

Dear Friends,

There are seasons at a museum when everything seems to come together: great art, talented people, generous supporters, and the opportunity to share something meaningful with our community. This fall and winter will be one of those seasons for us. As we prepare to welcome two extraordinary exhibitions, we are also celebrating the curatorial work, scholarship, and investment that make it possible to discover—and rediscover—stories within American art.

Beginning in November, we will have the pleasure of presenting two beloved names in American art simultaneously: Mary Cassatt and the Wyeth family. Following the remarkable response to last year's Norman Rockwell exhibition, we are excited to welcome audiences back for another season of artists whose popular appeal and images are deeply familiar, while offering new opportunities to look more closely and see something we may not have noticed before.

Among Friends: Mary Cassatt and Her Circle invites us beyond the familiar image of Cassatt as a painter of mothers and children to discover the remarkable woman and artist behind it. Her independence, experimentation, friendships, and determination to succeed as a professional artist were groundbreaking. I am especially proud that the exhibition was drawn substantially from our Museum's own deep collection and organized by Elizabeth Levie, Polly Thayer Starr Charitable Trust Curatorial Fellow, with support from the Museum's new Hamm Family Curatorial Fellow, Lydia Holleck—representing an investment not only in research, but in developing the next generation of curatorial leaders.

Indeed, the Hamm Family Curatorial Fellowship program, established through the generosity of Charlie, Irene, and Liza Hamm, is leading the Museum's new spirit of discovery around our own stellar collection. Lydia Holleck, our inaugural fellow, has the opportunity to devote time to studying works deep in our vault—asking new questions and uncovering stories and connections that might otherwise remain hidden. With more than 10,000 works in the collection, and many never before displayed, we have an incredible opportunity for rediscovering valuable stories in American art and advancing visitor engagement with dynamic rotations. There is something especially meaningful about a Museum supporter investing in the study of our own collection and in the professional development of the people doing that work. Lydia's discoveries will deepen our understanding of the collection and help us share it with audiences in new ways. Be sure to read more about the Fellowship, Lydia, and her work in this issue.

Then, *The Wyeths: Three Generations* brings together more than sixty works spanning a century of artistic achievement. Organized and sponsored by Bank of America and drawn from the Bank of America Collection, the exhibition offers a rare opportunity to experience N. C., Andrew, and Jamie Wyeth and reflect on the remarkable artistic legacy they share. This partnership is also a model for how museums and corporations can work together to make ambitious exhibitions possible and help sustain them into the future.

Exhibitions like these do more than fill our galleries. They bring people through our doors—longtime Members, dedicated art lovers, and, importantly, first-time visitors who may be drawn by something deeply familiar but consistently leave inspired through the discovery of something unexpected. They inspire learning and conversation while generating lifelong engagement with art and all the benefits that cultural enrichment brings to life.

Most importantly, they remind us why we are here: to connect people with American art—and, through art, with one another.

I hope you will join us this season.

Warm Regards,

Brett Abbott

BRETT ABBOTT
Executive Director and CEO

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ON THE COVER: N. C. Wyeth, *Young Maine Fisherman* (detail), 1933, Oil on canvas, 53 ⅜ x 48 ⅛ in., Bank of America Collection

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