

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
(STMA)

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STMA Arts Outreach Family Workshop Features the Magic of Mosaics

BUCKHEAD – The mosaic tradition, a form of art decoration made by inlaying various colored materials onto a surface to create pictures or patterns, has existed for nearly four thousand years. You can learn how to use this ancient technique to fill your home with beauty and art at the Steffen Thomas Museum's next Arts Outreach Family Workshop - *The Magic of Mosaics* – scheduled for Saturday, January 23rd from 10 AM to noon at the museum.

Taught by practicing local artist and teacher Bobbie Austin, assisted by STMA docent Dick Whalen, the session will include a brief history of mosaics as well as a tour of the museum for inspiration by the works of Steffen Thomas. Next, participants will use marbled acrylic sheets created to simulate Venetian stained glass – Steffen Thomas's medium of choice for his mosaics. The sheets will then be cut into a variety of sizes and shapes, and finally glued onto mat boards to create the mosaics.

"What really makes this mosaic workshop very special is the efficacy and simplicity of the technique," Austin said. "By using acrylic sheets instead of glass, participants – including children – can produce a beautiful mosaic and go home with it on the same day. What a great motivation!"

Austin, who earned a fine arts degree from UGA, teaches art to students of all ages, from teens to seniors. She conducts her classes in painting, drawing and clay portraiture at the Georgia Piedmont Art Center in Winder, Monroe Art Guild and Wild Child Gallery in Monroe. "My greatest assist is my enthusiasm," Austin quipped. "If I could, I'd do nothing but create and study art all day!"

Admission for the STMA workshop is 10 adults, \$8 children; STMA members receive a \$2 discount. Those in financial need may attend free of charge. Registration is required. Please call 706-342-7557.

Future STMA workshops include:

February 20th: *A Tree Grows in the Lake Country* – In celebration of Arbor Day, study the use of line in art by creating block print tree portraits. Taught by Nan Demsky; assisted by Joyce Thomas.

March 20th: *The Whirligig as Art* – Discover the importance of texture by making whirligigs with a floral design. Taught by Larry Gilleland; assisted by Anne Gilleland.

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 or call the number listed above.

Saturday, October 18th:

House Portraits – Bring a photo of your home or some other favorite dwelling and learn how to create its very own portrait using colored pencils on matte board. Taught by Madison Artists Guild Executive Director and professional house portrait painter/muralist, Karen Strelecki. 10 AM to noon. Admission: \$8 adults, \$6 children; STMA members receive a \$2 discount. The Steffen Thomas Museum of Art is located at 4200 Bethany Road in Buckhead, GA.