Flamethrower creates next exhibit

BIBLIOFILES

Dana Hendrix

On January 28, we'll say "hello" to a new exhibit in the Georgetown Public Library's gallery area: Stuart Wallace's exhibit *Future Artifacts of Sprawl and Sting* will be upstairs January 28-March 1, with an artist reception from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, February 3.

Mr. Wallace's exhibit features wood that he burns using a flamethrower, and incorporates ball moss, wasps, wasp nests and rope. The work includes photography incorporating these elements along with assemblage. Photographs are displayed in unique burnt wood frames.

Stuart Wallace founded the North Austin Creatives and is president of Georgetown Art Works, the nonprofit organization that oversees the Georgetown Art Center. He also serves as chair of the exhibits committee for the Art Center. He's a stay-at-home father and artist, and this is his debut solo exhibition. The public is invited to come out for the reception February 3 and meet the artist, enjoy some refreshments and see the art.

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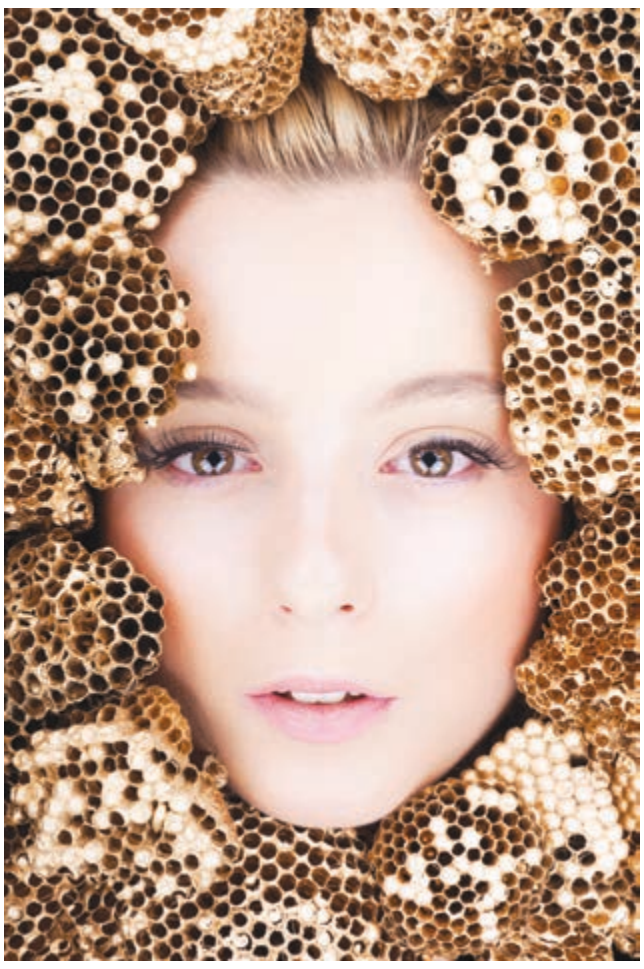
The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up by Marie Kondo was a New York Times bestseller that came out in the U.S. in 2014. Netflix released a reality series this month starring the author. In *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo,* families open their homes and closets and Kondo works with them to declutter closets, dressers, file cabinets, kitchen cabinets … and bookcases.

She asks people to put all of the books they have in their home in stacks together on a table or floor and take in the sheer number of them (for some of us this alone would be quite a project). Then she asks people to tap each stack to "wake the books up," an idea that appeals to me — in a way I do think of my books sleeping on the shelves until I take them down and "wake them up" to read. Once the books are assembled and awake, Kondo directs her clients to take each one into their hands and consider it to see whether the book sparks joy for them. Individual books (just like neckties, or citrus juicers or elementary school portraits) that don't spark joy can be thanked for their past usefulness and then let go for donation or recycling, leaving the home tidy and joyful.

Some people have had passionate reactions to the notion that they might not be best served by keeping all of their books, and as is typical with an explosion of temper on social media, lots of people are angry without having read the book or watched the series.

For many reasons, decluttering can be a good idea. Having fewer books means less to dust, more dollars saved and fewer trees made into paper. But not any less reading.

Marie Kondo's books and other recent titles about decluttering don't advocate reading less — only mindfully considering each item we store in our home. In Season 1, Episode 5 of Kondo's reality series, she says, "Books are the reflection of our thoughts and values." Considering each book in your bookcase can help you focus on what is important to you at this moment. If you have books that are just sleeping on your shelf that you don't plan to re-read and don't feel emotionally attached to, why not let go of them? But don't stop reading.



Stuart Wallace's solo exhibit *Future Artifacts of Sprawl and Sting* will be at the library January 28-March 1.

If you are in a decluttering mode this month along with much of the country thanks to Marie Kondo, the library offers various ways to help with your efforts. Library card holders can rely on the library's collections and services: check out a book about decluttering, or put yourself on the waiting list for a new bestseller you want to read rather than purchasing it. Or use your library barcode and password to check out the e-book or e-audiobook copy of a book you want to read through Overdrive's Libby app.

