



NBMAA
2023 Fall Newsletter



DEAR FRIENDS,

We can all agree the most valuable part of the oldest Museum dedicated to American Art in the nation is its people. NBMAA Members, supporters, visitors, volunteers, Trustees, and staff bring the Museum's objects to life through learning and accessibility. As we conclude a blockbuster summer of engagement that included *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!*, I reflect on the myriad touch points along the visitor journey for the thousands who experienced the Museum in the past few months. Sponsor and funder generosity, curatorial and education expertise, marketing efforts, and visitor services hospitality worked in harmony to generate robust, multigenerational visitation.

We will carry this spirit of connecting the public to the evolving story of what it means to be American into the presentation of an exciting lineup of new fall and winter exhibitions. *Anila Quayyum Agha: Illuminations* and *Women Reframe American Landscape*, along with the continuation of stunning shows like *Ellen Carey: Struck by Light* and *Shaker Masterworks: Mount Lebanon, NY*, will

be complimented by a truly diverse array of related programming teed up by the Education team.

While we celebrate our talented staff, I am excited to report three significant developments for the Museum's leadership team. Debra Holcomb joins as the Museum's new Director of Development. A seasoned fundraising leader, Debra's expertise in major gifts, planned giving, campaign development, and strategic planning align with the NBMAA's mission and aspirational goals. Stephanie Heydt has been appointed Director of Collections and Exhibitions and will join the Museum in early November. Stephanie is a nationally-respected curator of American Art who brings more than 25 years of experience in the field. And finally, I am thrilled to report that Kathy Butler will be staying with the NBMAA for one more year as Director of Engagement and Learning after fulfilling a year in that role as interim. We are so grateful for Kathy's expertise and dedication to the Museum.

Our most important fundraising function of the year is just days away. The *21st Annual Art Party of the Year* is shaping up to be a blast and I hope to see many of you there. This year's event honors the incredible commitment and patronage of Trustee Emeritus David Polk, celebrates 120 years of collecting art at the Museum that began with John Butler Talcott's seminal gift, and is inspired by *Ellen Carey: Struck by Light*. If you can't join us in person on October 21, we invite you to participate in our auction or make a Gala donation at artpartyoftheyear.org.

Finally, I join the entire Museum community in mourning the loss—and celebrating the life of—longtime supporter and Trustee Emeritus Christine Shivery (1948 - 2023), who passed on June 14. A Trustee for a decade, generous NBMAA donor, and talented artist in her own right, Chris left a lifelong legacy through her generosity, service, and friendship to the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Thank you all for your unwavering support of the New Britain Museum of American Art. Enjoy this magnificent New England autumn and see you at the Museum soon.

Warm Regards,

Brett Abbott
Director and CEO

IN MEMORIAM

Quincy Abbot – former Member
John A. Adamian – former Member
Ivan A. Backer – longtime Member and donor
Joseph Belkin – longtime Member and donor
Robert L. Cerciello – former Member and donor
Kristine Colby – former Member
Katherine Dinep – former Member
Gordon Fowler – longtime donor
Ruth Kristoff – longtime Member
Angela V. Lepore – longtime Member
Mary Margaret Piazza – Docent, volunteer, longtime Member, and donor
Christine Shivery – Trustee Emeritus, former volunteer, premier Member, and donor
Michael S. Terezakis – longtime Member and donor
Brenda Adkins Zaino – former Member

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

04 | EXHIBITIONS:

Anila Quayyum Agha: Illuminations

Women Reframe American Landscape

Masterworks of Shaker Design: Mount Lebanon, NY

Nor'Easter: The 53rd Annual Juried Members Exhibition

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EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Anila Quayyum Agha: Illuminations is made possible by the generous support of Arbella Insurance Foundation, The Bristle Cone Pine Foundation, and the Howard Fromson Endowment for Emerging Artists.

Women Reframe American Landscape is organized by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in association with the New Britain Museum of American Art and is curated by Dr. Nancy Siegel, Professor of Art History at Towson University; Kate Menconeri, Chief Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, Contemporary Art, and Fellowship at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, and Amanda Malmstrom, Associate Curator at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site.

Women Reframe American Landscape: Susie Barstow & Her Circle / Contemporary Practices is made possible by the Warner Foundation.



The project is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Wyeth Foundation for American Art and Tavolozza Foundation. The exhibition and publication are also supported by Jennifer Krieger and Eric Siegel, Rick and Candace Beinecke, Marshall Field V., and Allan E. Bulley, Jr.

In New Britain, the exhibition is presented by the Kathryn Cox Special Exhibitions Fund and Jay Bombara and Allison Reilly-Bombara. Additional generous support provided by The Cheryl Chase and Stuart Bear Family Foundation, The Robert Lehman Foundation, and Marena and Todd Stitzer.



