



**Katonah Museum of Art**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## ***Katonah Museum of Art to Present Two Exhibitions Celebrating the Legacy of Illustrator and Writer Jerry Pinkney***

**Katonah, NY, September 12, 2022** — The Katonah Museum of Art is pleased to present two special exhibitions—*Tenacity & Resilience: The Art of Jerry Pinkney* and *A Sense of Community: Celebrating Jerry Pinkney's Legacy*—from October 9, 2022 through January 22, 2023.

Honoring the work of Jerry Pinkney (1939-2021), *Tenacity & Resilience: The Art of Jerry Pinkney* features more than seventy illustrations, dummy books, and working drawings from seven children's books created between 1993 and 2020. The works, which encompass issues of social justice, resilience, and tenacity in the face of adversity, highlight the artist's life-long commitment to adapting and reimagining familiar tales to represent more racially diverse characters, and mining the history of the United States for stories that center on, and celebrate the African American experience. The scope and content of the material reveals Pinkney's multifaceted talents as an inspired master watercolorist, draftsman, and storyteller.

Children's books are often our first window to the outside world and instill lasting lessons on cultural norms. The exhibition also elucidates Pinkney's progressive belief that children's books can be an effective platform for promoting racial literacy from an early age, thus beginning the process of dismantling racist systems and structures. His ideals inspired subsequent generations of artists and resonate with current initiatives to engender greater inclusivity and equality through youth literature.

An acclaimed illustrator of more than a hundred children's books, Jerry Pinkney was awarded the Caldecott Medal in 2010, and was a five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Book Award. Pinkney's work has been the subject of many major exhibitions, including *Witness: The Art of Jerry Pinkney*, which originated at the Norman Rockwell Museum before traveling to the Hudson River Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the High Museum of Art between 2012 and 2014. In 2019, the Woodmere Art Museum in Philadelphia presented *Freedom's Journal: The Art of Jerry Pinkney*. Pinkney was also a long-standing and committed member of the KMA's Board of Trustees and a treasured member of the KMA community.

*Tenacity & Resilience: The Art of Jerry Pinkney* was organized by Gail Stavitsky, Chief Curator, Montclair Art Museum, Montclair, New Jersey.

A companion exhibition, *A Sense of Community: Celebrating Jerry Pinkney's Legacy*, will focus on another aspect of Pinkney's long and storied career: his work as a mentor to and model for artists and illustrators of color. It will include the work of nine contemporary illustrators who are, like Pinkney, dedicated to making children's literature more inclusive and diverse. The exhibition is co-curated by James E. Ransome, Pinkney's close friend and mentee, and KMA curators Emily Handlin and Naomi Leiseroff.

### Press Kit

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## **OPENING WEEKEND**

*1st Look* (Curator's Circle and above):

Saturday, October 8

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Member Preview:

Sunday, October 9

12:00 – 2:00 PM

Public Opening:

Sunday, October 9

2:00 – 5:00 PM

## **RELATED EVENTS**

### **Social Justice Through Children's Stories**

Wednesday, October 26

6:00 – 7:30 PM

Inspired by Jerry Pinkney's visual storytelling, this virtual panel brings together visual artists, writers, and activists to discuss how they use children's stories to address issues of social justice.

*Free and open to the public.*

### **Illustrators in Conversation**

Sunday, November 13

3:00 – 4:00 PM

James E. Ransome, renowned artist and co-curator of the exhibition *A Sense of Community: Celebrating Jerry Pinkney's Legacy*, will moderate a stimulating conversation with illustrators featured in the exhibition. *Members \$5. Non-members \$15.*

### **Family Day: Celebrating Jerry Pinkney**

Saturday, December 3

12:00 – 4:00 PM

Centered around the art and legacy of Jerry Pinkney, Family Day invites visitors to meet *A Sense of Community* illustrators Bryan Collier (collage) and Eric Velasquez (watercolor), enjoy book readings, and participate in gallery activities.

*Registration recommended. Members Free. Non-members: Adults \$12; Seniors, students, and children (under 12) \$6.*

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### **About the Katonah Museum of Art**

The Katonah Museum of Art (KMA) promotes the understanding and enjoyment of the visual arts for diverse audiences. The Museum presents exhibitions that explore ideas about art, culture, and society—past and present—through innovative exhibition and education programs. A non-collecting arts institution, the KMA is recognized for a dynamic exhibition and education program that spans artistic disciplines, cultures, and historical periods. Housed in a modernist building designed by architect Edward Larrabee Barnes, the KMA was established in 1953 with a mission of spotlighting exceptional art from different cultures and time periods, while also responding to the most critical issues of our time through a bold and vigorous lens. Located in Katonah, New York, the KMA is the anchoring cultural institution in Westchester County, drawing visitors from throughout the Tri-State region.

Advance tickets are recommended. Masks are recommended for all visitors (ages 2+) regardless of vaccination status. Museum hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM; Sunday 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM; Monday closed. General admission: Adults \$12; Seniors and students \$6; Members and children (under 12) Free. For more information about the Katonah Museum of Art, visit [katonahmuseum.org](http://katonahmuseum.org) or call (914) 232-9555.

Credit: Jerry Pinkney, "The Little Mermaid," jacket art from *The Little Mermaid* by Jerry Pinkney. Watercolor and graphite on cold-pressed paper, 17 5/8 x 23 3/4 in. (44.8 x 60.3 cm), Courtesy of the Estate of Jerry Pinkney, © 2020 Jerry Pinkney. Photograph by Peter Jacobs.

### **Exhibition Support**

*Tenacity & Resilience: The Art of Jerry Pinkney* has been generously underwritten in part by the Pollack Family Foundation, Gail Bryan, La Ruth Hackney Gray, and additional supporters who cherish and respect Jerry Pinkney and his important legacy.

All MAM programs are made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, The Vance Wall Foundation, Partners for Health Foundation, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, and Museum members.

*A Sense of Community: Celebrating Jerry Pinkney's Legacy* is made possible with funds from ReStart the Arts, a regrant program of ArtsWestchester with support from the Office of the Governor, the New York State Legislature, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Katonah Museum of Art is proud to be a grantee of ArtsWestchester with funding made possible by Westchester County government with the support of County Executive George Latimer.



The Katonah Museum of Art's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

