As CMA enters its sixth year in the historic Claremont Depot, the Museum is ready to transform the remaining spaces into galleries and a community room. The adaptive reuse of this historic building has been a very successful public/private partnership with the City of Claremont, Metro, and the generous support of members and friends.

With high ceilings and expansive wall and floor space, the new galleries will more than double our exhibition and educational opportunities and allow us to showcase a mix of art, sculpture and media to inspire art lovers of all ages. The stunning addition of a glassed-in Community Room will reshape the West Portico into a venue for smaller programs, art classes, and special events.

Our expanded Museum will be a catalyst to spur creative thinking, civic engagement and innovative programming for a bright and inclusive future.

To learn more about the Imagine campaign fundraising, please contact Mary Weis at maryfweis@gmail.com or 951-212-0344.

SEPTEMBER 3 – NOVEMBER 27, 2021
Claremont Museum of Art Goes Beyond Beauty in Furious Garden

CMA’s fall exhibition Furious Garden dynamically juxtaposes new paintings by Karen Kitchel and Deena Capparelli, and ceramic sculptures by Cj Jilek, all of whom focus on the extraordinary power and beauty of natural flora.

In this “furious garden,” three contemporary artists re-envision and re-construct the pastoral metaphors with which we’re familiar. Naughty, disobedient, and extravagant, this view of “garden” is active and provocative, intent on cultivating new pathways and relationships between landscape and occupant.

Art critic Betty Ann Brown writes, “Capparelli, Jilek and Kitchel have created masterpieces from gardens they imagine. Their works slow us down, encouraging patient encounters, and thereby settling us back into the slow circles of nature.”

Learn more about the exhibition and the artists at www.claremontmuseum.org.

The exhibition, organized by Rebecca Hamm and the artists, will open at noon on Friday, September 3. Members are invited to a special preview at 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 4, with “Vintage Music” on the plaza and the Museum will be open for Art Walk from 6 to 9 p.m. The exhibition, generously sponsored by Gould Asset Management LLC, will remain on view through November 27, 2021.

Gardeners Celebrate Project “LOOK UP”

Residents of Mt. San Antonio Gardens joined artist Elizabeth Turk to see the “LOOK UP” exhibition now on view at the Museum. Visitors are encouraged to add messages of hope to the gallery walls and view the kaleidoscopic videos produced from the ET Projects event.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube.
Claremont Museum of Art

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Meet Our Newest Board Member

Aurelia Brogan has been involved in nonprofit administration, marketing, and development, and the arts for over 20 years. Most recently, she led the development of the National Organization for Arts in Health (NOAH) international conference in 2020. She served as the Executive Director of the Claremont Community Foundation and prior to that was the Public Art Coordinator for the City of Claremont. Before moving to Claremont in 2014, Aurelia owned and operated an art studio in Austin, TX with her fellow art teachers from KidzArt.

She has a BA in Studio Art from Trinity College and an MA in Museum Studies and Arts Management from Regis University. Aurelia is the proud mother of two sons and married to husband Jim for 20+ years. Aurelia dabbles in photography and pattern design as well and loves to travel for fun and inspiration. Aurelia reveals “I have a passion for the arts and what it can bring to a community, particularly in the form of art education and cultural enrichment. I also enjoy being around beautiful art and being connected to people who share a similar affinity for it.”

Fall Gala Returns to the Depot

We are delighted to be able to celebrate our Fall Gala on the Claremont Depot lawn, under the lighted tents, once again. This year’s Gala promises to be a festive and fun evening, highlighted by our exhibition, Furious Garden. Beginning at 5:30 p.m. “Vintage Music” will entertain us with sophisticated jazz, and Chef Henry of Spaggi’s will serve delicious hors d’oeuvres followed by an elegant dinner.

This year’s theme, “Imagine,” celebrates the completion of our new gallery spaces, which will be open to the Gala guests to imagine the future exhibitions and programs we will be able to share with the community. There will be a special ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the Museum’s Atrium in honor of Sandy Baldonado, in recognition of her leadership and dedication to CMA and the entire Claremont community.

Following last year’s success, the Silent Auction will be available online through Auction Frogs. We are presenting a diverse collection of art to bid on during the week preceding the Gala, closing the day after our Live Auction items will be on display in the new gallery space, following COVID guidelines, including some outstanding works of art, as well as wonderful experiences. The ever-popular Wine Pull returns, and with most bottles valued at over $50, everyone will be a winner.

Invitations to the Gala will be mailed in mid-August, and we hope you will save the date and invite your friends to join you. It will be an evening to remember in support of the arts and our arts education program in the Claremont schools, Project ARTstART. We look forward to seeing you on September 18 at the Depot.

SaturDay, sePtember 18

ARTstART Gets Creative to Offer Online Art Learning

What a year it was! Project ARTstART met its mission of engaging young students in learning about and making art while empowering secondary students to act as planners, presenters, and community leaders/role-models. Limited to remote learning, we focused on developing students’ virtual presentation skills, with an emphasis on creating compelling content. In September, we welcomed 16 new ARTstARTers to our program, who gave us a total of 46 high school members for the year - an incredible feat, given that no in-person recruiting was permitted.

Operating during a pandemic, ‘success’ seemed elusive. No in-person museum visits or sessions. No AfterARTs drop-in workshops at school sites and in-person art making lessons were possible. Despite these obstacles, ARTstARTers came together on Zoom for weekly Friday sessions, learned about contemporary artists, and created lessons that could be made by students remotely during and after-school hours.

Online teaching forced innovation and opened new opportunities for ARTstART to reach more students at once, and ‘travel’ virtually to see many museums from New York and North Carolina to Los Angeles. Scripps Design Major Samantha Quach ‘23 is reviewing digital files of completed student projects based on our program at the Benton Museum of Art.

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From late March through June, ARTstART lessons boasted a remote attendance of over 1,250 students. We were successful at transforming our program to an online community for art-making, art appreciation, and the dissemination of art-making practices by and for our students.