



## **Michener Art Museum Presents *Keith Haring: A Radiant Legacy***

*Exhibition of more than 100 unique and notable works by acclaimed Pop Art icon*

**March 12 – July 31, 2022**

**Press Preview: Friday, March 11, 11am**

**DOYLESTOWN, PA (January x, 2022)** – The James A. Michener Art Museum is pleased to present *Keith Haring: A Radiant Legacy*, an exhibition of more than 100 unique and notable works from a private collection, on view March 12 – July 31, 2022. Included in the Michener exhibition are two rare Subway drawings, complete suites of many of the artist's icon print series and *Medusa Head* (the largest print in the artist's oeuvre).

Keith Haring (1958-1990) was arguably the most accomplished and prominent American artist of the 1980s. Born in Reading, PA, and raised in nearby Kutztown, Haring developed an early love for drawing. Through his friendship with artists Kenny Scharf and Jean-Michel Basquiat, he became interested in the colorful graffiti art of city streets which would influence his meteoric rise. Working in a variety of mediums—including paintings, prints, posters, drawings, sculpture, and street art—Haring developed a style that was instantly recognizable.

During his brief ten-year career, Haring rewrote the rulebook for contemporary art, integrating the seemingly discrete arenas of New York City's gritty downtown counterculture and uptown art aristocracy. A friend of Andy Warhol's, Haring unabashedly developed and promoted his own brand through commercial partnerships, mass market products, and even his own storefront. Equally important was his social justice activism, raising awareness of AIDS and fighting against racism and the proliferation of illegal drugs.

"Haring had deep ties to this region, so it's very exciting to showcase this impressive collection of his work at the Museum and introduce his socially and politically engaged work to new audiences," says Chief Curator Laura Igoe.

Throughout his career, Haring was featured in more than 100 solo and group exhibitions and produced over 50 public works of art in cities around the world. Many of his works were designed for charities, hospitals, daycare centers, and orphanages. Over 900 children participated in a mural creation commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. He also designed 85 posters with a pictorial language, direct messages, and universal appeal that still resonate today.

*Keith Haring: A Radiant Legacy* is a Pan Art Connections traveling exhibition.

## Other Exhibitions at the Michener in 2022

### ***The Work of Art: Museum Collecting Unpacked***

*January 29 – May 15, 2022*

Stories of approximately 25 carefully selected objects from the Michener's permanent and archival collections to explore the life cycle of a work of art, from its creation to museum acquisition. Including collection favorites and many recent acquisitions that have never been on view, the exhibited works illustrate the museum's dedication to the diverse artistic community and history of the Delaware River Valley and offer insight into ongoing conversations about the future of museum collecting.

### ***(re)Frame: Community Perspectives on the Michener Art Collection***

*June 18, 2022 – March 5, 2023*

A three-step, year-long project designed to re-interpret the Michener's permanent collection with input from the wider regional community, including activists, Native American storytellers, external historians, social workers, environmentalists, as well as general visitors to museum, with a view to a major re-installation of the permanent collection galleries in 2023.

### ***Walk This Way: Footwear from the Stuart Weitzman Collection of Historic Shoes***

*September 24, 2022 – January 15, 2023*

With a focus on the women who designed, manufactured, sold, and collected footwear, *Walk This Way* presents the story of the shoe as it has never been told before. Featuring over 110 pieces from a collection assembled over several decades by the famous shoe designer, Stuart Weitzman, and his wife, businesswoman, and philanthropist Jane Gershon Weitzman, the exhibition ranges from a pair of satin wedding shoes worn in 1838 to a pair of glam-rock platform sandals from 1970s London. These unique artifacts allow *Walk This Way* to approach the story of the shoe from the perspectives of collection, consumption, production, design, and presentation.

***The James A. Michener Art Museum*** is dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting the art and cultural heritage of the Delaware Valley region. Named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning author and noted Bucks County resident James A. Michener, the independent, not-for-profit cultural institution promotes the work of nationally known regional artists past and present.

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