Cover: Anila Quayyum Agha, *Intersections*, 2013, Lacquered steel and halogen bulb, 78" x 78" x 78"

Our thanks to the following NBMAA supporters:



StanleyBlack&Decker

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Fund



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CORRECTION

The caption for the cover image of the summer calendar mailer should read Shaunda Holloway and Aileen Ishmael attending the *30 Americans* exhibition at the NBMAA. Learn more about these talented women here:

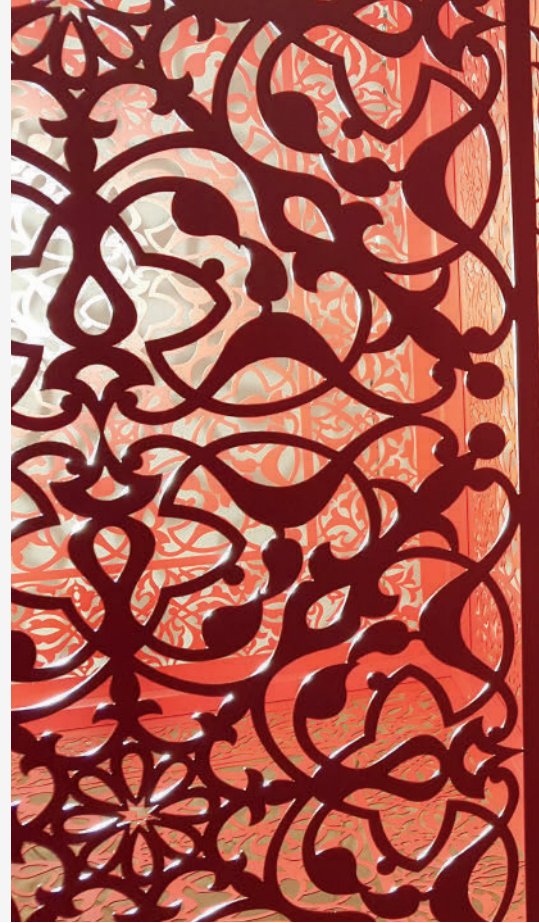
Shaunda Holloway-Artist/Curator/Writer
www.shaundaholloway.com

Aileen Ishmael, Artist/Educator
<https://bit.ly/AileenIshmael>

ANILA QUAYYUM AGHA: ILLUMINATIONS

OCTOBER 26, 2023 - APRIL 28, 2024

William L. & Bette Batchelor Gallery and Alix W. Stanley Gallery



This October ushers in a dazzling, immersive NEW/ NOW exhibition featuring the work of Anila Quayyum Agha (b. 1965), an internationally celebrated artist who explores the complexities and contradictions of her experience as a Pakistani immigrant to the United States through monumental installations and intimate paintings and drawings. This exhibition features her iconic light sculpture *Intersections* in concert with new paintings and works on paper.

Throughout her career, Agha has treated light and shadow as subjects that reference Islamic art and architecture and interrogate prescribed gender roles, ideas of home and belonging, and the intersections of identity and culture. Agha's large-scale cube installations cast light and shadow across architectural spaces to immerse viewers in shared and inclusive experiences. The patterns Agha laser cuts into the lacquered-steel cubes are a reinterpretation of floral and geometric motifs found in Islamic art and architecture in Asia and Africa. Suspended and lit from within, the cubes cast elaborate floor-to-ceiling shadows that transform the surrounding environment, alluding to the richly ornamented public spaces such as mosques that Agha was excluded from as a female growing up in Lahore.

In addition to her suspended installations, Agha creates wall-mounted two-dimensional works that play with light, shadow, and pattern. Her recent work includes resin paintings in which Agha radically expands her

use of color and explores pattern in new ways. She departs from her characteristic streamlined palettes in favor of vivid hues inspired by the high-contrast color combinations popular in South Asian and African textiles.

Since 2019, her work has been featured in thirteen solo museum exhibitions worldwide. Agha received a BFA from the National College of Arts, Lahore, and an MFA from the University of North Texas. She resides in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Augusta, Georgia, where she is a professor and the Eminent Morris Scholar of Fine Art at Augusta University. Major awards include the 2019 Painters and Sculptors Grant from the Joan Mitchell Foundation and the 2021 SARF (Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship). In 2019, Agha's work was included in *She Persists* at the Venice Biennale.





