

out and about

Classes

📍 **At Selby Gardens:** Class sizes are limited so register early. Pre-Registration is required. Proceeds from classes support the Gardens. Register at www.selby.org or in person at Selby's Welcome Center.

ART CLASSES

■ **Beginning Watercolor**

Session I: May 14, 21 & June 4

Session II: June 11, 18 & 25

Session III: July 9, 16 & 30

Session IV: Aug 6, 13 & 20

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Each 3-class session focuses on

Fun Raisers

📍 On **May 5**, tee off and ante up for **The Taylor Emmons Scholarship Fund's 7th Annual Charity Golf Classic, Poker Night & Kentucky Derby Party**. The Fund's event benefits high school students from diverse social and economic backgrounds, so they may experience an independent, college preparatory education at The Out-of-Door Academy's Upper School.

Join in for a fun day of golf and for a variety of events such as poker, cocktail party, Kentucky Derby,

legends Mario Lanza and Judy Garland and a medley of hits from Mamma Mia! On **Sunday, May 13**, at the Sarasota Opera House.

For more information about the Choral Artists of Sarasota, visit www.ChoralArtistsSarasota.org or call 941-387-4900.

88th Annual Sarasota Tarpon Tournament

📍 The tournament runs **May 12 - June 17** with a kickoff tarpon season party and captain's meeting

Tickets: 941-359-0099. Location: Jane B Cook Theatre, FSU Center for the Performing Arts. Visit www.sarasotacontemporarydance.org.

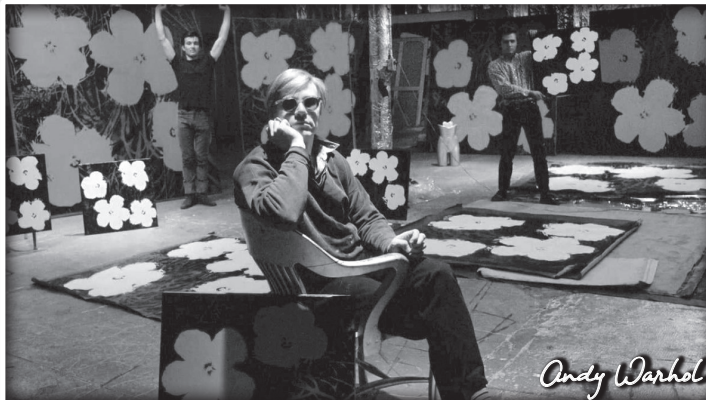
📍 Don't miss **Sarasota Cuban Ballet's** annual end of year performance being held at Booker High School auditorium on **Saturday, May 26 at 7 p.m.** Watch their students perform choreography created by the Ballet's staff.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for under age 12 or seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance by calling SCBS at 941-365-8400, by email at info.sarasotacubanballet@gmail.com, or at the door of the performance for \$30.

WCW PICK

Andy's at Selby Gardens

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens has **WARHOL: flowers in the factory**. Explore a combination of stunning horticultural interpretations of Warhol's nature-based work with an exhibition that includes six original Warhol botanical pieces. Runs through June 2018. For tickets, visit www.selby.org.



demonstrations and a variety of watercolor techniques. Students with previous experience will feel free to experiment, create their own compositions, or paint along with the instructor. Instructor: Carolyn Merenda.

■ **Intermediate Watercolor**

Session I: May 15, 22 & June 5

Session II: June 12, 19 & 26

Session III: July 10, 17 & 31

Session IV: Aug 7, 14 & 21

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

This 3-class course is for the more experienced painter. Refine techniques using instructor-provided reference or work on subjects of individual choice. Class critiques will provide stimulus for growth. Instructor: Carolyn Merenda.

■ **Fifty Shades of Green – Fun Painting Ferns**

on May 16 & 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The passion for ferns has made a great impact on the decorative arts. In this class, working in the medium of your choice, watercolor, acrylic or pencil, you'll explore painting ferns in traditional ways as well as novel approaches and techniques: vignettes of ferns, crusty pots of ferns, ferns in settings both woodland and wild. Demonstrations will be in watercolor. Any level of student welcome. Bring supplies according to medium. Materials list. Instructor: Marcy Chapman.

