

# Discoveries in Detail:

## Jacques Le Moyne and Theodor de Bry

The extraordinary career of the Huguenot artist Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues (c. 1533 – 1588) has only recently been fully defined and described. The fall season at The Cummer not only highlights two important facets of this artist's career, but also illuminates contemporary connections to the work of Jacques Le Moyne, the first European artist to travel to North America.



Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues (French, c. 1533 – 1588), *Species Rose with Snail*, c. 1580, watercolor and gouache on paper prepared as vellum, From the collection of Arader Galleries.

Not much is known of his early years. A native of Dieppe, France, Le Moyne likely received some artistic training there, as the city was a leader in 16th century cartography and manuscript illumination. In 1564, he journeyed to Florida with a group of French soldiers, led by René Laudonnière, as the expedition's official cartographer and artist. While Laudonnière and the others were charged with the establishment of a Huguenot colony at Fort Caroline, Le Moyne was charged with documenting the customs of the Timucua, the native inhabitants of the North Florida area, as well as local flora and fauna. Unfortunately, a Spanish attack destroyed the Fort and killed most of its inhabitants, and Le Moyne and a handful of others were forced to return to France. Unable to salvage his illustrations of the settlement and the Timucua,

Le Moyne would recreate these scenes at the end of his life. A Flemish publisher, Theodor de Bry, and his two sons used Le Moyne's watercolors as inspiration for the illustrations in their picture book, *A Brief History of Those Things Which Befell the French in Florida*, which they published in 1591. This publication is considered to be an important text in the history of exploration. An exhibition in the Thomas H. Jacobsen Gallery of American Art, *Voyages to the New World: Jacques Le Moyne and Theodor de Bry*, presents all 42 engravings from this book, drawn from the Collection of Michael and Linda Fisher.

After Le Moyne returned to Europe from the failed settlement at Fort Caroline, he pursued a career as a botanical artist, first in France, and later in Elizabethan London, where his patrons included Sir Walter Raleigh. Most botanical illustrations were printed, but in rare instances wealthy patrons commissioned original painted works. Sixty-one extraordinary botanical paintings, executed in watercolor and gouache, will be on display in the Raymond K. and Minerva Mason Gallery, in the exhibition *Botanical Watercolors by Jacques Le Moyne*. These works were part of a series of 80 plates removed from a single manuscript, which is considered to be Le Moyne's finest and most lavish achievement. Of the 80 plates, 56 paintings show flowers and leaves, sometimes with delicate butterflies, dragonflies or other insects, while the twenty-three remaining works depict fruits and nuts. The works selected for The Cummer's exhibition are a good blend of each.

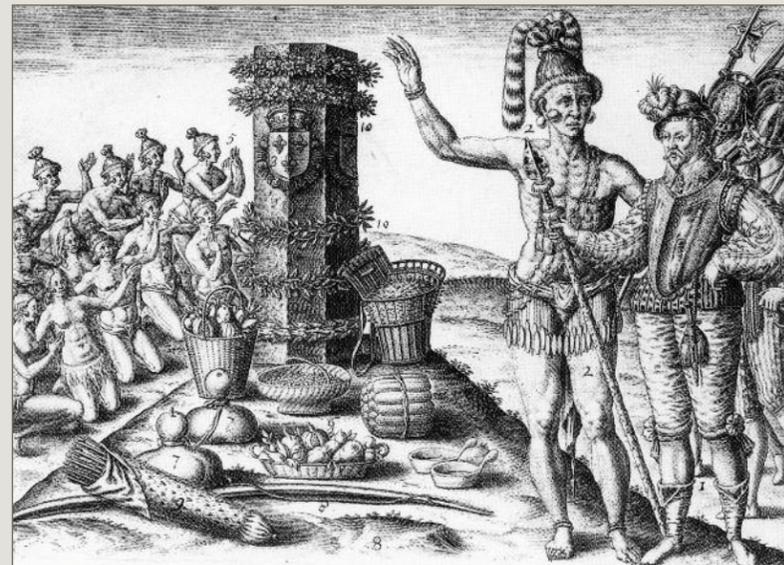
Manuscripts of this type are known as florilegium, a flower book designed in part to show the decorative possibilities of flowers for arrangements in vessels, or as patterns for embroidered textiles. The first forms of these compilations emerged about 1540 and primarily were scientific texts, concerned with documentation rather than beauty. These early illustrations were simple woodcuts, and it was Le Moyne who is credited with introducing aesthetic qualities into these technical drawings.