Bottom right: Anila Quayyum Agha, *Intersections*, 2013, Lacquered steel and halogen bulb, 78" x 78" x 78"

Bottom left: Anila Quayyum Agha, *The Sum of All Its Parts I (Mughal Gardens)*, 2022, CNC Carving, Colored Resin, 47" x 47" x 2"

ARTIST STATEMENT

Having lived on the boundaries of different faiths such as Islam and Christianity, and in cultures like Pakistan and the USA, my art is deeply influenced by the simultaneous sense of alienation and transience that informs the migrant experience. This consciousness of knowing what is markedly different about the human experience also bears the gift of knowing its core commonalities and it is these tensions and contradictions that I try to embody in my artwork. Through the use of a variety of media, from large sculptural installations to embroidered drawings I explore the deeply entwined political relationships between gender, culture, religion, labor and social codes. In my work I have used combinations of textile processes such as embroidery, wax, dyes, and silk-screen printing along with sculptural methodologies to reveal and question the gendering of textile work as inherently domesticated and excluded from being considered an art form. My experiences in my native country and as an immigrant here in the United States are woven into my work of redefining and rewriting women's handiwork as a poignant form of creative expression. Using embroidery as a drawing medium I reveal the multiple layers resulting from the interaction of concept and process and to bridge the gap between modern materials and historical patterns of traditional oppression and domestic servitude. The conceptual ambiguity of the resulting patterns, create an interactive experience in which the onlooker's subjective experiences of alienation and belonging become part of the piece and its identity.



WOMEN REFRAME AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

NOVEMBER 18, 2023 - MARCH 21, 2024

Stitzer Family Gallery and Robert and
Dorothy Vance Gallery



MEMBERS OPENING RECEPTION

**Saturday, November 18
4:30 p.m.**

*(directly following the 3:00 p.m.
Curator's Lecture)*

Illuminating the artistic contributions and perspectives of women, this two-part exhibition includes the first retrospective of the nineteenth-century American artist Susie M. Barstow (1836–1923) and a presentation of contemporary works by artists Teresita Fernández, Guerrilla Girls, Marie Lorenz, Tanya Marcuse, Mary Mattingly, Ebony G. Patterson, Anna Plesset, Wendy Red Star, Jean Shin, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Cecilia Vicuña, Kay WalkingStick, and Saya Woolfalk. Engaging multigenerational perspectives, this exhibition recenters women in the canon of American art and expands how we think about land and landscape.

The nineteenth-century portion of this two-part exhibition includes the first ever solo exhibition and deep dive into the life and work of artist Susie M. Barstow (1836–1923), who exhibited and sold work alongside Hudson River School icons such as Albert Bierstadt, Frederic Church, and Asher Brown Durand, but has received little scholarly attention until now. A prolific and important artist in her day, major works by Barstow are on view, along with the artist's sketches and materials and a selection of works by artists in her circle, including Julie Hart Beers, Fidelia Bridges, Charlotte Buell Coman, Eliza Greatorex, Mary Josephine Walters, and Laura Woodward.

In conversation with Barstow and her nineteenth-century circle, the exhibition features works by thirteen internationally-acclaimed artists, who draw upon diverse processes and perspectives to complicate and rethink our relationship to land and landscape today. Responding to and at times challenging historical narratives, many of the artists created unique, site-responsive installations for this exhibition.

Organized by the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in partnership with the New Britain Museum of American Art, this is one initiative among many to continually see landscape art in the United States as dynamic, multifaceted, and evolving. The exhibition is curated by Dr. Nancy Siegel, Professor of Art History at Towson University; Kate Menconeri, Chief Curator and Director of Curatorial Affairs, Contemporary Art, and Fellowship at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site, and Amanda Malmstrom, Associate Curator at the Thomas Cole National Historic Site. It is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue published by Hirmer that includes essays by the curators, a conversation between Candice Hopkins and Jolene Rickard, texts and plates by the artists, and a timeline on women, land, and art. Additionally, the exhibition coincides with the first monograph on Susie M. Barstow authored by Nancy Siegel.

Left: Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, *Unhinged (Map)*, 2018, mixed media on canvas, 60 x 40 in., Courtesy of the artist and Garth Greenan Gallery, New York, NY

Right: Susie M. Barstow, *Landscape*, 1865. Oil on canvas, 30 x 22 in. Betsy and Al Scott Collection

MASTERWORKS OF SHAKER DESIGN: MOUNT LEBANON, NY

In 2023, the NBMAA launched a new exhibition series entitled *Masterworks of Shaker Design*, the first of which was titled *The Tale of Two Enfields*. Currently on view, the second exhibition in the series is devoted to the community of Mount Lebanon, New York. This was the first Shaker community to be “gathered into order.” As such, this was the first fully organized village dedicated to the principles of Shakerism: confession of sins (in private, to an elder or eldress), communal ownership of all goods and property, and celibacy. In addition, the full equality of men and women, acceptance of all races and creeds, and pacificism were foundational tenets.

