

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



CLYFFORD STILL | MUSEUM



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DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The year 2021 marked the tenth anniversary of the Museum's opening and represented a year of profound change. I joined the Clyfford Still Museum in August 2021 after a nationwide search, inheriting an institution that Joan Prusse, Interim Director and Deputy Director, led through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with profound care, thought, and ingenuity. The Museum prioritized staff retention during this challenging period, deploying their expertise and creativity to develop online programs – from educational initiatives and behind-the-scenes tours to vibrant lectures – that allowed CSM to reach audiences joining us from their homes.

We were grateful to reopen slowly as conditions allowed in 2021. The Museum remained at reduced capacity and required visitors to purchase timed tickets in advance through June 20, 2021, and only started offering onsite programs outdoors in May 2021. CSM also kept most of its COVID-19 protocols in place most of the year, including face-covering requirements and social distancing recommendations. Nonetheless, our exhibitions drew in audiences, bringing our attendance to nearly seventy percent of our pre-pandemic numbers. Visitors enjoyed the exhibition, *The Late Works: Clyfford Still in Maryland*, which drew deeply from the archives and discoveries in conservation made since the Museum opened a decade prior. In March, we opened *Stories We Tell: The Collection Two Ways* to illuminate the different approaches we can take to Still's paintings. In August, we reintroduced the beloved Lawn Concert program in partnership with Youth on Record featuring Joseph Lamar. In October, CSM launched a year of celebrating the first decade of our history by restaging the inaugural exhibition to show how much we've learned since we opened in November 2011.

As Joan Prusse prepared to retire from her position as Deputy Director, we recruited and welcomed Anna Boatwright as the Deputy Director and COO in November. She had been head of business strategy and development at the Frick Collection, New York. We are thrilled to be building upon the strengths of this Museum, made by the board, staff, and leadership in the first decade.

I look forward to embarking upon the next decade with you in our extraordinary galleries, at our engaging programs, and creating new networks of pleasure, learning, and commitment at the Clyfford Still Museum.

Joyce Tsai, Ph.D.
Director



2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel Benel, treasurer

Sandra L. Still Campbell

Steve Chavez

Susannah Drake, *vice president and president-elect*

Jennifer Evans

Jeremy J. Flug

Curt R. Freed, M.D.

Andrew Freyer

City Council Rep. Chris Hinds

Christopher W. Hunt, *president*

Bobby LeFebre

Rob McDaniel

Maruca Salazar

Judy Schiff

Mark Smith

Morris Susman, M.D., *secretary*

Ginger White

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

EXHIBITIONS

The Late Works: Clyfford Still in Maryland

September 18, 2020–March 21, 2021

This exhibition, the first of its kind, investigated Clyfford Still's later works, both in painting and in drawing, made after his move to rural Maryland in 1961. This marked a particularly fertile period for Still; he made over 375 works on canvas and over 1,100 works on paper, nearly all in pastel, in Maryland before his death in 1980 at the age of 75. Given Still's especially reclusive posture later in life and the fact that few late works were distributed or shown during his lifetime, a full-scale presentation of these works is especially meaningful. The exhibition included approximately 40 paintings and 30 works on paper.

Still's art evolved in a number of significant ways in the early 1960s. Perhaps most notable was a general broadening of his palette and an increasing economy of imagery. Implied movement also became more vivid, as if his painted forms were being set in motion by invisible forces. Still also developed new processes, such as roller brushes, and formats during this period. Given the nature of its collection, the Museum has the unique ability to present both unseen masterworks but also roads not taken, including insightful experimental works or bodies of works that underscore particular painting problems he was trying to solve.

This exhibition also represented the culmination of a nearly ten-year inventory, research, and conservation project in which CSM unrolled, catalogued, and stretched many late works, most for the first time, so they could be studied and made accessible as part of this exhibition.



Stories We Tell: The Collection Two Ways

March 26–October 10, 2021

Museums go to great lengths to organize their collections for their various audiences: by culture, maker, nationality, chronology, stylistic movement, theme, and even size. While thoughtful presentation of artworks in exhibitions is essential, every strategy has its own strengths and shortcomings.

