

**A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY**  
500 North Indian River Drive • Fort Pierce, Florida 34950  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Life Too Fast? Celebrate International Slow Art Day,  
Saturday, April 4 at the Backus Museum**

Fort Pierce, Florida, March 9, 2020 – If your life feels non-stop, take or make a moment to slow down and sign up for a refreshing, unhurried art experience. “Slow Art Day” is an international grassroots idea that encourages people to savor the experience of viewing and sharing art in a relaxed group setting. This local opportunity is a partnership program of the Backus Museum and the Fort Pierce Art Club.

It is said that the average person spends 27 seconds looking at a work of art. “In a museum, they sometimes call it ‘wall cruising,’” says J. Marshall Adams, Executive Director of the Backus Museum. “It’s kind of like flipping channels or through a magazine in a waiting room, you’re just skimming the surface, maybe that’s all the time you have. Or maybe, in a museum, you don’t know how to pause and take it all in, how to experience a work of art and try to get the most out of it. Slow Art Day is for the curious, and encourages us to discover and appreciate art at a slower pace.”

Founded in 2009 by Phil Terry, the CEO of the consulting firm Creative Good, Slow Art Day asks participants to spend ten minutes looking at a single work of art, focusing intently on the piece before them. After viewing five art works, the participants then convene over food or drinks to reflect and discuss their experience together. In the past decade, over 1,500 Slow Art Day events have been held on all seven continents.

There will be two opportunities to experience “Slow Art” at the Backus Museum on April 4. The first program, “Lunch Date,” will start at the Museum at 11:00 am, where Adams will facilitate a guided viewing of five paintings with participants to last approximately one hour. The group will then meet at Cool Beans Brew to discuss the experience over lunch, with selections provided by The Flavorful Fork for purchase, also lasting approximately one hour, over no later than 1:30 pm.

The second program, “Over Drinks,” will start at the Museum at 3:00 pm, and will follow the same format of guided viewing for approximately one hour, then meeting up at Cool Beans Brew for choice of coffee or other beverage available for purchase to discuss the experience for one hour, all concluding by 5:30 pm.

Each program is free and designed for adult conversation, open to “art people” and “non-art people” alike, but is limited to 14 people. Advance registration is required. There are multiple ways to register: visit [www.BackusMuseum.org](http://www.BackusMuseum.org) or the Museum’s Facebook page @AEBBackusMuseum; [www.FortPierceArtClub.org](http://www.FortPierceArtClub.org) or the Club’s Facebook page @FortPierceArtClub; or search [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com) for these events in Fort Pierce, and

following the instructions to reserve your place. The Backus Museum is located at 500 North Indian River Drive in Historic Downtown Fort Pierce, Florida 34950. Cool Beans Brew is located at 1115 Delaware Avenue, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950.

“Making time to find art in your life can be so important,” says Jeanne Johansen, president of the Fort Pierce Art Club. “There are so many studies lately that show visiting museums and galleries has positive effects on your health and wellbeing. Slow Art Day is great for taking a break, maybe testing the waters, but we think you can enjoy the benefits of art every day.”

Currently on view at the Backus Museum is the special exhibition **James F. Hutchinson: Visionary Truths**, through April 26, 2020. As a teenager, James Hutchinson (b. 1932) developed his artistic skills in the studio of “Bean” Backus, and quickly grew to become a renowned painter in his own right by following his own path. This special exhibition of more than 30 oil paintings, drawn from his own collection, presents the artist’s story through his journeys describing the idyllic beauty of the land (Florida, Jamaica, Hawai’i), and his captivating insight for the Seminole peoples. Among a lifetime of honors, in 2011 Hutchinson was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. The exhibition is generously sponsored by Fee, Yates and Fee Attorneys at Law.

### **About International Slow Art Day**

Slow Art Day - The annual event celebrating art

<https://www.slowartday.com/>

The Average Person Spends 27 Seconds Looking at a Work of Art. Now, 166 Museums Are Joining Forces to Ask You to Slow Down – Artnet, 2019

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/slow-art-day-2019-1508566>

Slow art? It will 'blow your mind' – BBC, 2019

<https://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-47699001>

Slow Down, You Look Too Fast – Art News, 2011

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/slow-down-you-look-too-fast-391/>

### **About the Fort Pierce Art Club**

Bringing artists of all types together for over 60 years, the Fort Pierce Art Club has had numerous great artists and patrons over its long history. Members include artists, musicians, dancers, and performers in and around Fort Pierce. Today, the Art Club is working in the community coordinating events at museums, local businesses / restaurants in Fort Pierce and along the Treasure Coast.

### **About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**

With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery houses the nation’s largest public presentation of artwork by Florida’s preeminent painter, A.E.

“Bean” Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state’s only permanent multimedia exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, A.E. “Bean” Backus (1906-1990) was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the businesses and the private collections of many of Florida’s most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the Florida Highwaymen. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim.

Regular Hours are: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 PM (closed Monday-Tuesday); the Museum is closed on Easter Sunday. Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

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IMAGES AVAILABLE:

2 images of visitors enjoying a gallery experience at the Backus Museum

Slow Art Day logo with Backus Museum and Fort Pierce Art Club

Slow Art Day at the Backus Museum promotional poster image