Noted art historian William H. Gerdt, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Graduate School of the City University of New York, has said:

*While Le Moyne's watercolors are undeniably paintings of great charm and beauty, they also encompass information for the naturalist – flowers are depicted in various stages of growth, and the fruits and nuts are often dissected in order to reveal their interior structure as well as their outward appearance.*

This format would prove successful for Le Moyne. In 1586, he published *La Clef des Champs* for Lady Mary Sidney, with simple woodcuts designed to be used as models for painting, embroidery or tapestry. Another small volume of 59 watercolors of plants belongs to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, while other volumes are in the collections of the British Museum, the Garden Library at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, and the Oak Spring Garden library in Upperville, Virginia. Through Le Moyne's work, England gained prominence in botanical illustration.

Another exhibition also in the Mason Gallery at The Cummer, *Artist Response: Botanicals*, explores the relationship between Le Moyne's works and contemporary art. Jacksonville artists Linda Broadfoot, Emily Arthur Douglass, and Susan Ober will each present photographs, prints, and drawings inspired by Le Moyne's watercolors. When asked about this experience, Broadfoot said, "I was delighted when recently I discovered Le Moyne's sensitive botanical prints, complete with insects. This era of wonder and discovery is fascinating to me and I'm thrilled at the parallels between my botanical and entomological work and Le Moyne's."



Theodor de Bry (Flemish, 1528 - 1598), *The French Captain Sets up a Column Bearing the Arms of the King of France* from *Grands Voyages*, vol. 2, plate VI, 1591, engraving on paper.

The botanical theme continues in the Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Millner Gallery at The Cummer with *New View: Botanicals*. The *New View* program is a partnership with the Visual Arts department at Douglas Anderson School of the Arts. This partnership, which began in 2005, allows students to study in-depth one work of art at The Cummer and reinterpret it through a variety of media. Inspired by the tradition of Le Moyne's botanical watercolors, students used their newly xeriscaped garden to create drawings.

Special events, classes, workshops, and other programs are offered throughout the fall and winter that will provide visitors with an in-depth look at the multi-faceted career of Jacques Le Moyne.

(background image) (detail) Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues (French, c. 1533 – 1588), *German Iris and Insect*, c. 1580, watercolor and gouache on paper prepared as vellum, From the collection of Arader Galleries.

## Mark your calendars for these special programs

### Lecture ~ *The Mocama-Timucua: What the French Didn't Tell Us* with Dr. Keith H. Ashley

Tuesday, October 20 ~ 7 p.m.  
Members and Non-members \$5

### A Day in the Gardens with Jacques Le Moyne

Saturday, October 31 ~ 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Join Duval County Extension Service Master Gardeners for a scientific-name tour of Cummer Garden specimens, a Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program rainbarrel workshop, native plants lecture and an indoor tour of the exhibition.  
Tours and Workshop Free  
Lecture \$5  
Please call (904) 899-6004 for more information.

### Lecture ~ *Painter in a Savage Land: The Strange Saga of the First European Artist in North America* with author Miles Harvey

Tuesday, November 3 ~ 7 p.m.  
Author and map scholar Miles Harvey recounts the escape of Elizabethan-era artist Jacques Le Moyne from the massacre at Jacksonville's Fort Caroline. Book signing with Miles Harvey following the lecture.  
Members and Non-members \$5

### Family Night

Tuesday, November 10 ~ 4 to 9 p.m.  
Enjoy live music, performances, artist demonstrations and art making inspired by the exhibitions.  
Free Admission  
Activities and programming funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida.  
Free Tuesdays sponsored by THE PLAYERS.

