

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steffen Thomas Museum of Art  
(STMA)

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### STMA Arts Outreach Program© Family Workshop Raises the “Humble” Button to a Work of Art

Buckhead – The ubiquitous button! You see and use them every day. They fasten your jacket, hold your slacks up and perhaps make a great fashion statement on your new sweater.

But common surely needn't be ordinary. If you'd like to create your own personal fantastic fasteners, be sure to sign up for the upcoming STMA ARTS Outreach Program© Family Workshop – ***Button Up! Design and Create Unique Buttons in Polymer Clay.*** Inspired by design elements from selected Steffen Thomas paintings, participants will learn how to work with polymer clay to create buttons that can be used as beautiful yet practical adornments for their clothing.

Local artist and self-taught dressmaker and knitter, Monica Culqui, will teach the workshop, scheduled for **Saturday, March 14th from 10 AM to noon.** Monica chose to use polymer clay, the hottest arts and crafts medium to hit the market in decades, because “It’s so colorful, vibrant, easy to use and extremely versatile. The clay hardens at a very low temperature [265 to 275°]. In fact, it can be ‘cured’ in a home oven,” Monica explained. “By adding pigments to the translucent base, you can create many different textures and colors. I’ve been using it for years to enhance a wide variety of unique clothing.”

Monica owns and operates ***Sartoria Monica***, located at 232 West Washington Street in Madison; (706) 343-0000. It is a family based business established in 2005 primarily as a custom dressmaking and knitting shop.

It has evolved into a fashion house, art gallery and fine jewelry destination. Sartoria Monica houses textile works by Monica and her sister, Susie; conceptual art by their brother, John Sebastian; and hand crafted fine jewelry by their father, Cesar. For more information on Monica and the shop, please visit [www.sartoriamonica.com](http://www.sartoriamonica.com).

The museum’s workshop fees are \$8 for adults, \$6 for children; members receive a \$2 discount. Those in financial need may attend free of charge. Reservations are required. Please call 706-342-7557.

STMA Arts Outreach Program© provides family workshops for art enthusiasts of all ages one Saturday a month at the museum. All sessions are scheduled for 10 AM to noon. Upcoming workshops are:

**April 11<sup>th</sup>: Georgia On My Mind** – Assemble small pots designed for wall mounting using Lizella clay, an earthenware substance found only in Lizella, Georgia. Taught by local artist, Elizabeth Collins.

**May 9<sup>th</sup>: The Art of Reverse Painting** – Create a “reverse” self portrait, based on a mirror image or photograph, using acrylic paints and clear acrylic sheets. Taught by practicing artist, Julie Noland.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>: Customized Pet Portraits** – Turn a photo of your furry, gilled or feathered companion into a beautiful watercolor painting. Taught by well-known Monroe, Georgia artist, Susan Pelham.

The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art, located at 4200 Bethany Road, Buckhead, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM. For more information and directions, please visit [www.steffenthomas.org](http://www.steffenthomas.org) or call 706-342-7557.

