



HIGH MUSEUM OF ART ATLANTA

1280 PEACHTREE STREET, N.E. • ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

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**HIGH MUSEUM OF ART AWARDED \$3.1 MILLION GRANT
FROM THE SARA GILES MOORE FOUNDATION
FOR COLLECTION CONSERVATION AND CARE**

ATLANTA, June 30, 2021 — The High Museum of Art announced today that it has received a \$3.1 million grant from [The Sara Giles Moore Foundation](#) to support a complete assessment of the Museum’s collection care needs and to fund necessary treatment for its artworks. One of the largest foundation grants the High has ever received, the funding will be allocated over six years, allowing the Museum to develop a long-term collection care plan and to present expanded programming to foster greater public awareness of art conservation. This work will build on the High’s ongoing preservation plan, which has included renovations to its storage facilities and major renovations to its galleries in 2003 and 2018.

“As an institution, we must balance our mission to exhibit the incredible works in our holdings with the mandate to responsibly provide for their preservation,” said Rand Suffolk, the High’s Nancy and Holcombe T. Green, Jr., director. “We’re incredibly grateful to The Sara Giles Moore Foundation for this generous grant, which is at once a watershed event for the Museum and an empowering investment in the stewardship of our community’s cultural heritage.”

“In her lifetime, Sara Moore was a dedicated supporter of the High Museum, where she served on the Board for many years,” said Sara Hehir, The Sara Giles Moore Foundation board chair. “The Foundation has always aimed to honor Mrs. Moore’s commitment to the Museum through grants for exhibition support, the acquisition of ‘A Reading (or Woman in Windsor Chair)’ by Thomas Wilmer Dewing, and conservation and treatment of the American art collection. The Sara Giles Moore Foundation is thrilled to celebrate Mrs. Moore’s generosity and commitment to the long-term success of the High Museum by supporting this comprehensive collections care, treatment and education effort.”

In the coming months, the High’s collections care team, led by Associate Collections Manager Paula Haymon, will work with the Museum’s curators and professional conservation specialists from the Atlanta Art Conservation Center (AACC) and Williamstown Art Conservation Center (WACC) to analyze the physical condition of the collection, identify immediate and long-term preservation concerns, and prioritize needs for future conservation treatments. The team will also give attention to the proper mounting and presentation of each object, including frames and pedestals, to ensure they are exhibited appropriately after treatment.

The High will document this important work through behind-the-scenes photography and videos and will further unveil these processes and any noteworthy discoveries through public programming and future scholarly research and reviews. Conservation highlights and accomplishments made possible by the grant will have a physical presence in the Museum through select installations of reviewed works each year and an exhibition on the High's long-term conservation efforts planned for 2023. Conservators and curators will present their work periodically through talks and tours, and the entire project will be documented in a digital publication on the High's website.

Featuring more than 18,000 works that span seven curatorial departments, the High's collection reflects a broad spectrum of media and cultures and boasts particular strengths. Among these are superior holdings of American, African, and European art; an important collection of historic decorative arts and international contemporary design; a prominent collection of modern and contemporary art, and a renowned collection of photography. In addition to stewarding one of the largest concentrations of vintage civil-rights-era prints in the United States, in 1996, the High launched its "Picturing the South" program to commission emerging and established photographers to create new work inspired by the Southern landscape. The folk and self-taught collection is recognized as one of the most significant public repositories of its type, with extensive representation of art of the American South.

This grant follows other recent contributions to support the Museum's conservation efforts, including a 2019 Bank of America Art Conservation Project grant to conserve artwork by renowned contemporary artist Thornton Dial in the Museum's folk and self-taught art department.

About the High Museum of Art

Located in the heart of Atlanta, the High Museum of Art connects with audiences from across the Southeast and around the world through its distinguished collection, dynamic schedule of special exhibitions and engaging community-focused programs. Housed within facilities designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects Richard Meier and Renzo Piano, the High features a collection of more than 18,000 works of art, including an extensive anthology of 19th- and 20th-century American fine and decorative arts; major holdings of photography and folk and self-taught work, especially that of artists from the American South; burgeoning collections of modern and contemporary art, including paintings, sculpture, new media and design; a growing collection of African art, with work dating from prehistory through the present; and significant holdings of European paintings and works on paper. The High is dedicated to reflecting the diversity of its communities and offering a variety of exhibitions and educational programs that engage visitors with the world of art, the lives of artists and the creative process. For more information about the High, visit www.high.org.

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