In 1774, a small band of Believers who dissented from the established Church of England sailed from England to New York City, in the English colony of New York. They were led by an illiterate, but charismatic woman named Ann Lee; later called “Mother Ann.” Within a few years, the group established a foothold in a swampy area near Schenectady, New York, called Niskeyuna (later, Watervliet). They began proselytizing from this modest base and, by the mid-1780s, more than one hundred converts committed to their gospel message. Soon after, several adjacent farms in the area of the town called New Lebanon, New York, were consolidated into a single site. In 1787, this became the Shaker Community of New Lebanon.

NOW THROUGH MARCH 3, 2024

M. Stephen and Miriam R. Miller Gallery

From the start, and until the mid-20th Century, New (Mount) Lebanon was the seat of authority, sometimes referred to as the Central Ministry, for the entire movement. The Shaker Society eventually included eighteen long-lasting villages, stretching from Maine to Kentucky. This leadership role is a second reason for selecting New Lebanon as the focus for this exhibition. Finally, as a result of its size, at one time housing more than 600 members, and its relatively late date of closure, 1947, more artifacts have survived from here than from any other Shaker village.

The overarching goal of this series at the NBMAA is to bring to our visitors examples of the finest objects of Shaker design and craftsmanship. The NBMAA is grateful to the following lenders to this exhibition: Martin Kline, Darlene and George Kohrman, Dr. Don G. Wartella, John Keith Russell, and one private collector. We extend a special thank you to the Shaker Museum, Chatham, New York, Lacy Schutz, Executive Director, and Jerry Grant, Director of Collections and Research. They have been gracious institutional partners in this exhibition.

-M. STEPHEN MILLER, GUEST CURATOR

Left: *Side Chairs with Candlestand*, Mount Lebanon, NY, 1940-1852
Right: *Sewing Desk*, Mount Lebanon, NY, c. 1870



STEPHANIE MAYER HEYDT JOINS NBMAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

We are thrilled to announce that Stephanie Mayer Heydt will join the New Britain Museum of American Art's leadership team as our Director of Collections and Exhibitions in early November. Selected after an extensive search conducted by Museum Search and Reference, Stephanie is a nationally-respected curator of American Art who brings more than 25 years of experience in the field.

A graduate of Cornell University, Stephanie earned her MA in art history from the University of Chicago and her PhD in art history from Boston University. She served as the Margaret and Terry Stent Curator of American Art at the High Museum since 2009, overseeing a collection program spanning over 200 years of historic paintings, drawings, prints and sculpture. With her academic specialization in nineteenth-century paintings, prints, and popular culture, Stephanie expanded her areas of interest to address the full scope of the High's diverse American collection.



Before coming to the High, Stephanie held positions at the Gulf Coast Museum of Art, Harvard University Art Museums, and the Terra Museum of American Art (now the Terra Foundation for American Art), in addition to fellowships. In addition to her scholarship for the High Museum, she has contributed to several publications for institutions, including Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Harvard University Art Museums, the Terra Foundation for American Art, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Over the course of her career, Stephanie has also demonstrated her commitment to serving the museum profession and training the next generation of curators.



Stephanie Lanter, *Invocation*

NOR'EASTER: THE 53RD ANNUAL JURIED EXHIBITION

SEPTEMBER 21 – OCTOBER 8, 2023

William L. & Bette Batchelor Gallery and Alix W. Stanley Gallery

The Annual Juried Members Exhibition is the NBMAA's opportunity to showcase contemporary visual arts from the region. This prominent show highlights the exceptional work of emerging artists in all media.

Congratulations to this year's winners!

FIRST PRIZE: Stephanie Lanter

SECOND PRIZE: Will Holub

THIRD PRIZE: Eve Jacobs-Carnahan

JUROR'S CHOICE: Donald Bracken

Thank you to all of the artists that submitted to this year's exhibition and to juror Fritz Horstman.

EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY

Children, Families, & Community

This fall and winter, we look forward to seeing you and your family creating and learning in our studios and galleries! Join us for Artist Talks and Lectures related to special exhibitions *Anila Quayyum Agha: Illuminations*, *Ellen Carey: Struck by Light*, and *Women Reframe American Landscape*. Ignite your creativity in one of our studio classes, including our Art Start and Art Explorers children's classes that return this fall. And bring your family and friends to enjoy Free Admission during our Halloween and Holiday Makers' Market Community Days!

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

STUDIO@4

Ages 9-12

Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m.

OCTOBER | Photograms

NOVEMBER | Light Play

DECEMBER | Gifts of Art

JANUARY | Rethinking Landscapes

ART START

Ages 3-5

Saturdays, 11-11:45 a.m.

