



ALBANY MUSEUM OF ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINE & DESIGN: WILLIAM H. JOHNSON IS SET FOR TUESDAY, OCT 11

Participants Will Be Inspired by Johnson's Painting *Harriet Tubman*

[For Release Sept 16, 2022 – Albany, GA] — An artwork from *Fighters for Freedom: William H. Johnson Picturing Justice* will be the inspiration for participants in the **Tuesday, Oct 11, 2022** session of the Albany Museum of Art's *Wine & Design Paint Party*. The two-hour session will start at **5:30 pm**.

"This is going to be a special edition of *Wine & Design*," Annie Vanoteghem, director of education and public programming for the AMA, said. "Participants will be asked to interpret Johnson's *Harriet Tubman*, a circa 1945 oil painting on paperboard.

"*Wine & Design: William H. Johnson* will be unique in this series because our painters will be able to view the actual artwork in the Haley Gallery. At our first two painting parties, we had pictures of works by Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet that our painters used as inspiration. Being able to physically see the artwork will add to the excitement of the evening."

Fighters for Freedom: William H. Johnson Picturing Justice is organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. The paintings were gifted to the Smithsonian American Art Museum by the Harmon Foundation. Generous support for the project has been provided by Art Bridges.

In his *Fighters for Freedom* series, Johnson painted his heroes who fought for racial justice and civil rights, as well as world peace. In each painting, Johnson has offered episodic vignettes that capture defining accomplishments, places, and sometimes multiple protagonists that tell complete stories within a single image. His subjects include George Washington Carver, Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglass, and others.

In his painting *Harriet Tubman*, Johnson shows the preeminent "conductor" of the Underground Railroad standing, rifle in hand, along a convergence of roads with the North Star bright above her head. At the lower right, a bust-length portrait shows an older Tubman wrapped in the shawl presented to her by Queen Victoria.

"This painting is perfect for our group," Vanoteghem said. "It is an inspiring artwork that vividly tells the story of an amazing, fearless hero who walked through so much darkness to shed so much light. My hope is that our *Wine & Design* artists will proudly hang this work in their homes as a reminder of strength, perseverance, and light.

"As always, participants are not expected to create a perfect copy of the work, rather an interpretation, while they follow the teacher and learn new techniques and problem solve along the way."

As with the first two *Wine & Design* classes, participants 21 and older will share wine and snacks as they create their own interpretations of the painting with acrylics on canvases. Vanoteghem will lead the group step by step, so painting experience is not required. "Whether you are a first-time painter or an advanced artist, you will have a wonderful time and go home with an original work of art that you will be proud for others to see," she said.

"Each of the first two classes sold out well ahead of the event," Vanoteghem noted. "It's a great evening to spend with friends or to make new friends. Whether you want to come alone or with a friend or spouse, you will have a good time while you tap your inner creativity."

Registration for *Wine & Design: William H. Johnson* is \$25 for Albany Museum of Art members or \$30 for non-members. A secure online registration link may be found at www.albanymuseum.com/wine-and-design-william-h-johnson.

The final *Wine & Design Painting Party* of 2022 will be on **Thursday, Nov 3** when painters will interpret a painting by Georgia O'Keeffe. Information and a link to sign up for that event may be found at www.albanymuseum.com/wine-and-design-okeeffe.

AMA EXHIBITIONS

- *Fighters for Freedom: William H. Johnson Picturing Justice* is in The Haley Gallery, Sept 1-Dec 10, 2022. Organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Generous support is provided by Art Bridges.
- *Wayna: Her Dreams of Ethiopia, Works by Tracy Murrell* is in the East Gallery, Sept 1, 2022- Jan 7, 2023.
- *Georgia Artists Guild of Albany, 29th Juried Exhibition* is in the McCormack Gallery, Sept 1, 2022- Jan 7, 2023.

AMA EVENTS

- *AMA ChalkFest*, Nov 19, 2022, 10 am-5 pm, Front Street and Veterans Park Amphitheater. Admission is free. www.amachalkfest.com.

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 through Saturdays. 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.

CAPTION INFORMATION:

Participants at *Wine & Design: William H. Johnson* on Oct 11 at the Albany Museum of Art will be inspired by the artist's works in the exhibition *Fighters for Freedom: William H. Johnson Picturing Justice*, including *Harriet Tubman*, ca. 1945, oil on paperboard, Smithsonian American Art Museum, gift of the Harmon Foundation. (Copyright: Smithsonian American Art Museum)

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