

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
(STMA)

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*A close-up of the NYA Rug, designed by Steffen Thomas during the Great Depression of the 1930's. The rug will serve as inspiration for the next STMA Family Workshop: **Get Hooked on Rug Hooking.***

STMA Invites You to Get Hooked on Rugs

BUCKHEAD – Looking for something to add color and character to your home without spending much money? The Steffen Thomas Museum has the answer! Just sign up for STMA's next Arts Outreach Family Workshop – **Get Hooked on Rug Hooking**, scheduled for Saturday, August 21st from 10 AM to noon.

The session will be taught by professional textile artist and designer, Jenifer Borg, assisted by Ashley Myers. Participants will use simple tools – shoe boxes lined with twine as a loom, pieces of colorful yarn and sturdy crocheting hooks – to begin creating a miniature rug. All materials will be provided.

A truly unique aspect of this workshop is the source of inspiration: the hooked rug designed by Steffen Thomas for the National Youth Administration (NYA) in 1939. The NYA was part of the Works Project Administration (WPA) initiated by President Franklin Roosevelt during the Great Depression of the 1930's which employed millions to carry out public works.

As Arts Supervisor for the NYA, Thomas designed the 12 foot wide by 16 foot long rug, which was created by students of Habersham College in Clarksville, GA. A recurring theme in the design is the strength and nobility of ordinary men and women and the dignity of labor.

“The workshop and the rug are actually a perfect match,” Jenifer explained. “Rug hooking, which has been extremely popular in North America for at least 200 years, was always both an art and a craft of the ‘common man.’ It was practiced mostly by poor and middle class artists as a frugal means of adding beauty and color to their lives.”

The rug will be on display during the workshop. It is scheduled for restoration sometime this year. Museum visitors are invited to watch the process.

Jenifer earned a Master of Fine Arts Degree in fabric design from the University of Georgia, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University. She worked as a Senior Textile Designer for Glen Raven Custom Fabrics, LLC for several years. Jenifer also taught courses in fabric design and art appreciation at Athens Technical College.

She now teaches local classes and works on her own art projects in her home studio in Winterville, GA.

The museum’s workshop fees are \$10 for adults, \$8 for children; members receive a \$2 discount. Those in financial need may attend free of charge. Reservations are required. Please call 706-342-7557.

The 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.

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 706-342-7557.