Art Start is back this October! This program helps caregivers and young children discover art together in the Museum. Listen to a story and then explore line, shape, color, and other elements of art with teaching artist Kathy Lotko. Kathy holds a BS in Elementary Education and an MS in Art Education. She taught Art in the Berlin School System at both the Elementary and Middle School levels, as well as Integrated Language Arts. She is a Docent at NBMAA and comes to us with 28 years of teaching experience. She combines literacy with various artistic media to develop her innovative weekly programs that enhance the child's experience here at the Museum.

ART EXPLORERS

Ages 6-8

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Art Explorers with Suzy Balay is back this November! Students learn to express their creativity using varied art methods and materials to create personal works of art inspired by Museum pieces. Explore a different area of the collection with new projects each week.

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT

The NBMAA is delighted to announce that Kathleen A. Butler, PhD, will stay on formally as Director of Learning and Engagement for an additional year after fulfilling the role in an interim capacity since January. Kathy is well known to our community, but her impressive qualifications include a Master's in History and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Connecticut. She has a special interest in the methods associated with reaching different kinds of learner, and spent 25 years in educational program development around the world prior to serving as chair of the Department of Education and then Dean of the School of Education at the University of Saint Joseph from which she retired as Professor Emeritus. The Museum is deeply grateful to Kathy for her continued service.





ADULT STUDIO

WATERCOLOR WITH MARY SMEALLIE

Wednesdays, October 4, 11, 18, 25, 1-3 p.m.
 Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 29, 1-3 p.m.
 Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 1-3 p.m.
 Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24, 31, 1-3 p.m.

STILL LIFE PAINTING | Kathleen Smits

Thursdays, October 5, 12, 19, 26, 3-5 p.m.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP | Sketch with the Masters

Sunday, October 15, 2-4 p.m.
 Sunday, November 12, 2-4 p.m.
 Sunday, December 10, 2-4 p.m.

POUR PAINT WITH SUE BYARS

Thursdays, November 2, 9, 16, 30, 5-7 p.m.

FREE COMMUNITY DAYS

Halloween Costume Day

Sunday, October 29, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Holiday Celebration & Makers' Market

Sunday, December 3, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, GALLERY TALKS, AND FILMS

Gallery Talk | *From the Vault* with Carol Lacoss

Wednesday, October 18, 1-2 p.m.

Artist Talk | Anila Quayyum Agha

Thursday, October 26, 5-6 p.m.

Virtual Lecture | Ellen Carey & John Reuter: Art & Technology in Polaroid & Photography

Sunday, November 5, 2-3 p.m.

Lecture | Curators' Round Table

Saturday, November 18, 3-4 p.m.

A panel discussion with the curators of *Women Reframe American Landscape*—Amanda Malmstrom; Kate Menconeri; Nancy Siegel, PhD—moderated by Lisa Williams, NBMAA Curator and Head of Exhibitions.

Artist and Writers | Carol Lacoss

Wednesday, December 6, 1-2 p.m.

Poetry Reading | CT Poet Laureate Antoinette Brim-Bell

Sunday, December 10, 2-3 p.m.

Artist and Writers | Carol Lacoss

Wednesday, January 10, 1-2 p.m.



FROM THE VAULT ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Do you ever have a “moment” while standing in front of a work of art? Have you recently experienced the wonder of the *From the Vault* installation? Why not come to see it again, but this time take a moment to share your moment. You’ll find an invitation to offer your thoughts as you tour the exhibition. Please write down your thoughts on the paper provided in the gallery and deposit it into the archive box. Feel free to include your name or stay anonymous. Your reflections will become part of the Museum’s archives—forever preserved in our collection. We can’t wait to hear from you.

SCHOOL SERVICES AND EDUCATOR PROGRAMS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | Mindfulness and Multisensory Art

Tuesday, November 7, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Join us at the NBMAA for a chance to recharge, renew, and refresh your perspective among the masterpieces of the Museum! This full or half-day mindfulness workshop and professional development experience begins in the galleries with an exercise of slowing down and engaging thoughtfully in the surroundings and the world around you. Workshop activities open with an all-levels yoga practice in the NBMAA’s newest special exhibition, *Anila Quayyum Agha: Illuminations*, followed by guided tours of the art in our permanent collections in and outside of the Museum, hands-on art making, and will conclude with stimulating breakout sessions and engaging conversation.

SCHOOL VISITS

By appointment Wednesday-Friday starting at 9:15 a.m.

Our tours are designed for your students! The NBMAA’s school visits are student-centered and created to enrich curricula and engage students in dialogue and discussion. Mix and match our Docent-led tours with thematically connected, hands-on, studio activities. For more information, visit <https://nbmaa.org/school-visits>

DOCENT-LED TOURS

SLOW ART TOUR

Wednesday, November 8, 1-2 p.m.

