are sort of a motley assortment of experiences,” he said. “These experiences unified in a single life interact with other individuals’ experiences, thereby enlarging each assortment of experiences. A sort of ‘layering’ of meaning develops in each life.

“I approach my work as it represents our lives: layers of meaning developed through time. This compilation yields the excessive quality of my work. I address rather simple ideas that become complex through visual presentation.”

Mallard has exhibited in group or solo shows at the AMA; Andrew College; the Laissez Faire Gallery in Columbia, Tenn.; Union University in Jackson, Tenn.; Freed Hardeman University, Henderson, Tenn.; Davison Gallery at Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, N.Y.; Spiers Gallery at Brevard College, Brevard, N.C., and others.

Originally, the plan was for Mallard to have an exhibition in the Hodges Gallery in spring 2020. The COVID shutdown forced the AMA to make changes to its exhibition schedule. Wulf suggested that Mallard set up a studio at the museum and become artist-in-residence.

“I want to invite people who want to see my work or just watch an artist paint to come in,” Mallard said. “It doesn’t have to be a silent thing. They can wander in. They can come in and see the work. They can watch me work. It’s something different you have an opportunity to do here in Albany.”

CURRENT AMA EXHIBITIONS

- *Butch Anthony: Art, Nature, and Intertwangleism* is in the Haley Gallery March 4-July 31, 2021.
- *Work, Worship & Community: Paul Kwilecki* is in the East Gallery March 4-June 26, 2021.
- *Educators as Artists: 4th College Faculty Exhibition* is in the McCormack Gallery March 4-June 26, 2021
- *Escape Plan*, installation by Elinor Saragoussi, is in the West Gallery.

ABOUT THE ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

The Albany Museum of Art is located at 311 Meadowlark Drive in Albany, Ga., adjacent to Albany State University West Campus just off Gillionville Road. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Albany Museum of Art is open to the public 10 am-5 pm Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and 10 am-7 pm Thursdays. Admission is free.

For more information about the AMA please visit our website, www.albanymuseum.com or call 229.439.8400. Be sure to follow the @AlbanyArtMuseum on Twitter, AlbanyMuseum on Instagram and AlbanyMuseumOfArt on Facebook.

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