Sometimes a person has an encounter that affects the direction of their professional work for years to come. I had such an encounter nearly 25 years ago while I was in my first art museum job. I was fascinated by art, but at that point I honestly didn’t know why it mattered and that troubled me. I couldn’t have told you why art is important, or what benefit it brings to human life individually and on the scale of communities, societies, and cultures.

My encounter was with a research project then being conducted at the Museum of Modern Art in New York with teachers and schools. Over time the curriculum and teaching protocols that developed from that project came to be called Visual Thinking Strategies, or VTS.

As I began to work with VTS, I marveled at its effect on people. Even more, I noticed its effect on me. I began to relish opportunities to look at art and ponder its meanings. I came to value that process as the primary one, no longer secondary to reading about or being told what a work of art means. When an experience is visual, it can be difficult to describe with words, but the effort is worthwhile. The effort to name what has been perceived and felt outside of language is transformative. The practices VTS encouraged in me began to connect art in meaningful ways to my life and my sense of the world around me.

Over the last couple of years VTS has begun to play a role in some of the Beach Museum’s programs for teachers and schools. Under the able leadership of senior educator Kathrine Schlageck and education assistant Kim Richards, we hope the museum will soon be able to offer the benefits of the VTS teacher program and elementary grade curriculum to schools in Manhattan and Junction City. VTS has also become part of the interdisciplinary projects the museum conducts with K-State departments such as landscape architecture, mathematics, and others. Watch for more information on this in upcoming newsletters and on the Beach Museum’s blog at: https://blogs.k-state.edu/beach/.

See you in the galleries,

**Linda Duke, Director**

P.S. For various reasons, some quite exciting, three staff members left the museum during December: Cindi Morris, Theresa Bembnister, and Adrianne Russell. I am grateful to all of them for their contributions to our mission and work. Watch for some new faces in new roles at the museum soon!
EXHIBITIONS

Donald J. Mrozek and R. Scott Dorman have donated close to 300 works on paper to the Beach Museum of Art. “Dinner and a Mid-Night Snack,” a selection of works from Mrozek and Dorman’s gift, reflects the collectors’ shared love of music, literature, postmodern art, and mid-20th century modernist architecture.

Katie Kingery-Page, associate professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional and Community Planning, and Thomas Bell, associate professor and librarian for faculty and graduate services, guest curated this exhibition. Featured are over 60 works, primarily prints, dating from the late 1960s through the 2010s. The exhibition title is drawn from a translation of the Chinese text in Chryssa’s *Calligraphy III*, which may have originally appeared on a restaurant advertisement.

Bell and Kingery-Page were drawn to the title’s mealtime reference. “Don and Scott enjoyed these works in the context of their home, and spoke with us about the experience of living with contemporary art in the kitchen, around the dining table, throughout the house,” Kingery-Page explains.

The curators approached their roles from their own unique backgrounds in design and music. Drawing inspiration from her work as a landscape architect in the beautifully austere Flint Hills, Kingery-Page focused on the way the collection “bridges quiet, minimalist and more frenetic, post-modern moments in late twentieth century art.”

Bell looked to similarities between visual art and music, which “speak to those parts of ourselves we are unable to describe but are nonetheless real and vital.” For Bell, art “takes ideas and intense intellectual rigor and translates the depths of our humanity into a wordless, unutterable language, communication beyond words.”

A series of in-gallery performances, conversations, and readings by K-State faculty and students will link the works on display to contemporaneous developments in music and literature.

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**Related events**

**Dinner and a Mid-Night Snack**

**Opening Reception**

February 5, 2015, 5-7 p.m.

**Dinner and a Mid-Night Snack**

**Salon Series**

February 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
March 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
April 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Slow Art Day 2015**

April 11, 2-4 p.m.