WALK-IN TOUR | Museum Masterpieces

Saturdays at 1 p.m. beginning September 23, 2023

WALK-IN TOUR | *From the Vault: Post-War to Contemporary Art*

Sundays at 1 p.m. | September 24, 2023 - October 29, 2023

WALK-IN TOUR | *Women Reframe American Landscape*

Sundays at 1 p.m. | December 3-17, 2023; January 14, 2024 - March 31, 2024





Israel Benyair, VP of Operations, Delamar West Hartford with Elizabeth Gourlay at the installation of her current show

DEVELOPMENT

Membership

Our commitment to growing our Membership base is always and continues to be a priority. And, as you can see from this newsletter, there are always many opportunities for Member engagement at the Museum throughout the year.

Please encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to join; consider purchasing a gift Membership this holiday season; and renew your Membership before it expires or perhaps consider upgrading. Your support is vital and we want you, our extraordinary group of Members, to keep enjoying all the benefits and not miss a minute of what this Museum has to offer. Go to nbmaa.org/support-us.

ART PARTY OF THE YEAR

The Museum will be closed on Saturday, October 21, 2023, for our annual gala. Visit www.artpartyoftheyear.org to learn more about the event.

ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

Save the Date for the NBMAA Annual Meeting of the Membership on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 4 p.m.

OUR APOLOGIES!

There was an error in the Summer 2023 newsletter Corporate Member listing. The correct listing is BoneeWeintraub. We apologize for the error.

MEMBER SHOPPING DAY

Join us on Tuesday, November 14, as we once again open our Museum doors for the annual Member Shopping Day! Browse through a huge selection of merchandise supplied through our own Museum Store. You are sure to find a gift for everyone on your list (and a few more for yourself!).

The mystery discount pencils are back by popular demand. Every Member pulls a mystery pencil at checkout to get 20-100% off your entire purchase.

You must make a reservation to enter the shopping event.

Choose from two time slots:

Morning Session 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Afternoon Session 1-3 p.m.

(These are just entry windows. You are welcome to stay as long as you wish!)

**REGISTER
HERE:**



To be eligible to attend Shopping Day, join or renew your Membership online at nbmaa.org/support-us.



DEBRA HOLCOMB, CFRE, JOINS NBMAA LEADERSHIP TEAM

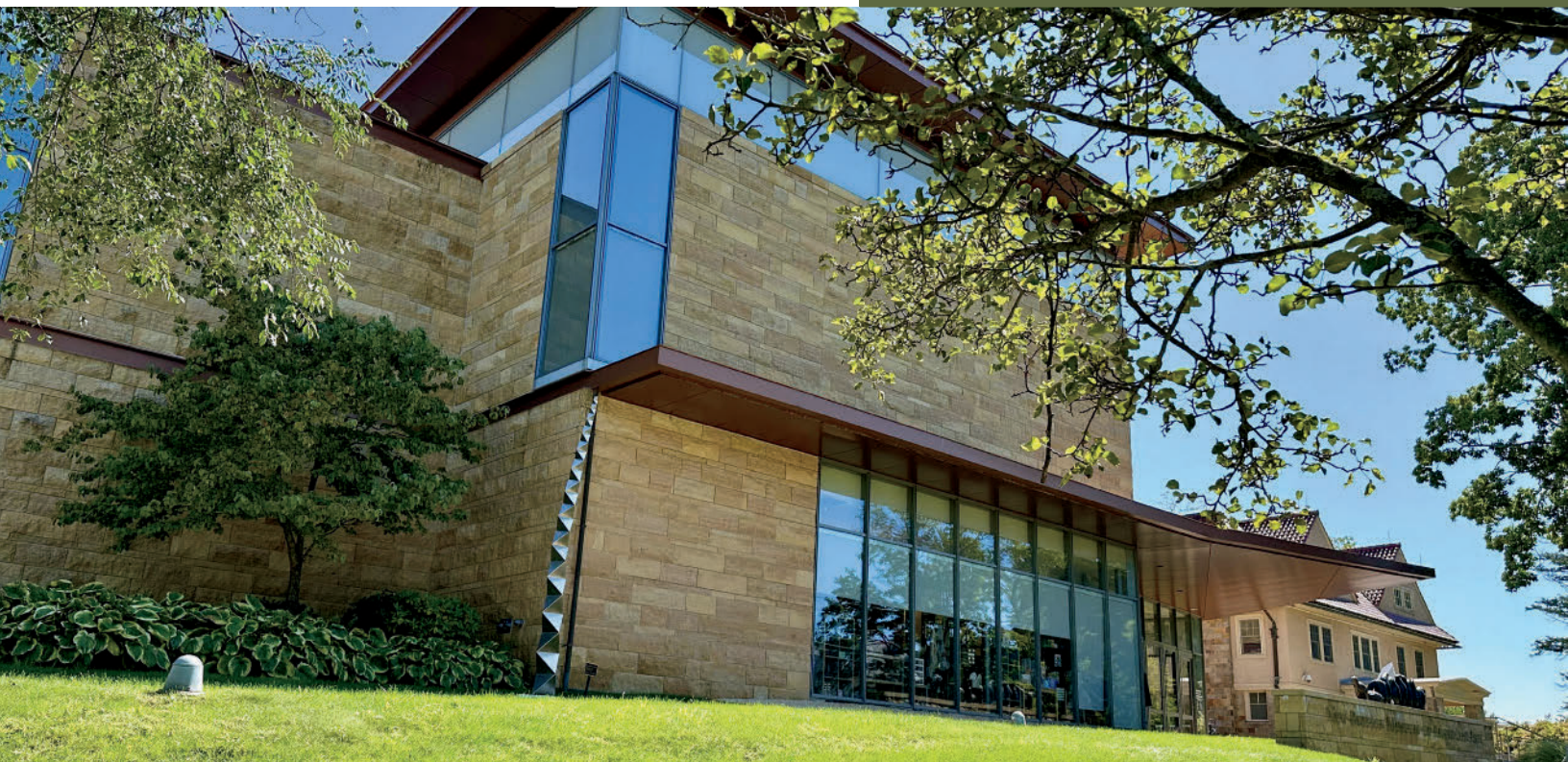
We are delighted to announce the addition of Debra Holcomb to the New Britain Museum of American Art's leadership team as our new Director of Development effective September 25. After an extensive four-month search conducted by Aspen Leadership Group, Debra was selected from a pool of 30 qualified candidates.

