

EXHIBITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Hilliard University Art Museum
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
710 East Saint Mary Blvd.
Lafayette, LA 70503

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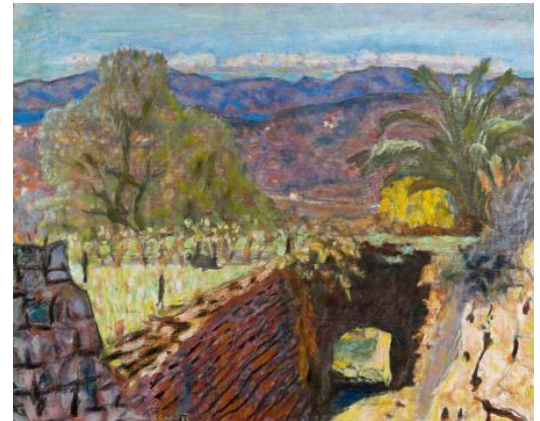
Pierre Bonnard: Landscapes from Le Cannet Guest curated by Véronique Serrano

Exhibition Dates: May 27 – Aug 12, 2017

Reception: Fri, June 9, 6:00-8:00 PM

The Hilliard University Art Museum is pleased to announce *Pierre Bonnard: Landscapes from Le Cannet*. This solo exhibition marks the artist's first in Louisiana and is guest curated by Véronique Serrano, director of the Musée Bonnard in France.

Pierre Bonnard: Landscapes from Le Cannet features 24 selected works on loan from the collection of the Musée Bonnard in France. It includes 17 drawings, 6 paintings and a lithograph that were created late in the artist's career. Primarily focusing on Bonnard's landscapes, this exhibition celebrates his vision of Le Cannet—which is notable not only as Bonnard's home, but is uniquely distinguished as Lafayette's sister city in France. The Hilliard Museum is the exclusive venue for this exhibition.



Pierre Bonnard. *Cannet Landscape during the Mistral Winds*, 1922. Oil on canvas, 19" x 24". Photo courtesy Le Musée Bonnard, Le Cannet Côte d'Azur. Photo by Yves Inchiemann.

Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947) was unquestionably a master of 20th century painting and a key actor in *Les Nabis* movement. He was born in the Fontenay-aux-Roses suburb of Paris and enrolled in the Académie Julian in 1887 to study painting. In the fall of 1888 he and two like-minded colleagues, Maurice Denis and Paul Serusier, formed *Les Nabis*, an avant-garde painting group. Basing their name on the Hebrew word for “prophets”, this group was inspired by the Symbolist approach of painter Paul Gauguin—in which color served a spiritual, rather than descriptive, function.

After meeting Toulouse-Lautrec in 1891, Bonnard exhibited at the *Salon des Indépendants* where his work was received with great success for the first time. In that year he also shared a studio space with painter Édouard Vuillard. In 1896 Bonnard's first solo exhibition was presented at the Galerie Durand-Ruel. By 1912 he purchased property in the Normandy region of France where he lived with his life-long partner and muse, Marthe, and made frequent visits to Claude Monet in Giverny.

After making annual visits to Le Cannet for many years, Bonnard acquired a villa which he called *Le Bosquet*, or “the grove” in 1926. This location became his primary home and studio during the last decade of his life. The house is one source of inspiration for the works in this exhibition. Le Cannet is where his explorations of light and color intensify. After capturing his first impressions of the landscape as energetic sketches on paper, Bonnard then translated

those marks to color in his paintings back at the studio—achieving a oneness with nature, light, color and paint.

Special Thanks

The Hilliard University Art Museum wishes to express its gratitude to Mayor Michèle Tabarot and Le Musée Bonnard of Le Cannet, France, as well as the sponsors who have made this exhibition possible: Lafayette Consolidated Government; University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Oats & Marino; Lafayette Convention and Visitors Commission; Le Centre International de Lafayette; Haynie Family Foundation; Van Eaton & Romero, A Latter & Blum Company; Robertson Energy & Capital; Robert & Jolie Shelton; Lafayette Economic Development Authority; Martha B. Brown; Marvin & Sue Munchrath; Ralph & Cherie Kraft; Jeffrey & Kathryn Scurlock; James & Lise Ann Slatten; Broussard & David, LLC; and Mary B. Neiheisel.

Upon request, press and media kits are available that include high resolution images and selected literature on the artist.

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 hilliardmuseum.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 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.

Concurrent and Upcoming Exhibitions at the the Hilliard University Art Museum

February 3 – August 12, 2017. *Spiritual Journeys: Homemade Art from the Becky and Wyatt Collins Collection*, guest curated by Gus Kopriva

May 23 – Sep 16, 2017. *CONTINGENT: drawing and sculpture by Joan Tanner*, guest curated by Julien Robson

September 8, 2017 – May 5, 2018. *Tina Freeman: Artist Spaces*, organized by the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, New Orleans, guest curated by Bradley Sumrall