

ISABELLA
STEWART GARDNER
MUSEUM

**Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Announces February 5 Reopening
Following Temporary Citywide Museum Closures in Response to
COVID-19**

Museum Invites Visitors to Find Beauty and Tranquility in Shen Wei: Painting in Motion and Brilliant Courtyard Display of Tropical Plants

BOSTON, MA (February 1, 2021) – The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (ISGM) will reopen to the public on Friday, February 5, 2021, following a seven-week closure that began December 16, 2020. The Museum's reopening coincides with Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh's most recent announcement that Boston will return to Step One, Phase Three of the Reopening Massachusetts plan. Visitors will once again be able to view [Shen Wei: Painting in Motion](#), as well as a new Courtyard display of tropical and subtropical plants.

"The Gardner Museum offers the community a much-needed respite during these stressful times. In addition to the Palace's galleries, we have two extraordinary offerings: the critically-acclaimed Shen Wei exhibition and our recently-installed tropical Courtyard," said Peggy Fogelman, *Norma Jean Calderwood Director*. "We are pleased to once again welcome visitors to explore the many special spaces in our museum, as we continue to implement safety protocols designed to protect visitors and staff."

Drawing upon both Chinese and western culture, *Shen Wei: Painting in Motion* presents an immersive gallery experience that explores the artist's multi-disciplinary artistic practice encompassing painting, drawing, filmmaking, and dance. The new Courtyard installation will premiere a display of dozens of bright, tropical Cymbidium and Lady Slipper orchids alongside lush calla lilies, flowering jasmine, eucalyptus and date palms. In this first Courtyard display of 2021, the Gardner horticulture team is carefully transporting more than 300 potted plants from its greenhouses to the museum over a few day period (while avoiding this week's freezing temperatures). Additionally, two guided meditations have been specially created by India Clark of the Wayfinder Institute to encourage visitors to find calm in both the [Shen Wei exhibition](#) and [Courtyard spaces](#).

To ensure a safe, enjoyable experience, the Museum will continue implementing strict safety protocols following state and local guidelines and requests that all visitors adhere to these policies as they plan their visit. Safety policies include:

- The Museum will be operating at a 25% visitor capacity (under state guidelines).
- Entry to the Museum will be timed, with all members and visitors required to reserve or purchase tickets in advance. Tickets will be made available for specific entry times between 11 am – 3:30 pm Monday through Friday, and 10 am – 3:30 pm on Saturday and Sunday. The Museum requests that visitors arrive no more than five minutes ahead of their designated time slot.
- As mandated by the City of Boston, all Museum staff and visitors (age five and older) are required to wear a mask or cloth face covering for the duration of their time in the Museum.
- Inside the Museum, while in line for entry, visitors must observe six feet of physical distance between themselves or their party, and others, including Museum employees.
- Wipes and hand sanitizer will be available throughout many areas of the Museum.

For full information on new safety policies, how to plan a visit, and to purchase tickets, all are asked to visit ismg.org/welcome.

The Tropical Courtyard will be on display until mid-February.

[Shen Wei Painting in Motion](#) remains on view through June 20. Information on virtual and in-person programming [can be found online](#).

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum invites you to escape the ordinary in a magical setting where art and community come together to inspire new ways of envisioning our world. Embodying the fearless legacy of its founder, the Museum offers a singular invitation to explore the past through a contemporary lens, creating meaningful encounters with art and joyful connections for all. Modeled after a Venetian palazzo, unforgettable galleries surround a luminous courtyard and are home to masters such as Rembrandt, Raphael, Titian, Michelangelo, Whistler, and Sargent. The Renzo Piano wing provides a platform for contemporary artists, musicians, and scholars, and serves as an innovative venue where creativity is celebrated in all of its forms.

Shen Wei: Painting in Motion is supported by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and members of the Friends of Fenway Court Patron Program. Support for Shen Wei's Residency and the Artist-in-Residence program has been provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Barbara Lee Program Fund. Community programs created in partnership with the Pao Arts Center and Chinese Folk Art Workshop are made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts and Barr Foundation Arts Amplified initiative. The Museum receives operating support from the

Massachusetts Cultural Council. Media sponsor: WBUR

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum • 25 Evans Way Boston MA 02215 • Hours: Open weekdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. • Admission: Adults \$20; Seniors \$18; Students \$13; Free for members, children under 18, everyone on his/her birthday, and all named "Isabella" • \$2 off admission with a same-day Museum of Fine Arts, Boston ticket • For information 617 566 1401 • Box Office 617 278 5156 • www.gardnermuseum.org

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