Debra brings with her an impressive background and a wealth of experience in the field of fundraising. She is a Certified Fundraising Executive and holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from UConn, as well as a Master of Education in Leadership and Supervision from Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH. Debra's familiarity with the region and its philanthropic landscape will undoubtedly contribute to her success in her new role.

Most recently, Debra served as the Associate Director of Gift Planning at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco, where she demonstrated her proficiency as a senior fundraising professional. Her former roles have provided her with expertise in major gifts, planned giving, campaign development, and strategic planning.

Debra's arrival marks a significant milestone for our institution, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact she will make on our development efforts. Her critical skills, decades of fundraising experience, and collaborative spirit will undoubtedly be a vital complement to our existing talented team, helping us achieve new heights of success in our fundraising initiatives.

Please join us in extending a warm and enthusiastic welcome to Debra.



| PREMIER MEMBERS LIST (AS OF 9/1/23)

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Mr. and Mrs. William Watson
Mr. Roy H. Wiseman and Ms. Lisa C. Kugelman
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Zaccheo MD
Mrs. Judith Zachs

| IN MEMORIAM



Christine Shivery (1948 - 2023)

“Her glass was always half full,” “she raised the fun factor,” “she was fun-loving, warm and generous”—these are just some of the ways her friends and colleagues at the NBMAA remember Christine Shivery. Add to that “dedicated Trustee,” “loyal Museum member,” and “generous patron,” Chris was the epitome of the NBMAA supporter. Chris died Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at her home in Florida.

As a Trustee from 2008 to 2018, Chris was very active, serving on numerous committees including the Executive, Acquisition and Loan (now Collections), Development, and Nominating Committees. On the Collections Committee, as a talented artist in her own right, she was particularly effective in reviewing proposed works for the permanent collection and outgoing loans.

It was in the development arena that her natural abilities particularly shone—as a team builder, fundraiser, and friend-raiser. She co-chaired the gala, The Art Party of the Year, not once but twice with Margaret Lawson and Susan Rathgeber in 2009 and 2010, raising a net \$389,000 from those two signature events. With her husband Chuck, Chris hosted gala tables year after year. She donated her artwork to the gala art auctions, recruited friends and acquaintances to work on the gala and spearheaded the first Artists Party, a special event to thank the many artists that contributed to the gala’s success.

Chris and Chuck contributed to the Museum generously and in many ways. As consistent major donors, the Shiverys not only maintained the Museum’s highest Membership level in the John Butler Talcott Society throughout Chris’s board tenure, they supported many special Museum projects. This included a major gift, in combination with a gift from Northeast Utilities of which Chuck was Chairman, President and CEO, during the 2015 \$21 million campaign that created the Shivery Gallery, which houses the Museum’s prized and ever-popular Impressionist works.

Chris was enthusiastically designated Trustee Emeritus status in October 18, 2017, after ten years of exceptional Board service.

We mourn her loss and celebrate the incredible impact she made at our Museum and in our community.

| MOVER AND SHAKER SPOTLIGHT



CAROL LACOSS

I had been retired from teaching English in high school for six years when I joined the Docent class of 2013. I missed teaching; I especially missed my students and colleagues and our discussions about literature and writing. The classroom was a place for discovery and understanding. When a friend who had been a Docent for several years suggested I might enjoy preparing and giving tours to students and adults at the NBMAA, I applied to the Docent program. I didn't realize at the time how meaningful and important these past ten years would be.

