



MEADOWS MUSEUM
SMU · DALLAS

**CELEBRATING THE MEADOWS MUSEUM BUILDING'S 20TH
ANNIVERSARY: OVER 100 TREASURES FROM NINE SMU COLLECTIONS
ON VIEW THIS SPRING**

***Fossils to Film: The Best of SMU's Collections*
March 14—June 20, 2021**

DALLAS (SMU)—March 10, 2021— This spring, the Meadows Museum, SMU presents an unprecedented exhibition featuring highlights from nine important university collections, each distinguished within their fields of study. The exhibition, *Fossils to Film: The Best of SMU's Collections*, celebrates the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Meadows Museum's building and its role as a resource of Southern Methodist University. More than 100 exquisite works of art, intriguing artifacts and rare specimens will be on display, many of which will be exhibited outside their home departments for the first time. *Fossils to Film* is the companion exhibition to *Building on the Boulevard: Celebrating 20 Years of the Meadows's New Home*; both exhibitions are on view from March 14 through June 20, 2021.

"It is amazing to see the treasures cared for by SMU," said Mark A. Roglán, the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum and Centennial Chair in the Meadows School of the Arts, SMU, "and I am thrilled to provide a venue for all to come and enjoy, discuss and contemplate the items on view, some of which are poignantly relevant to the challenges facing our country today. This is our history, as Texans and as citizens of a united global community. This exhibition offers the opportunity to discover and reflect on our past, especially our successes and failures. I hope all will participate and share in the dialogue planned for our 20th anniversary."

Fossils to Film is an eclectic display with intriguing prehistoric remains, divine manuscripts, ephemera of presidential and Texas history, Civil War documents and photographs, Native American discoveries, pivotal civil rights records, Texas masterpieces, as well as pop-cultural memorabilia and one-of-a-kind films from the SMU special collections. Lenders include the Underwood Law Library, G. William Jones Film and Video Collection, Bywaters Special Collections, Hamon Arts Library, the Shuler Museum of Paleontology, DeGolyer Library, the Department of Anthropology's Archaeology Research Collections, Bridwell Library and the noted University Art Collection. Where appropriate, the installation makes connections with related works from the Meadows's renowned collection of Spanish art. Collectively, the display is an extensive tribute to our world history and diverse Texas ancestry. It recognizes significant achievements as well as atrocities, hardships and challenges.

Each item was independently selected for its historical or artistic significance by the collections' directors and curators, and the exhibition was organized by Meadows Museum curator, Amanda W. Dotseth and curatorial assistant, Shelley DeMaria. The items are comprised of donations as well as university acquisitions and groundbreaking discoveries uncovered at excavations by SMU faculty, staff and students.

SELECTIONS FROM THE EXHIBITION

Prehistoric Specimens

Eight prehistoric fossils from the Shuler Museum of Paleontology will be on view, among them a Miocene-period lizard skull beautifully preserved in amber found in the Dominican Republic. This tiny lizard had a head smaller than a dime and roamed the earth 15–20 million years ago. On the other side of the size spectrum, a large fossil from an ancestor to the modern crocodile found near Dallas's Lake Lewisville will be on view. The nearly three-foot-long *Terminonaris* skull is 96 million years old, the oldest example of the species in the world. In its time, the giant was approximately 20-feet-long and a hunter/fisher who roamed among Tyrannosaurs and Stegosaurus.

Native American Discoveries

In 2003, SMU Anthropology faculty and students collaborated with members of four local tribes to excavate the Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo, an ancestral site near Albuquerque, New Mexico. Among the scores of artifacts uncovered are two vessels that were made by ancestral Pueblo potters in the late 1300s or early 1400s, before the Spanish arrived in the Southwest. One features an important deity associated with germination and believed to be responsible for making all living things grow. The Hopi Pueblo elders, who have lent the vessels to SMU for educational purposes, indicated that the beautiful objects were ceremoniously smashed when they moved to another site. Also included are rare historical photographs from the DeGolyer Library such as Edward S. Curtis's famous portraits of Native American leaders including *Geronimo* (1907) and *Skins Wolf-Apsaroke* (1898), as well as images taken between 1873 and 1881 of the Pueblo de San Felipe, Pueblo de Conchite, and Zuni in Arizona and New Mexico by the photographer John K. Hillers.