< Chryssa (United States, born Greece, 1933-2013), *Calligraphy III*, screenprint on paper, dimensions 27-3/4 x 16 in (image), KSU, Beach Museum of Art, gift of Donald J. Mrozek and R. Scott Dorman, 2011.171
Stan Herd: Cairns on the Beach  
*December 2014 through May 2017, Stolzer Family Foundation Gallery*

Throughout the fall 2014 semester, Kansas artist Stan Herd worked with students from the K-State departments of Art and Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning to design and install a temporary outdoor installation.

Inspired by the artist’s encounter with stacked rock sculptures in woods near Perry Lake, “Cairns on the Beach” highlights the natural beauty of our region’s geology and pays homage to the long history of built stone structures in Kansas. Herd, who is best known for his work as a crop artist — arranging rocks, dirt, and plants into compositions best seen from above — acted as lead artist on this collaboratively designed project. He consulted with masons and carvers in the region to learn stacking techniques and source local stone.

The second phase of “Cairns on the Beach” features a green planting that will occur during the 2015 spring semester. The installation will remain on display through the spring 2017 semester to allow visitors to view the work in a full range of seasons.

Howard Hahn and Katie Kingery-Page, both associate professors in K-State’s Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning, served as advisors for this project. Participating landscape architecture students are Diane Cocchiara, Beth Krehbiel, and Nicholas Mercado. Art students Troy Britt, Hannah Jennings, and Cornelius Hugo also collaborated on the design and installation.
Dean Mitchell grew up poor in a small Florida panhandle town. After studying at the Columbus College of Art and Design in Ohio and working as an illustrator for Hallmark in Kansas City, Mitchell gained attention as a watercolorist and oil painter by entering—and winning—juried exhibitions. He had great success in Western-art-themed exhibitions, such as the Phoenix Art Museum's "The West Select."

During one of the artist's visits to the Southwest, a friend took the Tampa, Florida-based artist on a drive through the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in metropolitan Phoenix. Mitchell was immediately struck by the visual similarities between the structures he encountered on the reservation and the buildings in his hometown of Quincy, Florida. Notable for him, too, were the differences between the romanticized images of Native American life in Western art exhibitions and what he observed on the Pima-Maricopa land. Determined to draw attention to such discrepancies, Mitchell began a series of reservation scenes.

With flat areas of color and high contrast, Mitchell's oil paintings have a quiet, sun-drenched feeling. Areas of his watercolors border on abstraction, providing just enough visual information for viewers to fill in necessary details. His paintings create a strong sense of place, capturing the spare, desolate beauty of a community in the harsh desert climate.

"Dean Mitchell: A Place, A Mental Space" includes watercolor and oil paintings of scenes from the Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the artist's hometown. The exhibition will also feature the 2015 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Gift Print, an etching by Mitchell printed by master printmaker John Costin. This exhibition is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Business Partners.

The 2015 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art gift print will be available for purchase after March 3. Contact Robin Lonborg at 785-532-7718 or rlonborg@ksu.edu for information.
Chet Peters, who served as K-State’s vice president for student affairs from 1953 to 1985, positively impacted the lives of countless Kansans. His talks at high schools around the state encouraged students to develop their full potential and helped them see how K-State could assist in that process. In addition to serving as a passionate advocate for young people and students, Peters sculpted wood prolifically. He created gifts, awards, public sculptures, and unusual interactive pieces, which he frequently employed to illustrate ideas during lectures. This exhibition includes carvings of many types from the Peters family and is made possible in part by a gift from Steve and Renee Peters.

**Related event**

**Life Forms: Chet Peters**  
*Roundtable Discussion*  
**February 26, 2015, 6 p.m.**

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**Installation Notes: Tree of Life**

The word appreciation came to mind while creating the nonstructural laminated arches that hovered over the entry to “Tree of Life: The Art of Charles Bello” (September 12-December 14, 2014). Exhibitions designer Lindsay Smith and Kansas State University assistant professor of interior architecture & product design Steve Davidson skillfully laminated these 16-foot arches designed to pay homage to Charles Bello’s inspiring Gallery in the Redwoods.