■ **Illustrating with Watercolor**

on May 23 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Draw and paint along with the instructor, mixing colors step-by-step, illustrating an original scene drawing inspiration from nature. You will learn to use large, medium and then small brushes to finish fine detail. Open to all levels. Materials list. Instructor: Carolyn Merenda.

auction and more. Win a new car and/or \$10,000 cash with a hole-in-one. Held at King's Dunes and Cypress Links at Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club, 7650 Legacy Blvd., Lakewood Ranch.

Enjoy Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament, Best dressed Derby themed (male and female) and best dressed hat contest and Kentucky Derby Party. Info: www.temmons.org.

At Fishermen's Village

📍 **May 5:** Cinco de Mayo / Kentucky Derby Celebration **1-3 and 5-9 p.m.**

■ **May 12:** 6th Annual Key Lime Festival, **10 a.m. -4 p.m.**

■ **May 28:** Vintage Motor Car Club of America SWFL Region Memorial Day Car Show, **11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

■ **June 2:** Southwest Florida Attractions Association Showcase, **10 a.m. -3 p.m.**

Nightly Sunset Cruise on Charlotte Harbor available, too. For details, visit www.kingfisherfleet.com. Visit www.fishville.com for a complete list of events/entertainment. Located on Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda. They have over 40 independently owned shops/boutiques, 4 waterfront dining options, a marina, a resort and water recreation activities.

Choral Music

📍 **The Choral Artists of Sarasota** has **"Showtime"** with an appearance with the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota highlighting the music of the screen with soloists Jennifer Sheehan, soprano, and Tad Czyzewski, tenor. Featured music includes tributes to vocal

on **May 9 at 7p.m.** (open to everyone) at White Buffalo Saloon, 5377 McIntosh Road, Sarasota. Free for participants, Non-participants \$25. Enjoy a BBQ dinner, live music, live auction, raffle prizes and cash bar.

Compete for an overall winner category, as well as weekly, junior, ladies, and "his & her" categories.

Weekly winners will compete in a fish off to win overall tournament. For more information, visit www.sarasotatarpontournament.net.

For the past 88 years, anglers have competed in the Sarasota Tarpon Tournament. This event is the oldest, continuous running, public tarpon tournament in Florida. It started in 1929 by the Sarasota Angler Club as an attempt to bolster the local economy. Luckily, Robert Ringling invited Cincinnati industrialist and radio magnate Powel Crosley Jr. to participate. It was his first time fishing and he caught a 102 pound silver king.

Described as one of the most exciting fish to catch, tarpon are known for spectacular leaps and determined fights. More battles seem to be won by the tarpon rather than the angler, making the reward of catching one momentous. More than \$60,000 has been raised in the past eight years for charity. This year, money raised will benefit the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida (CCA) and Suncoast Charities for Children.

Dance

📍 **Sarasota Contemporary Dance** has **Evolving/Revolving** on **May 10-13**. The final performance series will comprise of diverse new works by past company collaborators and dancers which celebrates the company's past and future through impactful collaborations.

Art Exhibits

📍 **Art Ovation Hotel** offers these tours and events at the hotel:

■ **10-11 a.m.** Curator-led tour of the current Art Ovation exhibit on **May 7 and 9**. The Art Ovation Hotel curatorial team will guide you through the **LEGACY** exhibit, which fills the Lobby Gallery and each elevator landing of the Hotel. Hear about inspirations, techniques, and history. Take the opportunity to ask questions, and reflect on the artistic process. Can't make it for this session? Just request a tour, and they'll set it up for another time.

■ **3:30-4:30 p.m. Exclusive Art Ovation Backstage Tour:** Sarasota Opera House on **May 7 at 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.** Led by members of the Sarasota Opera staff, these tours provide a look at the past of the historic building and a glimpse at the backstage workings of the opera company. Then return to the Gallery Lounge for the Arts Sarasota Happy Hour. Request this tour at the front desk one day in advance.