Divine Manuscripts

The Bridwell Library presents rare devotional texts, early printed books, and manuscripts. The *Catholicon*, a Latin dictionary printed in Germany in 1460, is one of the first texts to be printed by Gutenberg's moveable type. A 388-page, elaborately illuminated *Qur'an*, the sacred book of Islam, presents the text of God's revelation, which the prophet Muhammad received through the angel Gabriel. The 17th-century pages feature graceful examples of Arabic calligraphy, with ornamental decorative patterns in rich hues. Also from the 17th century is a *Chinese Torah Scroll*, in Hebrew. The Chinese Jews of Kaifeng inhabited one of the most remote outposts of Judaism. The

vellum scroll, comprised of 68 skins, describes God's law as revealed by Moses, recorded in the first five books of Hebrew scripture. In the exhibition, the scroll will be open to the book of Exodus.

Presidential History

From the Underwood Law Library, a rare letter written by George Washington will be displayed. In the 1778 letter to Brigadier General Edward Hand, General Washington expresses concern for the provision of clothing to troops in preparation for the approaching winter. Brass plaques featuring busts of Presidents Washington, Lincoln, and Grant mounted on velvet from the DeGolyer Library are rare historical examples of presidential campaign memorabilia. The impressive jugate plaques supporting the 1868 and 1872 Republican presidential candidates were copyrighted and mounted by R. H. Norris of Paterson, New Jersey. Additionally, an 1804 ship passport issued to Thomas Watson from the Underwood Law Library's collection bears the signatures of President Thomas Jefferson and then-Secretary of State James Madison—two fathers of American democracy.

Texas History

Following the Texas Revolution, a consortium of Texan delegates drafted the Texas Declaration of Independence to prevent Mexico from annexing the territory and banning slavery. It was unanimously adopted by 59 delegates, each representing a Texas settlement, in general convention at the town of Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 2, 1836. An original copy from the DeGolyer Library will be on view, along with a selection of the library's collection of 1837–38 Texas bank notes. Texas was annexed by the United States in 1845 and officially declared a new state in 1846.

Civil War Documents

The 1820 Missouri Compromise, which prohibited slavery in the Louisiana Territory north of the 36° 30' latitude line, and its repeal in 1854 set in motion a course of events that led to the American Civil War. DeGolyer Library's *Reynolds's Political Map of the United States* exhibits "the comparative area of the free and slave states, and the territory open to slavery or freedom" by repeal. A portrait of Abraham Lincoln taken in 1864 to commemorate the commission of General U.S. Grant Lieut., the General of all the Armies of the Republic, will also be displayed. The photographer, Alexander Gardner, was an official military photographer who photographed Lincoln on many occasions. He also traveled with the army capturing dramatic scenes from poignant Civil War events, including the Battle of Gettysburg and Fredericksburg. The portrait was printed in 1891 from Gardner's original unretouched negative, now preserved in the DeGolyer Library's collection. In an 1863 letter from the Underwood Law Library collection, Lincoln writes to Major General George Meade to inquire about the death sentence that had been imposed on Union soldier Thomas Edds as punishment for

desertion. Ultimately the soldier's life is spared—an example of the celebrated president's humanity.

