

Greetings,



I am thrilled to arrive during such an exciting time for the NBMAA. As evident in a spike in visitation and the unwavering support of our Members and donors, you clearly recognize and embrace this Museum as a point of refuge. In fact, the NBMAA is seeing its second highest visitation and Museum Store sales since 2016.

Immediately, I noticed the generosity of a dedicated group of Museum supporters and Members. From my office window, I can see the brand-new Theresa and Mark Bonney Plein Air Arbor. The pergola will enhance the recent Landers House renovation by activating the terrace, providing a space for museum-goers and event attendees to gather while overlooking the stunning view of Walnut Hill Park.

In the coming months, I look forward to meeting as many Members and supporters as possible and sharing with you my optimism for continuing the Museum's ongoing effort to best represent the evolving narrative of American Art. I also hope to build on our existing community relationships and further strengthen the Museum's connections to our neighbors and beyond.

Upon arrival, I was welcomed with an exquisite landscape exhibition, *The Poetry of Nature*. Isn't that fitting, since one of my favorite aspects of the Museum is its location at the edge of the historic Walnut Hill Park? I see great potential in utilizing the Museum's location to cultivate a space where art can seamlessly flow into our surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to the vast array of works on view, I am inspired by the volume of educational offerings. These programs help provide relevant context to the Museum's exhibitions and inspire art-making within the local community.

I am excited to unveil an extraordinary lineup of future special exhibitions and permanent collection installations that amplify a variety of American voices and truly reflect the expanding definition of American Art. The installation of Mildred Thompson's vitreographs, coming from our permanent collection, is the first time this group of works has been shown at the NBMAA. Opening in June, it is our profound honor to present the special exhibition *30 Americans*, drawn from the collection of the Rubell Museum. This will be its very first presentation in the Northeast. Additionally, the NBMAA had the opportunity to work with a team of excellent guest curators to showcase these significant works within a distinctive experience.

This is my first chance to thank you all for your incredible support of this Museum. I know there will be many more opportunities to express my gratitude and appreciation in the future.

Brett Abbott
Director and CEO