Art Ovation Hotel is located at 1255 N. Palm Avenue in Sarasota. Call 941-316-0808.

📍 **ART Inside**, a collaborative gallery featuring the art work of six artists including **Karin Billings, Joanna Coke, Susan Hurwitch, Dirce Kennedy, Judy Kramer and Dalia Shyevitch** who share a creative vision for the gallery space that is co-located within Express Oak SRQ at 32 Palm Avenue in Sarasota.

Their **May Spotlight Artist is Joanna Coke**. Joanna gets her inspiration for her artworks from the color of the light of Florida's pure, clean hues. Her landscapes and floral images capture that vibrancy in watercolor and acrylics.

📍 **At Art Center Sarasota:**

■ **Cycle 4 (to May 7)** features an exhibit by students from north Sarasota County schools and an exhibit of works by senior visual arts students from Booker High School's VPA program.

■ **The Sarasota North County Spring Art Show** is **May 10-17**. The opening receptions days and time will be announced.

■ **Cycle 5 (May 24-June 29)** features **"Painting as Object,"** a group exhibit and another exhibit

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TBA. An exhibit of works by Peter Gaztambide and “Possibilities,” a members-only, juried exhibit are **May 17-June 22**. The opening reception for all four exhibits is **May 24, 5-7 p.m.**

For more information about Art Center Sarasota, call 941-365-2032 or visit www.artsarasota.org.

Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota

◆ **Artist Series Pops** program has “**Showtime!**” a presentation by **Choral Artists of Sarasota** featuring guest soloists Jennifer Sheehan, soprano and Tad Czyniewski, tenor. Music from movie classics featuring the hits of Nelson Eddy and Jeanette McDonald, Mario Lanza, Judy Garland and more—including a tribute to Mamma Mia! **May 13, 3 p.m.**, at the Sarasota Opera House.

■ **“Hurray for the Red, White & Blue”** featuring the patriotic sounds of the **Capital Brass Quintet**, direct from Washington DC, with baritone Bob McDonald is on **May 19, 7:30 p.m.** and **May 20, 3 p.m.** at Historic Asolo Theater, Sarasota.

For more information, visit www.artistseriesconcerts.org.

The Venice Symphony

◆ **The Venice Symphony** has one finalist left in its search for **The Symphony’s next Music Director and Conductor**. Troy Quinn will conduct a concert featuring music. Five others have already performed.

■ **May 4-5: A Tribute to Music in Cinema:** violin soloist and former concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, Glenn Dicterow, performs John Williams’ themes from *Far and Away* and *Schindler’s List*. The program also features classics from Oscar-winners Henry Mancini, Jerry Goldsmith and Ennio Morricone.

Troy Quinn is the Music Director of the Juneau Symphony in Alaska and of the Ocean State Symphony Orchestra of Rhode Island. In addition to extensive guest engagements in the U.S. and Europe, he has performed and recorded with The Rolling Stones, Josh Groban and others and has appeared on the TV shows *GLEE*, *The Voice*, and *The Tonight Show*.

Tickets: call 941-207-8822.

◆ At **The South Florida Museum** —“**How People Make Things**.” Have you ever wondered how your favorite pair of sneakers was made? Or even a toy car? This new exhibit tells the story of how every day objects come to be.

How People Make Things (through May 6) shows the people, ideas and technologies used to transform raw materials into finished products in a factory-floor setting.

It is based on the factory tours that Fred Rogers featured in his show, *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood*.

The Museum’s “factory floor” will include hands-on activities in cutting, molding, deforming and assembly. The South Florida Museum, 201 10th Street West, Bradenton.

Expressive Arts Florida Institute

◆ **Expressive Arts Florida Institute**, located in the artist colony of Towles Court, has programs designed to enrich one’s life and to develop creative life skills for personal, professional and social change through the arts.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs take place at the organization’s facility at 200 S Washington Blvd, Suite 1 in the Towles Court Pavilion. For more information or to register, call 941-366-9595 or visit expressiveartsflorida.com.

• Weekly **Wednesday** mornings **10 a.m. – 1 p.m.** “**Open Studio**” In this open format, we invite you to come join us and engage in quality creative time for yourself. Bring a project you are working and your favorite supplies or use our studio supplies and start something new. You do not have to be an artist to enjoy the benefits of being creative; all levels of experience are welcome. There is no required registration fee for Open Studio. Held every Wednesday, 10-1 by donation.

• **Monday, May 7, 6– 9 p.m.** “**Art as a Healing Practice: Bringing it All Together**” Creative Self-Care with Kathleen Horne and Patricia Manning. This series is open to anyone interested in self-care through creative expression. CEUs for mental health professionals, CNEs for nurses. Art as a Healing Practice is an expressive arts process that embraces the positive power of creative work/play to change lives. It is a series of carefully guided themed sessions that each consists of a gentle and powerful blend of guided meditation, visual art, writing and sharing/witnessing. \$45

• **Saturdays, May 12 & 19, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.** “**How Does Your Garden Grow? Intentional Creativity and Expressive Arts**” with Donna Papenhausen and Victoria Domenichello-Anderson. This is a new collaboration offered to help you discover and implement your own unique creative path to self-care for these turbulent times through a guided painting and expressive arts experience. No previous art experience is needed. \$160 (bring your own supplies) or \$195 (we supply everything).

• **Tuesday, May 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** “**Red Thread Circle**” with Donna Papenhausen and Victoria Domenichello-Anderson

Join Red Thread Circle offered each month on the 3rd Tuesday if you long for connection with other women and hunger for deep conversations on things that matter while you yearn to be connected to the creative heart of yourself and others. Donna and Victoria will gather with you and do a simple centering ritual; enter

into inquiry to ponder and reflect on questions of importance to your life and creativity, lead you in a brief art process to ground the conversation through creative expression. Hosting fee for Red Thread Circle is \$20 per session.

• **Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** “**Expressive Arts Community Networking**” Each month, we gather together to offer a creative experience and network to learn what other creative happenings are going on in the expressive arts community. \$10 at the door. For practitioners or students of Expressive Arts or related field.

• **Friday, June 22, 2 – 5 p.m.** “**Illumination and Light: Summer Solstice**” with Maureen O’Reilly. Join them as they use Expressive ART to allow the emergence of our growing potentials, giving them an image, a form, a voice, and support for being and becoming. NO art experience whatsoever is necessary. All materials provided, a short meditation to support turning inward and gentle open ended direction is given. This is less about doing and more about allowing, and participating in the wonder of ‘that’ which desires to become known through us. This workshop is part of Maureen’s new 8 part series: *Aligning with Self, Earth and Cosmic Cycles*. \$45 includes materials.

Go to www.expressiveartsflorida.com for more information.

Theatre

◆ **Manatee Players** has:

■ **Nice Work If You Can Get It** running to **May 13** in Stone Hall. It’s the Roaring Twenties, and a cast of outrageous characters gather in New York to celebrate the wedding of a wealthy playboy. But things don’t go as planned when the playboy meets a bubbly and feisty bootlegger who melts his heart.

■ **Menopause The Musical®** runs **May 22-June 3**. Inspired by a hot flash and a bottle of wine, writer Jeanie Linders created *Menopause The Musical®* as a celebration of women who find themselves at any stage of “The Change.” Set in a department store where four women with seemingly nothing in common but a black lace bra meet by chance at a lingerie sale, the all-female cast makes fun of their woe-filled hot flashes, forgetfulness, mood swings, wrinkles, night sweats and chocolate binges. A sisterhood is created between these diverse women as they realize that menopause is no longer “The Silent Passage.” It is a stage in every woman’s life that is perfectly normal.