Dallas Civil Rights History

After initially resisting the 1954 Supreme Court mandate, in September of 1961, the Dallas Independent School District began to comply with the momentous federal ruling. In January 1963, the esteemed civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. visited Dallas and gave an address on segregation. From the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection, visitors will view the only surviving film footage from that visit. In an interview with the media, King encourages the city of Dallas to "keep moving; there is still much to be done to solve the problem." An anti-integration demonstrator is shown picketing King's visit. The exhibition will also display original DISD desegregation maps and *Confluence of Cultures*, the DISD's desegregation plan in booklet form—both from the Underwood Law Library's collection.

Texas Masterpieces

Managed by the Meadows Museum, the University Art Collection is comprised of works donated by alumni and friends of SMU, many of whom are or were prominent Texas artists, including Jerry Bywaters, Otis Dozier, Florence Elliot McClung and Janet Turner. Examples of their works can be found in many of the prestigious art institutions around the country. Bywaters was a prolific artist, the former director of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, and a long-time member of SMU's faculty. He worked closely with Diego Rivera and is credited for bringing Salvador Dalí to Dallas. McClung's paintings of the American Southwest feature quaint towns, urban living, Native American culture, and farm life. Turner is a well-known artist hailed for her printmaking; her highly detailed scenes with avifauna in their natural environment have an air of traditional Japanese printmaking.

Rare Film Memorabilia

We celebrate the genesis of film with artifacts from the G. William Jones Film and Video Collection, among them, original film posters from the 1956 western, *My Darling Clementine*, starring Henry Fonda, and the 1955 German release of *The Mark of Zorro* (*Im Zeichen des Zorro*), along with an original Edison Price Kinetoscope, Kodascope, and a 9.5mm projector.

Highlights of Modern Art

The Bridwell Library shares artists' books, including Dalí's illustrated *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Hamon Arts Library will lend an 1875 auction catalog of the works by the 19th-century artist Mariano Fortuny y Marsal, which were sold by his widow in Paris. Notably, the catalog is annotated by Fortuny's American patron, William Hood Stewart, whose album of letters, *cartes de visite* and photographs, acquired by the Meadows in 2013, will also be on view. Other loans from Hamon include a selection of

issues from the magazine *Pèl & Ploma*, a Catalan artistic and literary journal published between 1899 and 1903.

Spanish Masterpieces from the Meadows

Complementary works from the Meadows collection draw parallels between loans from campus collections and historical Spanish art. Rare books on loan from Bridwell, for example, are featured among Renaissance paintings produced during the same time period. Early photographs of the Alhambra Palace and Granada appear alongside a water color of the same subject by Jerry Bywaters as well as Meadows paintings of Islamic architecture. Painting and sculpture by early-twentieth-century artists active in Barcelona—including recent acquisitions of works by Santiago Rusiñol and Agustín Querol—help contextualize the exhibition of the Catalán Modernist publication, *Pèl & Ploma*.

COMPANION EXHIBITION

Building on the Boulevard: Celebrating 20 Years of the Meadows's New Home

The inauguration of the building in 2001 was a defining moment for the Meadows Museum. *Building on the Boulevard* is a tribute to the achievements made possible by the vital structure. The exhibition will feature architectural renderings as well as commemorative didactic installations that celebrate the impressive international loan exhibitions, innovations in educational programming, and other significant milestones from the last twenty years of the museum's history. The permanent collection of Spanish masterpieces will be newly reinstalled and feature highlights from the 250 exceptional works the Meadows has acquired over the last two decades, including Francisco de Goya's *Portrait of Mariano Goya, the Artist's Grandson*, (1827), Mariano Fortuny y Marsal's *Beach at Portici* (1874), Salvador Dalí's *The Fish Man (L'homme poisson)* (1930) and the earliest painting in the collection, Pere Vall's *Saints Benedict and Onophrius* (c. 1410).

Due to the COVID-19 public health concerns, the Meadows Museum requires all visitors to wear masks and observe social distancing guidelines. A full schedule of virtual education programs and lively discussions is available to all on [the museum's website](#).

About the Meadows Museum

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows's vision to create "a small Prado for Texas." Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st

centuries and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters.

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