Godwin-Ternbach Museum

Queens College, CUNY
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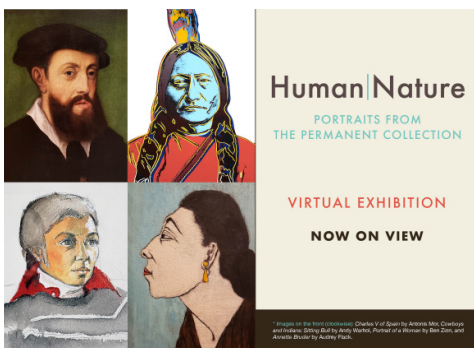Tel 718-997-4747   Fax 718-997-4734

December, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are writing, in part, as an introduction to the updated activities of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum. A year has passed since Louise Weinberg joined the museum as Co-Director; Director of Exhibitions/Collections, and Curator, working alongside Maria C. Pio, Co-Director; Director of Education and Administration, and Stephanie S. Lee, Museum Assistant; Design, and Operations support. Our collective mission is to bring GTM into the twenty-first century, and in spite of what has transpired in 2020, we have been able to bring challenging exhibitions and thought-provoking programming to our constituents.

A tremendously difficult year has passed, and we are writing to ask your support of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum to enable us to continue to be a leading provider of quality visual arts education in New York City. This year has been an amazingly complicated one for our students, faculty, staff, and our surrounding communities in Queens, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our budgets have been delayed, and then reduced, and we are experiencing privations in our expected operating expenses.

In the fall of 2019 and into 2020, we hosted the traveling exhibition, *Arte Cubano*, featuring fifty not often seen works by thirty-five Cuban and Cuban-American artists. In February, we celebrated Black History Month on campus with an exhibition of haunting linoleum prints, *Hale Aspacio Woodruff: The Atlanta Portfolio*, examining the rigors of the African-American experience in the nation's south in the 1930s. Through these exhibitions and by using the works in our permanent collection we engaged over 45 college, K-12 school, and community group visits to the museum, both in-person and remote.
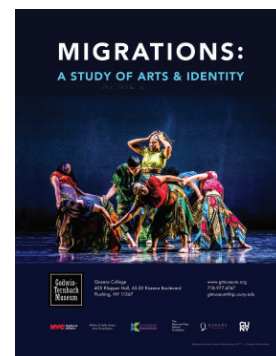

We recently opened our first virtual exhibition, *HUMAN/Nature: Portraits from the Permanent Collection* with over ninety works of art in all media, of which about fifty are illustrated on the website. An engaging series of public programs has been underway, with artists responding to the theme of portraiture, and how it remains relevant today and a family program designed to engage young learners and their parents/caregivers. A curator's talk, led by Louise, "*Behind the Curtain, Curating from the Godwin-Ternbach Museum's Collection*," will be taking place on December 8th at 7pm, giving a glimpse into the motivations for selecting the works on exhibition. And on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7pm, the museum will be presenting an Artist Talk featuring contemporary artist Jordan Casteel. All these events are free of charge and will take place virtually on Zoom.

The exhibition will continue into the spring 2021 semester as the college will still be on a remote learning

platform due to the pandemic. We are planning another virtual exhibition for the spring to augment the current one on our website, **www.gtmuseum.org**.
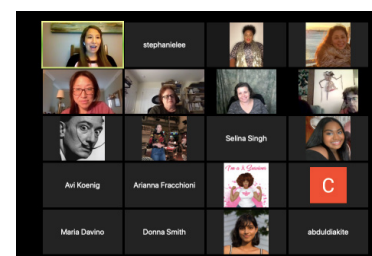
Next fall, 2021, we hope to present *MIGRATIONS: A Study of Arts & Identity*, an exhibition representing the collaboration of four departments of the college: Drama, Theatre & Dance, Art, Economics, and Sociology, along with GTM and the Queens Library. Seventy-one photographs by Associate Professor Julen Esteban-Pretel, document the performance of works by four QC dance professors performed by QC students in 2017. The exhibition will include information of how waves of migrations of people have shaped the arts, the demography, and the economy of NYC, as contributed by the departments of Sociology and Economics. Photographs by Orestes Gonzalez documenting immigrant stories are included, and visitors will be able to interact with an embroidered map of Queens loaned by the Queens Memory Project (QMP) originally founded at QC.

Additionally, we have made great strides to make our collections more accessible during this time when we are all so isolated and physically away from the museum. We have now streamlined our website, making it more user friendly and easy to navigate. A small percentage of our holdings are now available on JSTOR for re-search purposes, and we've been invited to participate in Google Arts & Culture to become part of their program to expand accessibility to museum collections.

Finally, we were just awarded a grant by the Museum Association of New York's IMLS CARES Act grant program to further increase visibility and outreach during this period of quarantine.

Your generosity directly supports all of GTM's exhibitions and programs. From staffing costs to care for collections, it truly allows the Museum to accomplish its goals. To keep GTM running and to maintain high quality programming, we require at least $25,000 per exhibition. Additionally, our encyclopedic (and growing) permanent collection requires sorely needed upkeep and maintenance including additional staffing, hardware and software for digitization, conservation treatments, and supplies for storage.

Your gift helps bridge the gap and allows GTM to be a cultural hub for our diverse communities. It ensures that students and over 6,000 visitors a year can come to the museum free-of-charge, or participate in our virtual programs, and receive inclusive and enlightening educational and cultural experiences that can make a difference in their lives.

A donation in any amount $10, $25, $45, $80, $150, $1,000+ will make a difference. To make a secure donation today, go to this link on our website:
https://qccommunity.qc.cuny.edu/pages/funds/the-godwin-ternbach-museum

Your donation at any level is greatly appreciated! On behalf of the staff of GTM – and the countless community members your contribution will touch – thank you!

Our best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Warmly,

Louise Weinberg
Co-Director
Director of Exhibitions/Collections, and Curator

Maria C. Pio
Co-Director
Director of Education and Administration