Manatee Players is located at 502 3rd Ave., W., Bradenton. Info: 941-748-5875.

◆ **Venice Theatre’s Stage II Series** has:

■ **Debbie Does Dallas: The Musical!** Adapted by Erica Schmidt; composed by Andrew Sherman; conceived by Susan L. Schwartz, it’s a modern morality tale told as a comic musical of tragic proportions

in the language of the rodeo-porno-football circus. A coming-of-age story of an all-American small-town sweetheart. Debbie is captain of her high school cheerleading team, but she dreams of making it to the big time by becoming a Texas Cowgirl Cheerleader. **Runs to May 20.**

■ **VT’s Generations Series** has **Stuart Little**. Adapted by Joseph Robinette; music by Ronna Frank; lyrics by Joseph Robinette and Ronna Frank and based on the book by E.B. White. It’s big excitement for a small mouse when Stuart leaves his human family in New York and travels across the country in search of a bird that helped save his life. **Runs May 15-20.**

Tickets: 941-488-1115 or visit the box office at 140 W. Tampa Ave. in Venice.

◆ **FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training** has:

■ **Much Ado About Nothing, to May 6**. Written by William Shakespeare, it’s the Bard’s most mature comedy with some of his most memorable characters. *Much Ado About Nothing* will be performed in Marie Selby Botanical Gardens by the entire ensemble of second year graduate actors.

◆ **Asolo Rep** has:

■ **Ragtime** running **May 4-27**. Book by Terrence McNally; music by Stephen Flaherty; lyrics by Lynn Ahrens and directed by Peter Rothstein. It’s a collaboration with Seattle’s 5th Avenue Theatre. It’s the dawn of the 20th century in New York ... a time of enormous change, of new ideas, and the world is moving to the music of ragtime. This epic Tony Award winning musical depicts the struggles, successes, hopes and dreams of a white, upper-middle class family in New Rochelle, an African-American musician and his girlfriend in Harlem, and a Jewish immigrant and his daughter on the Lower East Side. Interwoven with their stories are the newsmakers of the era including Harry Houdini, Booker T. Washington, J.P. Morgan and Henry Ford. Minneapolis director Peter Rothstein has re-envisioned this originally massive musical into an innovative, highly theatrical production that, in today’s world, resonates to the very heart.

Tickets are available by calling or visiting Asolo Rep’s Box Office, 941-351-8000, or at www.asolorep.org.

◆ **Urbanite Theatre** has:

■ **Women Laughing Alone With Salad** by Sheila Callaghan. Directed by Ria Cooper. Regional Premiere. **Runs to May 13**. Award-winning playwright Sheila Callaghan breaks all the rules of our image-obsessed culture in this raw, audacious comedy about the unreasonable expectations demanded of women and their bodies. Gleefully vulgar, biting poignantly and raucously unafraid, *Women Laughing Alone With Salad* is a gender-bending feminist fantasia with balls.

Urbanite Theatre is at 1487 2nd St, Sarasota. Info: 941-321-1397.

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► **The Players Centre** has:

■ **The Players Kids: Rock Of Ages** on **May 12** and **13** on The Players Main Stage. Their **End Of Year Showcase** is on **May 25** at **7 p.m.** also on The Players MainStage.

Tickets: 365-2494 or go to www.theplayers.org.

► **WBTT** has:

■ **Soul Man** which will close out their season. As the 1960s Civil Rights movement unfolded, black music evolved from the controlled Motown performances to fiery cross-rhythm sounds—a little gospel, a lot of soul. The passionate soloists, such as James Brown, Otis Redding and Sam Cooke, added energetic movements and unique vocalizations that inspired many future performers. **Soul Man** will feature some of WBTT's most popular male performers. **Runs to May 26.**

Call the Box Office at 941-366-1505 or visit westcoastblacktheatre.org.

