

DRAFT
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Stark Museum of Art Welcomes Back the Community

The Stark Museum of Art welcomes the public back into the Museum's galleries on Wednesday, October 7, 2020. The Museum will be open Wednesdays – Fridays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is free. The Museum has instituted new safety protocols for the well-being of visitors and staff.

“Community members and visitors are invited to come enjoy the beauty of the American West as a break from COVID 19, Hurricane Season, and the hustle of the new school year. The staff have missed you, and are anxious to welcome back your smiling and masked faces,” said Trina Nelson Thomas, Director of the Stark Art and History Venues.

Whether you are new to visiting the Stark Museum of Art or a return visitor, one of the nation's most significant collections of American Western art awaits you, including paintings, sculpture, prints, and rare books, glass and a collection of American Indian objects, including textiles, baskets, pottery, clothing, and jewelry. Visitors can also view the special exhibition, The Drawing Experience, and community gallery exhibition, ARISE: 2020 - 2021 Orange County High School Senior Art Exhibition. Also all three vehicles from the collection, the 1911 Hupp Motor Car Company Roadster known as the Hupmobile, the 1922 Ford Model T Runabout Truck, and the 1950 Crosley Super Sport, are on view for a limited time. Other newly installed works of art are the painting “The Four Seasons” by Ila McAfee, a Two Grey Hills style weaving by Bertha Stevens, and a group of sketches by Paul Kane.

Museum staff want visitors to remember that “The West is a Big Place...And so is the Museum” which makes it ideal for a safe visit. In preparation for re-opening the Museum has put a number of safety protocols in place for visitors and staff, including:

- mandatory mask use
- additional hand sanitizing stations
- new signage and recommended route through the exhibitions to encourage social distancing
- replacement of hands on activities with alternative engagement
- increased cleaning schedule in public areas
- producing a short video about the safety protocols in place and what you can do to have a safe and enjoyable visit. The video can be viewed on the Museum Facebook page and website.

“We encourage visitors to enjoy the process of looking at art. We have recently prepared a brochure ‘Slow Art Viewing,’ which provides recommendations for looking closely and carefully at works of art to enhance your experience. At this time when the galleries will be especially quiet and uncrowded, it will be a good opportunity for slow viewing,” commented Trina Nelson Thomas.

If you aren’t ready to visit yet, there is a wide array of Stark Museum of Art and The W.H. Stark House content available through social media, YouTube, and the websites: www.starkmuseum.org and www.whstarkhouse.org. Also coming soon, details on booking a Stark Museum Virtual Field Trip.

About the Stark Museum of Art

About the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation