

Dear Friends,



2020 is a historic year, marking the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in America. Remarkably, it took over 40 years of tireless work by women's rights activists to witness the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920, which guaranteed Americans the right to vote, regardless of gender. It is no wonder that leading suffragist Susan B. Anthony remarked, "Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it." Moreover, many Americans, including black and marginalized communities, were still unable to cast a ballot until the Voting Rights Bill was passed in 1965, prohibiting discriminatory practices that prevented many from voting. As Election Day has just passed, I reflect on how our right to vote is not only a hard-won privilege, but one of our most precious civic responsibilities.

This year, in honor of the centennial of women's suffrage in America, the NBMAA launched a major initiative entitled 2020/20+ Women @ NBMAA, in which all of our special exhibitions throughout 2020 and into 2021 have been dedicated to female-identifying artists. Additionally, we have reinstalled our permanent collection galleries and focused acquisitions on work by women artists and artists of color to bring greater representation and diversity to our galleries for years to come.

As part of our initiative, we are thrilled to present four phenomenal special exhibitions that are currently on view: *Anything But Simple: Shaker Gift Drawings and the Women Who Made Them*; *Lights, Camera, Action: Ellen Carey at the Delamar Hotel*, and two exhibitions that we were proud to open last month: *NEW/NOW: Shantell Martin*, and *Some Day is Now: Women, Art & Social Change*. Spanning a century of American history, *Some Day is Now* showcases historic ephemera from the women's suffrage movement, together with nearly 100 works by iconic American artists of the 20th and 21st centuries—including Faith Ringgold, Yoko Ono, Jenny Holzer, the Guerrilla Girls, and many others—whose work advocates for equality and justice for women and all people. Presenting the work of one of today's most innovative and groundbreaking artists, *NEW/NOW: Shantell Martin* represents the artist's first Museum career survey and explores the ways in which Martin's multidisciplinary work engages commerce, technology, and fine art, as well as race and identity.

We encourage you to visit these inspiring exhibitions at the NBMAA, and to participate in both virtual and in-person programs, including a lecture performance and workshop by the Guerrilla Girls later this month. As we reflect on this month's election, and on the future, we encourage you to make your own "Art For the Vote," inspired by the works of exhibiting artists Jenny Holzer, Faith Ringgold, and Barbara Kruger, available on our website at: www.nbmaa.org/art-for-the-vote.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Min Jung Kim'.

With warm regards,
Min Jung Kim
Director and CEO