Stories We Tell: The Collection Two Ways dug deep into the Museum's vaults to present works from the Museum's collection in two complementary but alternate ways as a means to understand how artworks and their meaning can change based on curatorial strategy.

Curated by Bailey Placzek and Dean Sobel, this exhibition began with a new chronological presentation of Still's works in the first five galleries. In the remaining four rooms, CSM grouped artworks into specific thematic categories regardless of their chronology.

The primary strategy for both displays explained some of the main artistic foundations that ground Still's art. These include his stylistic path from representation to abstraction; the role of figuration, color, machines, and doubling in his art; how the artist changes an image across media; and Still's conception of artistic space.

Both arrangements revealed these themes through different methods, so visitors with diverse learning styles and experiences could relate to the collection and understand Still's art in more than one way. Moreover, this curatorial exercise emphasized the importance of a multiplicity of approaches when presenting artworks to the community.



EXHIBITIONS

A Decade of Discovery: Clyfford Still in Denver

October 15, 2021–March 6, 2022

Since opening its doors, the Clyfford Still Museum has made countless discoveries as the staff has worked to inventory and assess CSM’s vast art and archival holdings; better understand visitors’ interests; learn how various audiences best experience Clyfford Still’s art; and evaluate the artist’s legacy in an ever-changing, 21st-century world.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of CSM’s grand opening in November 2011 and reflect upon subsequent progress, *A Decade of Discovery: Clyfford Still in Denver* took inspiration from the Museum’s groundbreaking inaugural exhibition while highlighting some of the most compelling revelations along the way. Featured surprises included archival photographs of lost paintings from the 1930s with locations currently unknown; undocumented and mysterious artworks found during inventory; ways in which CSM’s understanding of Still’s earliest years and artistic training expanded; and even a few architectural quirks of the building. Various staff, scholarly, and community voices were included in the exhibition text to broaden engagement and present a wide range of perspectives.

This exhibition kicked off a year-long, community-centered presentation of public programs, exhibitions, and partnerships. Beginning with this exhibition highlighting CSM’s growth over the course of its foundational decade, the Museum’s tenth anniversary celebration will evolve in 2022 to articulate goals for the next ten years.



MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the pandemic, 2021 was an extraordinarily productive year for CSM. The Museum welcomed 22,473 visitors via admissions and programs, had 1,307 member households, and reached 5,276 children through its school programs.

After an extensive national search, the CSM Board of Directors selected Joyce Tsai, Ph.D. as the Museum’s new director beginning August 1, 2021. She is an internationally-acclaimed curator, scholar, and teacher, formerly Chief Curator of the Stanley Museum of Art and faculty at the University of Iowa.

In 2021, CSM’s inStill Live virtual interactive school programs for grades 4–12 explored “Art in Times of Change.” The Museum expanded inStill Live to K–3rd grade students with the theme, “You Are an Artist.” Nearly half the schools CSM served within the SCFD area receive Title 1 funds. Teachers expressed gratitude that the Museum’s free programs provided students with connection and joy in difficult times.

CSM initiated new programs based on how visitors and community members prefer to experience CSM. A community advisory committee directly shaped the content of the Museum’s reimagined and reinstalled archival display cases in 2021.

CSM engages in dozens of highly-effective partnerships that deepen the quality and breadth of its programming, extend community reach, engage new audiences, and fulfill the Museum’s mission. The Museum envisions its partnerships expanding as CSM advances diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts; develop new program offerings and exhibitions; and continue evolving.



2021 PUBLIC PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

The Museum adapted its programming, interpretation, and interactive spaces throughout the pandemic in response to rapidly changing circumstances. For example, although the hands-on art-making studio The Making Space remained closed in 2021, CSM distributed thousands of Making Space To Go bags to visitors. Each bag contained a unique art-making activity and materials themed to the exhibition on view, enabling visitors to bring the joy of art-making home with them.

Online programs engaged adults and children from the local community and beyond. The Museum experimented with new virtual program formats, different ways of connecting through art-making, and wall labels relating Still’s experience to the current moment.

Once the city lifted capacity limits in June 2021, CSM resumed in-person ticket sales (along with online sales) as well as in-person programs, plus a few hybrid in-person/virtual programs. Virtual, hybrid, and in-person programs/events were free or included with admission, including family programs, music in the galleries, talks and lectures, films, and more.