► **Florida Studio Theatre** has:

■ on its Mainstage **Honor Killing** which **Runs to May 25** in the Gompertz Theatre. Allisyn Davis, an American reporter for The New York Times, heads to Pakistan to cover the honor killing of a young woman. One culture mirrors the other, asking questions about forgiveness, self-worth, and justice. **Honor Killing** first appeared on the FST stage during the Richard and Betty Burdick Reading Series as part of the 2017 Sarasota Festival of New Plays.

■ In the **FST Cabaret** is **Shakespeare's Greatest Hits** running **to June 10** in the Court Cabaret. "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" with the best of the Bard. This tongue-in-cheek musical revue is a collection of songs inspired by the world's greatest playwright. Rounding out the cabaret season is Shakespeare's Greatest Hits, which opens February 11 in the Court Cabaret. "Brush Up Your Shakespeare" with the best of the Bard! This tongue-in-cheek musical revue is a collection of songs inspired by the world's greatest playwright. From relevant to irreverent, from soulful to sinful, from "Get Thee To A Nunnery" and "Othello's Rap" to "What A Piece of Work is Man" and "Tonight," when it comes to William Shakespeare all the world truly is his stage and his work will play on and on.

Tickets: 941-366-9000.

FST's New Play Reading Series

► **Florida Studio Theatre** announces its **36th annual Richard and Betty Burdick New Play Reading Series**, which will present three new staged readings by modern American playwrights. Part of FST's Sarasota Festival of New Plays, this three-day series will take place in Bowne's Lab Theatre on **May 6**, and **May 13** at **3 p.m.** each day.

Each year, playwrights from across the nation come to Sarasota for a week of rehearsals and the

opportunity to see their plays on stage in workshop productions., the public gets a first look at fresh, exciting plays in process.

■ **Matt Lyle's Big Scary Animals** is on **May 6**, a comedic drama partially inspired by Lyle's own experiences growing up in East Texas. In the play, an older couple from the rural country unknowingly moves to Dallas's "gayborhood" to be closer to their granddaughter. What begins as polite dinner conversation with their gay, multi-ethnic neighbors careens out of control. A hilarious collision of race, sex, guns, and sports, **Big Scary Animals** examines shifting generational beliefs and how hard it is to raise a child, regardless of who you are and where you live.

■ Capping off the Richard and Betty Burdick Reading Series is **Wednesday's Child** by Mark St. Germain on **May 13**. Bringing mystery and murder to life in a dramatic tale, this play challenges the distinction between "right" and "wrong." In **Wednesday's Child**, the investigation into the murder of a surrogate mother explodes the lives of everyone around her.

Each reading is followed by a talkback with the playwright, where audience members have the opportunity to connect more deeply with the plays by asking questions and providing valuable feedback. In this way, audiences are able to be part of the development and creation of exciting new plays that may one day be programmed into one of FST's Mainstage or Stage III Series.

FST's Sarasota Festival of New Plays is free of cost and open to the public, but reservations are required. Reservations can be made online at www.floridastudiotheatre.org, by phone at (941) 366-9000, or by visiting the FST Box Office.

At The Ringling

► **Continuing Exhibitions:**

■ **A Kaleidoscope of Color: The Costume Designs of Miles White** runs **to August 5**. Elephants transformed into swans, beautiful girls turned into birthday cakes, and clowns became kings. These whimsical visions are captured in the drawings of the costume designer Miles White (1914-2000). Paired with original costumes and contemporary photographs, White's drawings evoke the adventurous era of design that emerged in mid-century American performance.

This exhibition includes original sketches, watercolors, swatchbooks and their production documents. Some drawings will be paired with actual wardrobe pieces and historic photographs. Over 500 of White's original sketches and watercolors are in the Tibbals Circus Collection at The Ringling.

■ **Toni Dove: Embodied Machines** runs **to May 20**. The Ringling will debut Toni Dove: Embodied Machines, the first survey of Dove's pioneering work, which operates at the crossroads of live performance, interactive narrative

and virtual reality. The exhibition will explore more than 20 years of the artist's projects, from early installations through her interactive cinema and stage performances and concluding with her most recent experiments at the forefront of digital technology and robotics.

