Lafayette, LA, August 13, 2018- The Hilliard University Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of its fall 2018 season with a series of five exhibitions that explore the idea of culture, and what it means to Acadiana, and the world at large.

The public is invited to celebrate and view the gallery installations on Friday, September 7, for a free opening reception from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. A private members-only preview will take place from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. Hors d’oeuvres and drinks generously provided by Bon Temps Grill, and Dripping Springs Vodka. Additionally, the 2018 Official Festivals Acadiens et Créoles poster and pin will be unveiled during the public reception. Pins and posters will be on sale during the event from 6-8 p.m. This exhibition is free for the public to enjoy. Viewing hours are limited for this exhibition. For details, please visit the museum’s website.

A. Hays Town and the Architectural Image of Louisiana
Guest Curated by Dr. Carol McMichael Reese
June 15, 2018 – December 29, 2018
In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the original Art Center of Southwestern Louisiana, the Hilliard Museum is pleased to present an exhibition that marks the legacy of its designer, famed Louisiana architect A. Hays Town. The focus of the exhibition will be Town’s residential architecture, for which he gained national renown. It will also showcase the evolution of Town’s work over more than 70 years of practice, from the Modernist designs of his earlier commercial and civic buildings to his later iconic residences, which were inspired by the historic architecture of the American South. A highly collaborative project, the exhibition brings together faculty and students from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Tulane University in New Orleans, and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, providing an opportunity for students to gain experience in exhibition research, design, and production.
Salvador Dalí’s Stairway to Heaven  
Curated by David S. Rubin  
June 8, 2018 – January 18, 2019  
This exhibition uniquely presents two of Dalí’s projects from the collection of the Park West Museum: illustrations for Les Chants de Maldoror and The Divine Comedy, as an analog for the progression of his personal life and views as an artist. Early in his life Dalí characterized himself as an amoral nihilist, who favored free association and the most primal human instincts, which are reflected in his illustrations for a 1934 edition of Les Chants de Maldoror. Dalí’s illustrations for The Divine Comedy were originally created as a commemoration for the 700th anniversary of Dante’s birth but ultimately found a home in a 1960 edition. This was particularly fitting because, by this time in his life, Dalí’s work was influenced by an earnest interest in spirituality, Christianity, and mysticism. The Hilliard Museum will serve as the inaugural venue for this traveling exhibition that showcases over 140 works by the prolific artist.

Louisiana French: Myths and Movements  
Presented in Collaboration with Festivals Acadiens et Créoles and CODOFIL (The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana)  
September 7, 2018 – October 14, 2018  
French is not a foreign language in Louisiana. Since 1968, CODOFIL has worked towards a singular objective: “to do any and all things necessary to accomplish the development, utilization, and preservation of the French language as found in Louisiana for the cultural, economic and touristic benefit of the state.” This exhibition seeks to dispel misconceptions about Louisiana French and to highlight the progress made in the changing attitudes of the last half century. CODOFIL has gathered a mix of historical documents, videos, audio clips, and works of art to reveal a Louisiana francophonie that is alive and growing.

Shirin Neshat: Fervor  
September 7, 2018 – January 19, 2019  
Shirin Neshat creates art with a cosmopolitan feel that is as moving as it is relatable. Born in Iran, she was pursuing her education in the United States during the Islamic Revolution of 1979. The revolution prevented her from returning home for nearly 20 years and when she did, Iran was entirely transformed. The shift from a Persian culture to an Islamic one was jarring for Neshat as she had no real connection to the transition. During her trip home she resolved to create artwork as a means of understanding this cultural shift, and as a way of creating a sense of closeness to her homeland. The result is Fervor, a two-channel video that takes place in an allegorical Iran, and touches on subjects of culture, temptation and desire.

Past the Frame: Abstraction and Its Environs in the Work of Allan Jones, 1968 – 2018  
Guest Curated by Dr. Christopher Bennett  
August 10, 2018 – February 9, 2019  
Past the Frame: Abstraction and Its Environs in the Work of Allan Jones, 1968-2018, honors five decades of ambitious painting, from groundbreaking works of the late 1960s and 1970s to more recent explorations of the 1980s, 90s, and 2000s. Through a selection of larger paintings and other items the exhibition traces a practice defined by rigorous experiment, ongoing inquiry, and a granular attentiveness to color, space, scale, and the viewer’s own interpretive presence.
Acknowledgements

The museum wishes to express gratitude for the support and partnerships that have made this season of exhibitions possible: The Hilliard Society; the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the UL Foundation; Festivals Acadiens et Créoles, the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana, Bon Temps Grill Dripping Springs Vodka, as well as our friends and members.

Upon request, high-resolution images, and complementary program calendars are available. Interviews may also be arranged.

Museum Hours, Admission & General Information
The Hilliard University Art Museum is located at 710 East Saint Mary Boulevard, on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Museum Hours are: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Wednesday, 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM; Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM; closed Sunday and Monday. General Admission: $5 Adults, $4 Seniors (62+), $3 Students (5-17). FREE for Members, UL Students/Staff/Faculty with identification, and visitors under 5. Guided tours of the galleries are available Friday & Saturday at 2 PM, complimentary with admission. For general information, please visit hillliardmuseum.org or call (337) 482-2278.

About the Hilliard Museum
The Hilliard University Art Museum operates on the campus of University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and was originally founded in 1964 as the Art Center for Southwest Louisiana. Featuring a state-of-the-art modern facility that was erected in 2004, the museum houses more than 2,200 objects in its permanent collection, and is the largest art exhibition space between New Orleans and Houston. The Hilliard Museum serves a wide range of educational and cultural needs by fostering cross-disciplinary intellectual discourse on campus, and throughout the region. At the core of the Hilliard’s mission is to collect, preserve, interpret, and exhibit the art of our time, while celebrating the great diversity of Louisiana's heritage.

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