

ISABELLA SEWART GARDNER MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Announces July 15 Reopening to the Public Following Closure in Response to COVID-19

The announcement comes after Massachusetts enters Phase 3 of reopen plans for organizations, including museums, around the state



The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, photo by Nic Lehoux.

BOSTON, MA (July 6, 2020) – The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum announced today it would reopen to the public on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, following a three-and-a-half month period of closure in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Museum's reopening to the public coincides with Governor Baker's confirmation that the State is approved to enter Phase 3 of its reopening plans, effective in Boston July 13, 2020.

“We are so grateful to welcome the Boston community back to the Gardner Museum. These past months have challenged us to reimagine how we reach our audiences digitally, while reminding us of the very real need for personal experiences with art. There's no substitute for a direct encounter with the Museum's blooming Courtyard and unique galleries,” said Peggy Fogelman, Norma Jean Calderwood Director of the Gardner Museum. “We also acknowledge we'll be opening to a different world than it was just back in March, and with it, new

opportunities for us to grow and evolve as a Museum alongside our communities. What hasn't changed, and remains more vital than ever, is our founder's promise that this be a place for the education and enjoyment of the public forever. We look forward to seeing you here at the Gardner."

To ensure a safe, enjoyable experience, the Museum has implemented a number of safety protocols following state and local guidelines, and asks that all visitors adhere to these policies as they plan their visit. Safety policies include:

- The Museum will be operating under limited visitor capacity.
- 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, and the Museum asks visitors to 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, as 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 Gardner Museum visitors are asked to visit isgm.org/welcome.

To celebrate the Gardner's reopening, admission will be free for all on the first day of reopen, though pre-reserved timed tickets will still be required. Tickets will be available for purchase and reservation beginning Wednesday, July 8, 2020.

The Gardner Museum also announced the extension of the critically acclaimed [Boston's Apollo: Thomas McKeller & John Singer Sargent](#) exhibition, now running through October 12, 2020.

"I'm pleased for the opportunity to extend the run of *Boston's Apollo*, giving more people a chance to see it for themselves and engage with the exhibition's themes of race, class, and sexuality," said Nathaniel Silver, William and Lia Poorvu Curator of the Collection. "*Boston's Apollo* raises questions and themes as relevant now as they were in McKeller and Sargent's time, and I'm thankful to all of the community and academic collaborators who helped interpret the exhibition's themes and bring to life the remarkable story of Thomas McKeller."

Additionally, the Gardner Museum has extended its cancellation of onsite programming and events through November 13, 2020. Plans for alternative digital programming offerings in support of *Boston's Apollo* and other Museum programming through late summer early fall will be announced in due course.

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.

The lead sponsors of Boston's Apollo: Thomas McKeller and John Singer Sargent and exhibition-related programming are Amy and David Abrams, Bank of America, and the Henry Luce Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation, Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Wyeth Foundation for American Art. The Museum also receives operating support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Media Sponsor: Boston Globe.

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum • 25 Evans Way Boston MA 02215 • Hours: Open Daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays until 9 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. • Admission: Adults \$15; Seniors \$12; Students \$10; 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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