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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Taft Museum of Art Continues 200th Anniversary of Historic House with Self-Organized Exhibition, *A Splendid Century*

Discover the artists who inspired an era, from Robert S. Duncanson to Rookwood Pottery

CINCINNATI—September 9, 2020—The Taft Museum of Art celebrates its historic house’s bicentennial year with two self-organized exhibitions, *A Splendid Century: Cincinnati Art 1820-1920* (October 3, 2020–January 24, 2021) and *Built to Last: The Taft Historic House at 200* (now on view).

The Taft’s bicentennial exhibitions are a precursor to the historic house’s upcoming [Bicentennial Infrastructure Project](#), which is set to begin in 2021. The National Endowment for the Humanities announced in early 2020 that the Taft had been awarded the competitive Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant in the maximum amount of \$750,000, to help preserve and renovate the Cincinnati gem. The Taft also recently received a prestigious [grant from the National Park Service](#) as part of the Save America’s Treasure’s program in August 2020, in the maximum amount of \$500,000.

“The museum’s historic house has stood on Pike Street for two centuries,” says Louise Taft Semple President/CEO, Deborah Emont Scott, “and as the caring stewards of the house, it is our responsibility to ensure that the house and its art collection remains an enduring part of our community.”

[A Splendid Century: Cincinnati Art 1820-1920](#) opens in the Taft’s Fifth Third Gallery on October 3 to the public. It will feature Cincinnati art and artists spanning the first 100 years of the house’s existence including rarely seen works from local private collections and museums from around the region. The wide-ranging exhibition will include paintings and sculptures by beloved Cincinnati artists including Hiram Powers, Robert S. Duncanson, Elizabeth Nourse, Frank Duveneck, Henry Farny, Dixie Selden and others, as well as ceramics from Rookwood Pottery.

“Nearly 60 works of art will tell the story of the city’s arts scene as the Taft’s historic house residents would have experienced it and contributed to it—creating a picture of Cincinnati visual culture during the Golden Age of art in the Queen City,” says the Taft’s associate curator, Tamera Munte.

The show, which has been in the planning stages for the past three years, also examines how the century was not “splendid” for all people, highlighting individual works of art that reveal the stories of historically underrepresented groups, including women and Black and indigenous people through ‘more to the story’ labels throughout the exhibition.

Concurrently on view, the Taft also organized a Sinton Gallery exhibition, *Built to Last: The Taft Historic House at 200*, which showcases the remarkable artifacts and stories left behind by the home’s residents and other key figures, illuminating the architectural jewel’s 200-year transformation.

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Experience the Exhibition:

In conjunction with the exhibitions, the Museum's public programs will celebrate the historic house's bicentennial year. A complete list of offerings and details will be made available at taftmuseum.org/tickets; highlighted programs include:

ONLINE WORKSHOP | Drawing Your Environment

Saturday, October 17, 1–3 p.m.

Throughout history, artists have been influenced by the environments in which they live. In this workshop, participants will create a contemporary landscape drawing with artist Samantha Haring. Drawings will be inspired by the landscape paintings in the exhibition *A Splendid Century*. \$20 Taft members; \$35 non-members. Suitable for all skill levels. No previous drawing experience required.

ONLINE PROGRAM | Assembling *A Splendid Century*

Thursday, October 29, 6:30 p.m.

Associate curator Tamera Lenz Munte sifted through hundreds of works of art to put together *A Splendid Century*. In this talk, she will share behind-the-scenes stories, fascinating historical facts, and surprising connections she uncovered during the creation of this exhibition. Along the way, you will gain an appreciation for how the Baum, Longworth, and Taft families helped shaped 100 years of art in Cincinnati. Bring your questions for the live Q&A at the end of the talk!

TAFT CHATS | A Closer Look at *A Splendid Century*

Ongoing

Beginning in October, join the Taft for videos of featured artwork from the exhibition. Episodes stream on the following platforms: YouTube (youtube.com/c/TaftMuseumofArt), Facebook (facebook.com/taftmuseum), Instagram ([@taftmuseum](https://instagram.com/taftmuseum))

Exhibition Support:

A Splendid Century is made possible by the H.B., E.W. and F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation, Fifth Third Bank and Narley L. Haley, Co-Trustees; Fifth Third Bank; the National Endowment for the Arts; the John Hauck Foundation, Fifth Third Bank, John W. Hauck, and Narley L. Haley, Co-Trustees; The Frank J. Kloenne and Jacqueline Dawson Kloenne Foundation, Fifth Third Bank and Narley L. Haley, Co-Trustees. Additional exhibition support is generously provided by Presenting Media Partners Cincinnati Magazine.

Operating support is provided by the Museum's season funders ArtsWave, The Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./U.S. Bank Foundation, and the Ohio Arts Council; the Western & Southern Financial Fund enables the Museum to offer free admission every Sunday. Additional exhibition support is generously

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provided by the Ellen and George Rieveschl Endowment, the Warrington Exhibition Endowment, the Chellgren Family Endowment, and the Sallie Robinson Wadsworth Endowment for Exhibitions.

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About the Taft Museum of Art:

One step inside this living landmark tucked away in downtown Cincinnati and you will be transported to a place where art lives on the walls—and in the walls. Built around 1820 as a private home for several of Cincinnati's most prominent citizens, the Taft Museum of Art is now one of the finest small art museums in America and holds National Historic Landmark status for its historic house and Duncanson murals.

Connected by our 2001–2004 expansion, guests can also always enjoy special exhibitions, the historic outdoor garden, our Museum Shop and Lindner Family Café, events and programming for all ages, and complimentary on-site parking. It is all under one roof, culminating in a one-of-a-kind, multi-sensory experience that puts you at the center of art and history.

For more information, visit taftmuseum.org and discover more ways to celebrate the bicentennial of the Taft Museum of Art's historic house by following [#TaftHouse200](https://twitter.com/TaftHouse200).