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Smithsonian Closes Four Museums Due to Covid, Robert E. Lee Time Capsule Opened, and More: Morning Links for December

BY THE EDITORS OF ARTNEWS

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The National Museum of African Art in Washington, D.C.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN ART/SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Breakfast with ARTnews newsletter

The Headlines

LET'S HEAR FROM THE ARTISTS. **Tony Oursler**, the master of the uncanny video sculpture, answered questions

His biggest mistake? “Losing track of friends. They vanish, sometimes permanently.” **Shane MacGowan** (the onetime **Pogues** frontman) **talked to** *The New York Times* about a luxe new book of his art and writing. And the fearless painter of (sometimes nude) self-portraits **Joan Semmel**, 90 next year, **chatted** with historian **Marta Gnyp**, in an interview excerpted by Artnet News. Discussing the attitude toward women artists early in her career, she said, “You were not expected to be certain things. You were not expected to be ambitious. You were not expected to be called a genius. You were not expected to even be confident.”