

In Conversation

Where LAC's history meets its next chapter

Artist Handout • Artwork due February 14, 2027 • Show opens April 2027

Choose a piece from LAC's permanent collection that moves or intrigues you, then make something new in response. Your work will hang beside the original, so the two can speak to each other. This handout offers starting points for your response, and a few guidelines for treating the collection with care.

Ways to Respond

Same subject, new eyes

- **Revisit the place.** Many pieces show real Lynchburg-area spots. Paint or photograph the same view today.
- **Same subject, different life.** Answer a portrait with a portrait of someone from your own life, or a still life with what daily life looks like now.
- **Continue the story.** Imagine what happened before or after the moment shown, or what sits just outside the frame.

Borrow from the original's craft

- **Palette study.** Pull the original's colors and build something entirely different from them.
- **Composition echo.** Keep the structure (angles, balance, where the eye travels) and change everything else.
- **Same technique, new content.** Learn from how the original was made, then apply it to your own subject.
- **Cross-medium translation.** Fiber, sculpture, or photography answering a painting, or the reverse. You don't need to work in the original's medium.

Respond to the artist or the story

- **Answer the artist.** Many collection records include bios and clippings. Respond to the life behind the work, not only the image.
- **Honor a detail.** Take one gesture or object that caught you and let it grow into its own piece.
- **Across generations.** Acknowledge the gap in time: what has changed in Lynchburg and in the art world, and what hasn't.
- **Write to it.** A letter or poem to the artist, shown alongside your visual response.

Work with the pairing itself

- **Many voices, one piece.** More than one artist may respond to the same work. Cluster displays are welcome.
- **Agree or push back.** Your response can echo the original or contrast with it, as long as it stays respectful.
- **Respond to a relationship.** Some pieces are linked (a restorer and the artist, a grandmother and granddaughter, several artists painting the same sitter). You can respond to the connection.

Your Artist Statement

Every response comes with a written statement, which hangs beside the pairing and helps visitors see the conversation. Write a minimum of one paragraph and up to one page about your process, why you chose this piece, and what you discovered along the way. Anything else that would enrich the pairing is welcome too, such as something you learned about the original artist, a memory the piece stirred, or a choice you made and why. A sketchbook page or study showing how the conversation developed can travel with your piece and adds depth to the pairing.

Please submit your statement with your artwork by February 14, 2027.

Presentation Guidelines

Handling & physical care

- Permanent collection pieces are moved, unframed, or rehung only by LAC staff or designated volunteers, never by the responding artist. Work from photos and in-person viewing.

Presentation parity

- The historic piece and your response receive equal visual weight: comparable framing and mounting, similarly sized labels. This is a dialogue between equals, not a backdrop for new work.
- Labels share one format. Original: artist, dates, title, medium, date, provenance line. New work: artist name and a short line drawn from your statement.

Accuracy before it's public

- Titles, dates, and attributions are confirmed against the physical piece or a second source before appearing on a label, in print, or online.
- Where a detail stays uncertain, the label says so plainly (e.g. "attributed title") rather than presenting a guess as fact.

Respecting the work

- Your response is a genuine dialogue with the original, not a parody or a correction. Interpret freely, with respect for the piece and the artist who made it.
- Where a donor's family is still local, LAC will offer a courtesy heads-up that their relative's work is being featured.
- Final say on which pieces are included rests with LAC's collections contact, who will confirm any open question about attribution, condition, or fit before a piece is offered.

Questions? Please email Emily Flint at lynchburgartclubmarketing@gmail.com