



WALTER ANDERSON
MUSEUM of ART

THE SOUTH'S MOST ELUSIVE ARTIST

EXHIBITION PROSPECTUS



Walter Anderson, Palmettos and Pines, c. 1955. Watercolor on Paper. Gift of The Friends of Walter Anderson WAWA Permanent Collection.

elusive:

something unreachable, that evades grasp, a concept that is hard to define or even identify.

WALTER INGLIS ANDERSON (1903-1965)

is lovingly referred to as the “South’s most elusive artist” and is one of the most compelling and singular American creators of the 20th century. During his lifetime, Anderson was private, sometimes secretive, seeking the solitude found in the barrier island wilderness just beyond the Mississippi Sound. Significantly, Walter Anderson left an almost complete record of himself as an artist, encapsulated within his coastal cottage in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Artworks from his earliest childhood years through the last days of his life have been recorded in minute detail. With the study of each quick drawing or developed painting, viewers discover a piece of the artist, a man who struggled against the tides of human frailty and ultimately found transcendence in nature.

“It is approaching the magic hour before sunset, when all things are related, and are organized through color.”

—WALTER INGLIS ANDERSON



TOP: Walter Inglis Anderson, *Rowing at Night*, c. 1955. Watercolor on Paper. Gift of the Friends of Walter Anderson. WAMA Permanent Collection.
BOTTOM: Walter Inglis Anderson, *Pelicans on North Key*, c. 1960. Watercolor on Paper. Partial Gift of Leif Anderson. WAMA Permanent Collection.



TOP: Walter Inglis Anderson (designer) and Peter Anderson (caster). *Sea, Earth, and Sky Vase*, 1945. Ceramic. WAMA Permanent Collection.

BOTTOM: Walter Inglis Anderson. *Frigate Birds*, c. 1955. Watercolor on Paper. Gift of the Friends of Walter Anderson. WAMA Permanent Collection.



Walter Inglis Anderson was born in 1903 on Broadway Street in New Orleans, Louisiana. He experienced life in the Southeastern United States at a time when the world around him was quickly modernizing. In response to the industrialization of the mainland, Anderson sought the solitude and sanctuary of nature and the barrier islands. Anderson's subject matter features everything from the indigenous inhabitants of the Gulf Coast to endangered creatures that once freely roamed its shorelines. His career is punctuated with large-scale murals that vibrate and ripple with energy.

Anderson is perhaps most well-known for his intimate watercolors of Horn Island, a barrier island twelve miles off of the shore of Ocean Springs. The artist would row a small skiff out to the island where he observed and captured the majesty of nature—as well as its terrible power—on 8.5 X 11-inch typing paper. These and many other works displayed within this exhibition continue to astonish and delight observers. Anderson's artworks and writings reconnect his viewers to the natural world, urging us to stop, study, and appreciate nature in all her glory.

“The realization of form and space is through feeling. When I feel the beauty of a flower on the trunk of a tree, I am at one inducted into a world of three dimensions and have a sense of form which is opposite of artificial forms and conventions.”

—WALTER INGLIS ANDERSON

**"I live and have my being in a world of space
and forms which have color and shape.
Consciousness of this means being alive."**

—WALTER INGLIS ANDERSON

LEFT: Walter Inglis Anderson, *Frogs*, c. 1955.
Watercolor on Paper. Gift of the Friends of Walter
Anderson. WAMA Permanent Collection.
RIGHT: Walter Inglis Anderson, *Crab*, c. 1942.
Iron Gall Ink on Paper. Gift of the Friends of Walter
Anderson. WAMA Permanent Collection.



This exhibition introduces audiences to one of the South's most prolific and intriguing artists. Within the exhibition, jewel-toned watercolors are accompanied by the lyrical lines of pen and ink illustrations. Deftly executed pencil sketches present the artist's understanding of form and style, and glowing examples of ceramics decorated by Anderson provide examples of the artist's versatility and ingenuity.

This exhibition features 40 original art objects from Museum's Permanent Collection and the Family of Walter Inglis Anderson.

The running time for this exhibition is approximately eight weeks. The rental fee for the exhibition is \$8,000.00 plus shipping. The borrower will be required to provide fine art insurance for the exhibition and provide WAMA with a certificate of insurance prior to exhibition shipment.

TO INQUIRE ABOUT BOOKING, CONTACT:

MEGHAN LYMAN AT MEGHAN@WALTERANDERSONMUSEUM.ORG.

Upon request, WAMA is able to coordinate additional programming including: lectures, a showing of the Emmy Award winning documentary film *Walter Anderson: The Extraordinary Life and Art of the Islander*, and educational materials. These items are available for an additional fee and may be coordinated based on time and availability. See attached form for descriptions and pricing.