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Media Contact, Harn Museum of Art:
Tami Wroath, Director of Marketing and Public Relations
352.294.7067 | twroath@harn.ufl.edu

**Harn Museum of Art Presents *Painting St. Augustine*
at The Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum**

GAINESVILLE, FL, May 16, 2022— The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida is presenting a new exhibition, *Painting St. Augustine: Selections from the Samuel H. and Roberta T. Vickers Collection*, at The Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum, St. Augustine, FL. The exhibition, featuring works by more than twenty artists who captured vibrant landscapes and city views of St. Augustine, opened May 13, 2022 and be on view through May of 2023.



Frank Henry Shapleigh, *Fort Marion from San Marco Pier, St. Augustine, Florida*, 1887, Harn Museum of Art, The Florida Art Collection, Gift of Samuel H. and Roberta T. Vickers

The thirty-six paintings on display date from the late 19th to the mid-20th centuries and cover a broad range of themes from views of coastlines and waterways to depictions of historic landmarks, picturesque streets and courtyards. Collectively, these paintings comprise a visual record of Florida's oldest city, its unique topography and climate, as well as its people and their daily lives. The exhibition is drawn from The Florida Art Collection, a landmark gift given to the Harn in 2020 by Samuel H. and Roberta T. Vickers.

“It was truly exciting to research and comb through the Vickers’ gift of more than 1200 works to select key paintings that illustrate the area in which they will be presented,” said Dulce Román, Harn Chief Curator and Curator of the exhibition.

Visitors to St. Augustine in the late 19th century included artists who were inspired by the area's historic sites and the tropical beauty of the islands and forested wetlands along the coast. Artists such as William Staples Drown, Robert S. German, Frank Henry Shapleigh and Laura Woodward first visited in the 1880s and gathered at the Ponce de León Hotel, now part of Flagler College. Completed in 1888, this grand hotel built by Henry Morrison Flagler included artist studios and exhibition spaces. By the 1890s, St. Augustine had become a winter playground for artists and tourists alike, and paintings such as those on view in the exhibition held a direct appeal to visitors who could purchase them as souvenirs of their travels.

Painting St. Augustine also includes works by celebrated artists who were either year-round residents or wintered in St. Augustine in the early to mid-20th century. Examples include Arthur Vidal Diehl, Emmett Fritz, Hildegard Muller-Uri, Heinrich H. Pfeiffer and Anthony Thieme. Artists came to St. Augustine in larger numbers, opened art galleries and formed art organizations such as the St. Augustine Arts Club, founded in 1931. They promoted St. Augustine as a vibrant arts community and exhibited their paintings at venues throughout the country. The stirring landscapes and vivid scenes of the city's distinctive landmarks on view in the exhibition serve as enduring support for artist Anthony Thieme's declaration that St. Augustine is "the most paintable city in America."

"We are pleased to be working with UF Historic St. Augustine to share these works with residents and visitors to the St. Augustine area," said Dr. Lee Anne Chesterfield, Harn Museum of Art Director. "Being the recipient of one of the most extensive collections of Florida-themed art provides a huge opportunity and responsibility to share the immense history illustrated by these artists."

The Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum is located in the heart of historic downtown St. Augustine at the intersection of King Street and St. George Street overlooking the historic Plaza de la Constitución. For more information on The Governor's House Cultural Center and Museum visit www.staugustine.ufl.edu/visit.html. Admission is free.



Arthur Vidal Diehl, *St. Augustine*, 1920, Harn Museum of Art, The Florida Art Collection, Gift of Samuel H. and Roberta T. Vickers

About the Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university's system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 13,300 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic, Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions and virtual educational programs for adults, students and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida's Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information visit harn.ufl.edu.