NEW ENGAGEMENT

In 2021, CSM hired The Equity Project, LLC, for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion consultation services to conduct alignment and foundational education sessions, an equity assessment, focus groups, listening sessions, development of a lens and blueprint, and customized training. These data and activities will inform an analysis of CSM’s internal culture and help us to define goals and actions to advance ongoing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts—with measurable assessment metrics. As this process unfolds, CSM will conduct ongoing monitoring on effectiveness via surveys, attendance, visitor feedback, and other mechanisms.

In November/December 2021, CSM hosted an online voting program and encouraged members of the public to select their favorite Clyfford Still works for the upcoming exhibition, *You Select: A Community-Curated Exhibition*, opening in August 2022.



2021 STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Sanya Andersen-Vie
Anna Boatwright
Ben Boone
Tony DeSantis
Desiree Dick
David Finch
Jacob Gutierrez
Majken Koczara
Debbie Linster
Kelly Merriion
Meghan Morin
Julia Patterson
Joan Prusse
Sonia Rae
Joyce Tsai
Katie Watson-Best
Taylor Wilson

COLLECTIONS

Milo Carpenter
Michal Mikesell
Bailey Placzek
Britt Scholnick
Erin Shafer
Pam Skiles
James Squires

VISITOR SERVICES

Marie Azzaro
Violet Cruz
Andrew Cushen
Jennifer Davey
Patrick Harrison
Anthony Telles
Allie Todd

EDUCATION & PROGRAMS

Trisha Ackerman
Steven Aguiló-Arbues
Emily Bullard
Nicole Cromartie
Nicole Fleck
Allyson Johnson
Corinne Kannenberg
Kenda Keenan
Hannah Lim
Marilyn Lindenbaum
Quána Madison
Lisa Roll Moore
Emily Mullen Stenerson
Gillian Terespolski
Melissa Thoet
Luisa Zamora
Caterina Zischke-Rincon



FINANCIAL REPORT

The summarized financial information below reflects year-end results for the Museum’s operations during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2021.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For the year ended December 31, 2021

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Gifts and Grants

SCFD	\$334,555
Government grant	\$325,305
Grants from related entity	\$3,250,000

General contributions

Admissions	\$131,878
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Membership	\$90,645
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Other	\$47,776
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Investment income	\$0
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TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$4,386,446
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EXPENSES

Program Services

Education and programs	\$912,161
Museum building and galleries	\$884,571
Exhibitions and collections	\$972,815

Supporting Services

General and administrative	\$1,431,231
Fundraising	\$156,899

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,357,677
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$28,769
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(Excludes Clyfford Still Museum Foundation)

CONTRIBUTORS AND SUPPORTERS

\$100,000+

The Clyfford E. Still Endowment Fund
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District

\$10,000–\$99,999

The Flug Family Foundation
Riverfront Park Community Foundation
Wisecarver-Brown Charitable Trust

\$1,000–\$9,999

Bank of America
Harmes C. Fishback Foundation Trust
Leonard Loventhal and Laura Glaser
MetrixIQ
Joan Prusse and Robert Musgraves

UP TO \$999

Too many to list, thank you!



MEMBERSHIP (\$1,000 LEVEL AND ABOVE)

FOUNDER’S CIRCLE

Morris and Ellen Susman

DIRECTOR’S CIRCLE (\$5,000)

Jeremy and Angie Flug
J. Landis and Sharon Martin
James Palenchar and Lizabeth Lynner
Craig Ponzio

CURATOR’S CIRCLE (\$2,500)

Joan Prusse and Robert Musgraves
Myra and Robert Rich

LEADERSHIP CIRCLE (\$1,000 LEVEL AND ABOVE)

Bernice Harris and Teb Blackwell
Sheila Bisenius
Merle Chambers
Susannah Drake and Montgomery Cleworth
Arthur Ellsworth and Marvin Wilkinson
Jennifer Evans and Jack Tankersley
Ellen Bruss and Mark Falcone
George Messina



All photos by James Dewhirst, Torch Media, and CSM Staff