Red cedar was chosen for its length, thickness, and softwood quality — it’s quite easy to bend without steam or water. We created an arched form out of wood blocks to wrap the two cedar strips around as the glue dried, making the curve permanent. It may look like we used too many clamps, but we kept saying, “We need more clamps!” Clamps secured the knots during curing, closed gaps between the cedar strips, and maintained the curve. Once the strips were dried and sanded, we applied thinned enamel paint to give the wood a redwood tone.

I now have a great appreciation for the craftsmanship it takes to produce a simple curve out of wood. For more information about the installation of “Tree of Life” visit: https://blogs.k-state.edu/beach/.

— Luke A. Dempsey, Assistant Exhibitions Designer
Beach Museum of Art
February 19, 7 p.m.
**Artist as Observer: Margo Kren**
In the last 45 years Kren has changed directions repeatedly, across the range of one style to the next, but there has been consistency to her vision.

February 25, 10-11:30 a.m.
**Parent to Parent® – Coaching a Home Run Reader**
This interactive workshop looks at the ways we approach problems and challenges from the perspective of our own personal knowledge and experience. These are the tools in our coaching playbook and each tool serves a specific purpose. We will explore how you can use these tools to coach your child to become a successful reader. Bring your children for a tour and activities. Reservations required.

February 25, 2-3:30 p.m.
**Early Release Workshop – Geometric Abstracts**
Learn about geometric abstraction and create your own using acrylic paints. Age 5 and up. $5 per participant, $3 for members. Reservations required.

February 26, 6 p.m.
**Life Forms: Chet Peters Roundtable**
Join Curator Liz Seaton, Kansas State University Vice President of Student Life Pat Bosco, and Chet Peters’ son, Steve Peters, in conversation about Peters the artist.
March 5, 2015, 6 p.m.
Meet the Music: Composition
The Beach Museum of Art and the Music Program of the K-State's School of Music, Theatre, and Dance present a free public performance of works by Composition students.

March 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Dinner and a Mid-Night Snack Salon
Join guest curators Thomas Bell and Katie Kingery-Page as they host special performances by K-State faculty and students.

March 24, 7 p.m.
Climate, Culture and the Commonwealth of Breath, K-State Alumni Center Ballroom
Author, cultural ecologist, philosopher, and performance artist David Abram will deliver a public talk in conjunction with the 2015 Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture conference. Co-sponsored with the Department of English, K-State Libraries, and the Prairie Studies Initiative.

March 26, 2015, 7 p.m.
Free State Festival: Best of the Fest Screening
View award-winning short films from the Lawrence Art Center's Free State Festival, a weeklong celebration of film, music, art and ideas in the heart of Lawrence, Kansas. Rated PG-13.

April 2, 6:30-8 p.m.
Healing Arts for Military Families
Military families are invited to join us for an evening of fun and learning. Adults will enjoy a museum tour, program by Parent to Parent, and an art workshop. Separate activities provided for children. Co-sponsored by the Institute for the Health and Security of Military Families and Parent to Parent. Free, but space is limited. Contact militaryfamilies@k-state.edu to register.

April 8, 2-4 p.m.
Early Release Workshop – Water Colors
View Dean Mitchell’s stunning watercolors and learn more about watercolor techniques. $5 per participant, $3 for members. Reservations required.

April 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Dinner and a Mid-Night Snack Salon
Join guest curators Thomas Bell and Katie Kingery-Page as they host special performances by K-State faculty and students.

April 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
All-University Open House at the Beach
Join us for a variety of art projects and interactive gallery activities for all ages.

April 11, 2-4 p.m.
Slow Art Day 2015
Look at art slowly in the exhibition “Dinner and a Mid-Night Snack” from 2-3 p.m., followed by open-ended discussion over coffee and cookies from 3-4 p.m. No fee, reservations requested.

April 15-17
Open A.I.R.
Mini-residency by Kansas City artist Sean Starowitz, including a presentation on April 16.

April 23, 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m.
Dean Mitchell Reception & Artist Talk
Reception followed by a talk by Friends of the Beach Museum of Art gift print artist Dean Mitchell.

April 29, 10-11:30 a.m.
Parent to Parent* – Preventing the Summer Slide
All students experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. This workshop will discuss ways to keep children academically engaged over the summer months. Bring your children for a tour and activities. Reservations required.

May 5, 4-8 p.m.
K-State Student Study Night
Join us for free brain food and artsy giveaways as you prepare for finals.

May 7, 7 p.m.
The Jen and Jay Show
Join us for a faculty recital featuring the K-State Theatre Program’s Jennifer Vellenga and Jerry Jay Cranford performing music from Broadway and beyond.

*These workshops are a collaboration with the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Parent to Parent Team, Fort Riley, Kansas. The Parent to Parent program provides informative and interactive parent workshops to groups and organizations in the local community. Participants receive high-quality resources and materials that will assist them in their role as their child’s best advocate. Practical ideas, proven techniques and solid resources to support the parents of military children are shared. For more information email PtoP.Riley@MilitaryChild.org and Facebook @ Parent to Parent - Fort Riley, KS.
ARTSmart Classes — Exploration and Observation

Each class will focus on a single work of art, either from the permanent collection or a special exhibition. Participants will learn more about the artist and use a variety of methods, including Visual Thinking Strategies and Museum Movement Technique, to interpret the artwork. Each class includes an art project where participants will explore materials and techniques.

### Dates
- January 13-16, 2015
- February 10-13, 2015
- March 10-13, 2015
- April 14-17, 2015
- May 12-15, 2015

### Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Ages</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>1-2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Homeschool Tuesday*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesdays</td>
<td>10:30-11 a.m.</td>
<td>toddlers and twos</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4-5 p.m.</td>
<td>all ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>10:30-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>ages 2-3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4-5 p.m.</td>
<td>school age (kindergarten and up)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fridays</td>
<td>10:30-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>ages 4-5</td>
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*Homeschool Tuesdays are an extended version of the ARTSmart classes and include more gallery time and additional skill-based gallery activities.

Cost is $3 per child per class, $1.50 for Friends of the Beach Museum of Art members. Call 785-532-7718 or email klwalk@k-state.edu to register. Children must be accompanied by an adult. If you must cancel, we would appreciate a call.

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### VISUAL ARTS PROGRAMMING AWARD

The Beach Museum's Young Curators and Artists program was awarded the 2014 Excellence in Programming Award from the Mountain-Plains Museum Association (MPMA) Education Committee. The award was presented Oct. 1 at the association's annual meeting. MPMA is a 10-state regional organization of museums and museum professionals that advocates excellence in the field and provides a forum for communication among its members.

Created by Kathrine Schlageck, senior educator at the Beach Museum, Young Curators and Artists is a series of summer programs that get children, from 6-year-olds to seniors in high school, involved in visual art experiences, including exploring careers in museum work.

“The program was piloted in summer 2011 with funding from a Youth in the Community Grant from the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation,” Schlageck said. All programs use the art on display for inspiration.

In the Young Curators program, youth ages 11-17 worked one afternoon a week as a team to create an exhibition using works in the museum’s permanent collection galleries.

The Young Artists and Young Observers half-day workshops consist of tours, activities and art workshops for children ages 6-12. Schlageck is assisted by high school and university students.

New programs in summer 2014 included Young Musicians and Young Writers. Young Musicians was offered in four-day workshops for ages 6-9 and 9-12 where they created musical compositions that included instrumentals, vocals, sound work and songwriting. Young Writers was a weeklong, full-day program for middle and high school students run by students and staff of K-State's Department of English.