Based in New York, Dove has been credited as one of the innovators of "interactive cinema." Since the early 1990s, she has been interested in creating immersive experiences where the boundary between viewer and performer is blurred and the history of consumer culture and capitalism is examined. Dove's collaborative practice brings together vanguard visual artists, filmmakers, fashion designers, robotics engineers, computer programmers, musicians, actors and writers. Dove, acting as the creative architect of experience, transforms the traditional artist studio system into a 21st-century idea incubator, using the work of art to inform technology.

■ **Hank Willis Thomas: Branded/Unbranded** runs **to June 10**.

In 2016 The Ringling purchased ten photographs from Hank Willis Thomas's series **Unbranded: A Century of White Women, 1915-2015**. The entire set of 100 digital chromogenic prints by Thomas, the internationally celebrated conceptual artist, reconsiders classic advertisements over the last 100 years – minus their original text. Released from any context, brand, product or messaging, the previously subliminal images are free to speak more directly to what is being sold: the constructed identity and reinforced stereotypes of white women in the U.S. over time.

To make the archival ads he has photographed even more accessible, Thomas has added new captions – some funny and irreverent, some ironic and pointed. By mining the past to create regrettably timeless representations of disempowered white women, Thomas confronts issues that continue to inform and circulate throughout our culture today.

■ **250 Years of the Circus in Print** runs **to May 7**. Throughout the 250-year history of the modern circus, the traveling entertainment has maintained an important relationship with the visual art of printing. In fact, the growth of the circus parallels the evolution of commercial printing, with each business benefiting from innovations in the other. As the print industry advanced from movable type into lithography and eventually offset printing, circuses adopted new visual strategies to announce the wonders to come. Even after shows folded and performers retired, circus posters and prints remained as unique windows on history.

Once posted on buildings and fences to give a glimpse into the magical world of the circus that would soon arrive, today circus posters allow us to look at the changing American experience. Printed materials spanning the 250 years of history will be on display in the Tibbals Learning Center in

celebration of the anniversary year of the first modern circus.

■ **Circle of Animals / Zodiac Heads** runs **to June 1**.

runs to June 1, 2018. Bayfront Gardens. A sculptor, photographer, installation artist, architect, and social activist, Ai is one of the most renowned artists working today. **Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads** was inspired by the fabled fountain-clock of the Yuanming Yuan, an 18th-century imperial retreat just outside Beijing. Designed in the 18th century by two European Jesuits at the behest of the Manchu Emperor Qianlong, the fountain-clock featured the animals of the Chinese zodiac, each spouting water at two-hour intervals. In 1860, the Yuanming Yuan was ransacked by French and British troops, and the heads were pillaged.

Seven out of the 12 animal heads in Ai's piece are based on the original fountain works that have been discovered—rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, horse, monkey, and boar. The remaining five are the artist's reimagining of the currently missing artifacts—dragon, snake, goat, rooster, and dog. The dual title of the work addresses the artist's desire that the piece be relatable on many different levels and to people who may not know the original sculpture's history.

Info: 941-359-5700. The Ringling is at 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota.

At Mote Marine

► **Greta the Great White Shark, Natasha the Turtle** and their oceanic friends are at **Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium** as part of Mote's exhibit, "**Sea Debris: Awareness through Art**," featuring "**Washed Ashore**."

"Sea Debris" will be on display **through early June 2018** and include larger-than-life, marine-inspired sculptures made entirely out of plastic gathered from the Oregon coastline. These hand-made pieces will range from 15 feet long and 10 feet wide to seven feet long and eight feet high. More than seven of these realistic but whimsical sculptures at Mote will fascinate and educate children, the young at heart and all those who seek creative solutions to environmental challenges.

During the exhibit's stay, guests can enjoy marine debris related events such as a beach clean up, science cafes, a film festival and special lectures. www.mote.org/seadebris.

Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium, 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota. 941-388-4441. 🌐

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in Advertising?**

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