### Lecture ~ *The Search for Fort Caroline* with Dr. Robert Thunen

Learn about recent discoveries on the true location of the Fort.  
Tuesday, November 17 ~ 7 p.m.  
Members and Non-members \$5

### Readers' Theater: *Tales from the Timucua*

Tuesday, December 1 ~ 7 p.m.  
Presented by *Players by the Sea*.  
Members and Non-members \$7

### Botanical Illustration with Sarah Crooks Flaire

Saturday, December 5 ~ 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Deepen your understanding of plant forms and how to render them.  
Members \$75, Non-members \$95, Active Docents \$60

### Especially for Seniors

Seated gallery talks with afternoon tea and refreshments following.  
Reservations required.  
Members and Non-members \$6

### October 21 or 22, 1:30 p.m.

*Botanical Watercolors by Jacques Le Moyne*

### November 18 or 19, 1:30 p.m.

*Artist Response: Botanicals*

### December 9 or 10, 1:30 p.m.

*Voyages to the New World: Jacques Le Moyne and Theodor de Bry*

## Artist in the Store Events

### Douglas Anderson School of the Arts

Tuesday, December 1 ~ 6 to 8 p.m.  
Meet art students from Douglas Anderson School of the Arts from the *New View: Botanicals* exhibition in The Cummer Store.

### Susan Ober

Tuesday, December 8 ~ 6 to 8 p.m.  
Meet local artist Susan Ober from the *Artist Response: Botanicals* exhibition in The Cummer Store.

### Emily Arthur Douglass

Tuesday, December 15 ~ 6 to 8 p.m.  
Meet local printmaker Emily Arthur Douglass from the *Artist Response: Botanicals* exhibition in The Cummer Store.

### Linda Broadfoot

Tuesday, December 22 ~ 6 to 8 p.m.  
Meet local photographer Linda Broadfoot from the *Artist Response: Botanicals* exhibition in The Cummer Store.

For more information about these events, please call The Cummer Store at (904) 899-6035.

## Children's Classes

### Art Adventures on Saturday

Ages 6 to 12  
Members \$10, Non-members \$15

### Saturday, October 17, 10 a.m. to Noon

*Botanical Illustration*  
Create a botanical masterpiece with pen and ink

### Saturday, November 21, 10 a.m. to Noon

*A Timucua Feast*  
Explore native foods with linoleum block printing

### Art for Two on Saturdays

Children ages 3 to 5 and their favorite adult enjoy gallery visits, art making and time in Art Connections.  
Members \$10 per pair, Non-members \$15 per pair