At the end of the sessions, the work of all the participants is displayed during an open house. Plans are underway for summer 2015. If interested in participating or sponsoring this program, contact Kathrine Schlageck at klwalk@k-state.edu.
Mollie Bieber, one of the students greeting guests as a lobby host, has been at the museum since June 2013. A junior majoring in graphic design with a minor in French, Mollie is a native of Manhattan, Kansas. She is the president of K-State’s Women’s Ultimate Frisbee Club and webmaster of K-State’s Rotaract Club.

Of working at the Beach Museum of Art, Mollie says: “As a developing artist there is a drive for constant self-improvement and exposure to new ideas or styles. I enjoy working at the Beach because the museum embodies this drive by creating an environment of intellectual thought and varying perspectives within the exhibitions. I have genuinely enjoyed the exhibitions that the staff has coordinated and take pride in my small contribution to the visitor’s experience.”

Fun fact: Mollie improved her French as an exchange student in Belgium for a year through the Rotary Youth Exchange Program after high school. Words used the most were chocolate, chocolate, chocolate, fries, waffle and beer.

From Andale, Kansas, Haley Hermes was the education intern for the fall 2014 semester. Majoring in family studies and human services, conflict analysis and trauma, Haley graduated in December 2014 and is applying to graduate school.

Haley enjoys reading, working with her hands, rock-climbing, cycling, and yoga. She is also an assistant teacher for Crèche Day School, a member of Kappa Alpha Theta, and Wish Granter for Make A Wish Foundation.

“I love working with the different age groups that come in for all of the programs,” Haley says. “We get everyone from 2 to 72 and that has really helped me learn how to work with many different ages of people. I also really enjoy learning how to work better with those who may have disabilities, as I have not had as much previous experience in this area. These experiences have helped prepare me to become a more holistic helping professional.”

Fun fact: Haley has 10 siblings.
The holidays are over, and we find ourselves in the season of self-examination. According to Statistic Brain,¹ the top three New Year’s resolutions for 2014 were losing weight, getting organized, and spending less, followed by enjoying life to the fullest, staying fit and healthy, and learning something exciting. So how did everyone do? Are you making the same resolutions for 2015, or have you conquered weight loss and moved on to something else?

If you attended exhibitions and programs at the Beach Museum of Art last year, you certainly worked toward enjoying life to the fullest and learning something exciting. Think back: You gazed at photography and wood sculpture, you attended the Friends gala, you voted on a Friends acquisition, you admired the new John Steuart Curry painting, you saw a film, you watched a performance, you reaquainted yourself with the permanent collection, you attended an opening reception, you stretched your senses. What will this year bring? I hope as you plan your new year and re-establish your priorities that attending, appreciating, and advocating for activities at the Beach Museum are near the top of your list.

As you’re revisiting your personal priorities, think about our Friends organization, too. At our meeting back in August, I said we all should be thankful for this group’s wonderful heritage and growth and for the museum it helped build. The best way to honor everyone who worked to build this beautiful institution is to take steps to ensure that it not only survives, but thrives. The Friends thrive when we come to events, help raise funds, and recruit new Friends members. Thriving also requires asking difficult questions with complex answers: What does the Friends need to do to best support the museum? How do we compete or cooperate with other groups to identify those in the community who would like to contribute to the arts? How do we align ourselves with changes that have occurred on our campus and in our community in the last few years? What do we want our group and our institution to be in 5 years? In 10 years?

Kudos to all of you who are working to ask and answer these questions. Thank you for renewing your membership in the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art for another year and for giving your time and resources to support the arts. If you neglected to renew your membership before the holidays, you can still join for calendar year 2015. Put it at the top of your list of resolutions and call the museum to request a KSU Foundation contribution card.

Here’s to a fabulous 2015!

Sarah Hancock, President

¹statisticbrain.com/new-years-resolution-statistics
Bernard Joseph Steffen (United States, 1907-1980), *Mountain Road*, 1940, lithograph on paper, 9 1/2 x 8 1/4 in. KSU, Beach Museum of Art, gift of Steve and Vicki Sanborn Family in memory of Sarah Katherine Watt, 2013.202