

A monthlong visual arts experience at Art & History Museums—Maitland emphasizes creation, community and collaboration.

31 Days of Art

BY LAURA J. COLE

Throughout the month of March, renowned artists will be making original, groundbreaking work at the Art & History Museums—Maitland (A&HM—M), which is encouraging people not only to experience these creations, but also to contribute to them, via an innovative new program.

Art31: Thirty-One Days of Experimentation & Collaboration provides a number of activities designed for community participation—from the March 1 wrapping of the Maitland Art Center, when the public is invited to help wrap the Center in fabric, to the Art Car project (March 2), during which Central Florida artist Andrew Spear will paint a car's exterior while guests decorate the interior.

"Understanding and feeling like one can be involved in the act of creation is thrilling," says Terry Olson, director of Orange County Arts & Cultural Affairs, which provided a \$40,000 grant to make the program possible. "As a new and exciting event with well-respected artists, Art31 will give the area a boost in value among the national arts world."

While projects such as the Art Car (which will be unveiled at a party on March 9) are intended to draw participants from a wide range of ages and backgrounds, others are designed to provide a glimpse into the artist's creative process, while paying homage to A&HM—M's history.

Take prominent artist Jake Fernandez's performance piece, *La Finca de Parchman: Seven Days and Sixteen Hours at Parchman Farm*. From March 23 to 30, Fernandez will work in a secluded studio space that has no windows and is outfitted with only a bathroom facility and a cot. His experience will be streamed live via A&HM—M's website, ArtandHistory.org. On March 30, Fernandez will emerge from his space and hold a question and answer session.

"We're enthusiastic about this project because it speaks to the legacy of the Research Studio," says Andrea Bailey Cox, executive director and CEO of A&HM—M. "The Maitland Art Center is not only about the beauty and interest of the historic site, but also the artists who have come to live and work here to grow their body of work and experiment with new theories and styles since 1937. Art31 marries the original research purpose with our goal today of serving the public." *oam*

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OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT WITH ARTISTS are just part of Art31, a monthlong program created by Art & History Museums—Maitland to celebrate its roots while engaging the community.

Additional Art31 Events

March 7: Ladies Art Lounge: Film Sculptures, with sculptor and filmmaker Nancy Cervenka

March 8: Color theory and color-mixing workshop with Artist-In-Action Trent Tomengo

March 14: Culture Pop!: Roll, Repeat

March 20 to 23: Four-day watercolor plein-air workshop with Bernard Martin

March 22: Screening of film *Herb & Dorothy* 50 x 50

March 29: Participation Dinner Affair

For more information and a full list of events, visit Art31.org.