### Saturday, November 14, 10:30 a.m. to Noon

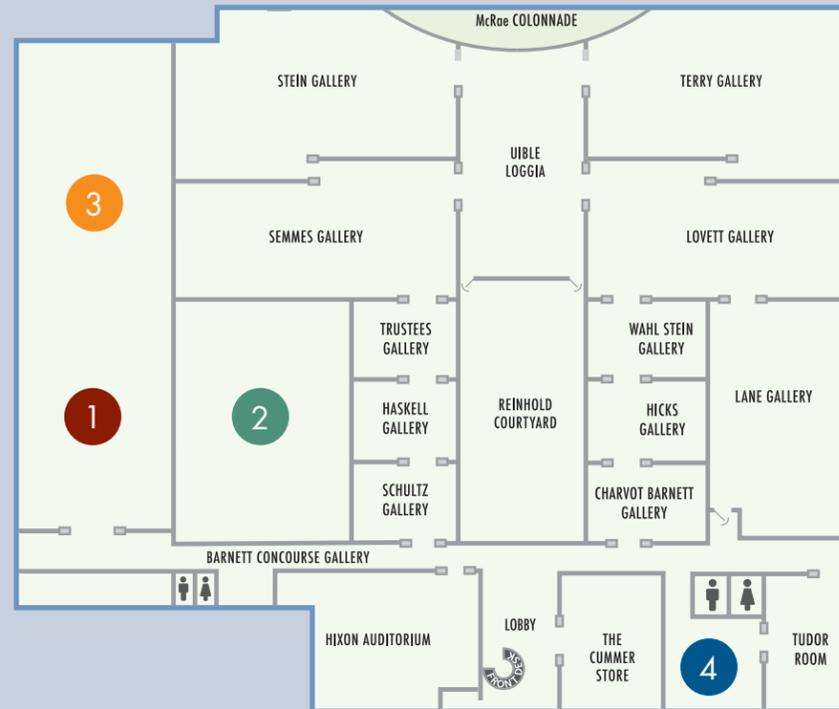
*Still Life*

### Saturday, December 12, 10:30 a.m. to Noon

*Botanical Monotypes*

**For program reservations and information, please call (904) 355-0630.**

*Exhibition locations within the museum*



- 1** **Botanical Watercolors by Jacques Le Moyne**  
 Raymond K. and Minerva Mason Gallery  
 Sixty-one extraordinary botanical paintings, executed in watercolor and gouache, are presented in the Mason Gallery. These works were part of a series of 80 plates removed from a single manuscript, considered to be one of Le Moyne's finest achievements.
- 2** **Voyages to the New World: Jacques Le Moyne and Theodor de Bry**  
 Thomas H. Jacobsen Gallery of American Art  
 Le Moyne's observations while on expedition in Florida in 1564 are drawn from the collection of Mr. Michael and Dr. Linda Fisher. All 42 images, engraved by Flemish publisher Theodor de Bry in the 17th century, tell the story of the French settlement at Fort Caroline.
- 3** **Artist Response: Botanicals**  
**Linda Broadfoot, Emily Arthur Douglass and Susan Ober**  
 Raymond K. and Minerva Mason Gallery  
 Jacksonville artists, Linda Broadfoot, Emily Arthur Douglass and Susan Ober, reinterpret the tradition of botanical art found in Le Moyne's watercolors by using photography, printmaking and drawing.
- 4** **New View: Botanicals**  
**Douglas Anderson School of the Arts**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Millner Gallery  
 Students from Douglas Anderson used their newly xeriscaped garden to create drawings inspired by the tradition of Le Moyne's botanical watercolors.

*Exhibition Sponsors:*

- Elkins Constructors, Inc.*
- Laura and Billy Howell*
- Mrs. Barbara H. Arnold*
- Mr. and Mrs. Willis M. Ball III*
- Mr. and Mrs. William B. Barnett*
- Mr. Bill Gardner*
- Mrs. Edward W. Lane, Jr.*
- Mrs. Walter McRae*
- Mr. and Mrs. Steven M. Rosenbloom*
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Shircliff*



**The Cummer**  
 MUSEUM of ART & GARDENS  
 829 Riverside Avenue  
 Jacksonville, FL 32204  
 (904) 356-6857  
 www.cummer.org

*Printed by Agility Press, an FSC Certified Printer*



*Discoveries in Detail:*  
*Jacques Le Moyne and Theodor de Bry*

- *Botanical Watercolors by Jacques Le Moyne*
- *Voyages to the New World:*  
*Jacques Le Moyne and Theodor de Bry*
- *Artist Response: Botanicals*  
*Linda Broadfoot, Emily Arthur Douglass and Susan Ober*
- *New View: Botanicals*  
*Douglas Anderson School of the Arts*

OCTOBER 16, 2009 THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2010



(front cover) Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues (French, c. 1533 – 1588), *Apple*, c. 1580, watercolor and gouache on paper prepared as vellum, From the collection of Arader Galleries.  
 (map panel background image) (detail) Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues (French, c. 1533 – 1588), *Dragon Arum and Tortoiseshell Butterfly*, c. 1580, watercolor and gouache on paper prepared as vellum, From the collection of Arader Galleries.