You can also save money and trees if you purchase your books from the Second-Hand Prose bookstore, run by our Friends of the Library organization on the second floor of the library. And when you finish decluttering, consider donating your books to the library, where they may end up on the shelves of the store, waiting to spark joy for another reader.

See you in the library!

Dana Hendrix is the Fine Arts Librarian at the Georgetown Public Library.

A few library events

- Through January 25, Curly Clark: *Trilogy: Freedom – Peace – Wisdom* exhibit (second floor)
- Through March 1, Robert Rosamond: *Longhorns and Lobsters: Watercolors of Texas and Maine* exhibit (first floor)
- January 25-26 — Stuffed Animal Sleepover
- January 28-March 1 — Stuart Wallace: *Future Artifacts of Sprawl & Sting* exhibit (second floor)
- January 29, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. — National Puzzle Day (various puzzles available to work on)
- February 1, 4:30 p.m. — Crazy 8s Math Club (grades 3-5; limited admission)
- February 2, 1:30 p.m. — Safe Driving Workshop for Teens
- February 3, 3-5 p.m. — Artist Reception for Stuart Wallace
- February 9, 1-2 p.m. — Tween Spa Science (ages 9-12; limited admission)
- February 9, 3 p.m. — Teen Power Rangers IRL: Attack of Lord Zedd (ages 12-18)

Consult the Library Events Calendar at library.georgetown.org for more information about these and other library programs.

Longley to speak at series

The Friends of the Georgetown Public Library will host Kyle Longley at the next Hill Country Author Series event at 2 p.m. February 5 at the Georgetown Public Library, 402 West Eighth Street.

Mr. Longley is an award-winning historian, professor and author of eight books that focus on U.S. foreign relations and modern American politics. He was named director of the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin in July 2018.

At the event, Mr. Longley will feature his newest book, *LBJ's 1968: Power, Politics, and the Presidency in America's Year of Upheaval.* In this book, Longley explores how LBJ perceived the most significant events of 1968, including the Vietnam War, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, and the violent Democratic National Convention in Chicago. As much a biography of a single year as it is of LBJ, *LBJ's 1968* vividly captures the tumult that dominated the headlines on a local and global level.

Copies of Mr. Longley's books will be for sale at the event. Dessert by the Red Poppy Café is included. Mr. Longley will sign copies of his books and visit with attendees after his presentation. Tickets are $15 in advance or $18 at the door. See https://folgeorgetown.org/ for more details.

Friends of the Georgetown Public Library advocates, raises funds and provides support for the library and gifted the library with $68,000 this past year.

For information about the Friends or the Hill Country Author Series, contact Pat Jefferson at 940-382-8786, patj1712@gmail.com or see https://folgeorgetown.org/

Wine tasting Swirls into its 10th year

Wine Uncorked

Michael Walton

Attention wine lovers: the 10th annual Georgetown Swirl is just around the corner. Do you have your tickets yet?

It's hard to believe this event, sponsored by the Georgetown Main Street Program, has been going on for a decade. The Swirl features wine, food and shopping around our beautiful Square.

Some years have been cold, others rainy and, of course, there have been a few picture perfect nights. Let's hope the weather this year is ideal.

A few years ago the organizers introduced the VIP experience, first held in the Williamson County Courthouse and, for the past three years, upstairs at Gumbo's. VIP will be back on the second floor of the courthouse for this anniversary from 5-7 p.m., featuring Texas wines paired with a custom menu.

Gumbo's will provide the food and Stanzeski's Cheese, Wine & Charcuterie will provide an exclusive wine. This and the awesome balcony views from the courthouse are available as part of the $125 VIP ticket.

The regular $50 ticket includes 10 wine tastings plus a variety of tasty food bites from a selection of wineries and local area restaurants. Each will be set up inside various retailers and other businesses around the Square. This year's event will be from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, March 2 on the Square.

Many of the wineries that have participated in previous Swirl events will be back this year.

Georgetown Winery, Grape Creek and Flat Creek Winery of Marble Falls will all be back this year, along with Watson Vineyards of Coleman and Torr Na Lochs of Burnet, both participating for their second year.

One of the great things about the Swirl is the opportunity to try new wines, many of which are not available in Georgetown.

I think everyone will be excited about Fredericksburg's Lost Draw Cellars joining the event this year. We don't know exactly what they'll bring to the event, but everything I've tasted has been quite good. Be sure to check them out.

If you're counting, you may wonder which wineries are filling the remaining four spots. They haven't been finalized as I write this, but you can be certain that one or two will be familiar and the others will be new participants.

I hear that tickets are going fast so if you want to take part in this annual celebration, head over to this website to get yours today — https://swirl.georgetown.org/tickets/

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 2. All proceeds benefit the Main Street Program, which has awarded some $469,000 in matching grant funds to more than 80 downtown property owners.

Cheers to the Georgetown Swirl!