Having taught American Literature and American Studies for years, I now guide students and adults through the Museum galleries to explore the way American art helps in our understanding of the complexities and challenges of American history and identity. Discussions now focus on the ways artists use visual imagery to tell the many diverse stories of American life. Each painting, each sculpture, each photograph enables us to enter a new world. The building itself is such a beautiful and intimate space; it provides the perfect setting to share with others our discoveries.

My favorite artwork is Robert Henri's *An Imaginative Boy*. Every time I see this bright and vivid painting of a little boy, I smile and remember exactly why I love being a Docent. Henri captures this child's innocence, the sparkle in his

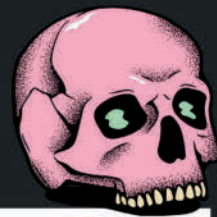
eyes, the sense that he can barely contain his exuberance a moment longer, yet he sits patiently, smiling at the artist and at us. I wonder what he is imagining, but whatever it is he seems delighted. This painting reminds me of how many children come to the Museum on tours to experience and learn about art in the galleries and to have fun creating their own artworks in the studios. Their eyes often sparkle, too, as they explore the artworks and create from their own imaginations. We all need to find places where we can experience delight and wonder. The NBMAA has become that place for me and so many others.

I am also grateful to the Museum for giving me the opportunity to create talks that have become a series entitled "Artists and Writers." In these hour-long talks in the galleries, I link artists with the writers who were their contemporaries and draw parallels between the visual artistic imagery and the written imagery and themes from passages of novels, speeches, and poems. Since the first talk I created in 2017, I have focused on the special exhibitions, linking Kara Walker with Frederick Douglass and Toni Morrison, Georgia O'Keeffe with Willa Cather and Wallace Stevens, Maurice Prendergast with F. Scott Fitzgerald and Edna St. Vincent Millay, and the American Transcendentalists with the artists in the *Poetry of Nature* exhibition in the spring of 2022.

For the exhibition *Women Reframe American Landscape* opening at the end of November, I will link Susie Barstow and other women painters from the Hudson River School with the nineteenth-century writers Harriet Beecher Stowe, Harriet Jacobs, and Emily Dickinson—drawing parallels with their imagery and perception of nature, as well as the courage, perseverance, and independent spirit these artists and writers showed throughout their lives. The talk will be offered on Wednesdays, December 6, January 10, February 7, and March 13. I look forward to once again sharing my love of art and literature with visitors to the Museum.



● museum after dark



HALLOWEEN PARTY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 8-11 P.M.

Museum After Dark's annual Halloween Bash—Connecticut's hottest Halloween party—returns for its 15th year to haunt the galleries of the NBMAA with spook-tacular dancing, dining, and drinks!

Hit the dance floor to tracks spun by DJ Will Ortiz, and peek into your distant future with a tarot card reading by Johanna Adams. Enjoy samples of craft beer created by Five Churches Brewing. Step into the "Alter Ego" photo booth to capture your fabulous costume, and additional Museum artists will keep the fun rolling with interactive art activities.

Cash bar will be available with cocktails.

Due to the popularity of this event, we recommend purchasing tickets in advance.

21+. *You must present valid ID upon arrival, AND YOU MUST bring your bar-coded ticket to enter, which you will receive as a PDF file in an email once your online purchase is complete.*

TICKETS:

- Designated Driver \$40
- Members \$40
- Non-Members \$55
- VIP Add On \$20

ADMISSION INCLUDES:

- Entrance to the Museum galleries
- Music
- Beer and wine
- Candy Bar
- Pizza
- Tarot Card Reading
- Photo Booth
- Costume Contest (1st place winner receives \$100 Visa gift card and a Museum Membership, 2nd place 2 Tickets to Yule Ball MAD, 3rd place 2 Tickets to Craft Sippin')

VIP ADD ON (ELM STREET) INCLUDES:

- Whiskey & Bourbon Tasting
- Light snacks
- "Zombie Caricature" created by artist Matt Ryan
- Separate Lounge with music
- Priority check-in

BUY TICKETS HERE



LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE

Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut

Internationally renowned pianists present the works of Fryderyk Chopin and other musical masters.

3:00 PM | Stanley Works Center

Javor Bracic
October 15th

Boris Slutsky
November 19th

For detailed information, please visit the website of our program partners, the Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut: www.chopinsocietyct.org/new-index

Sunday Music Series

The NBMAA's longstanding monthly concert series features local & regional performances from a variety of musical genres.

3:00 PM | Stanley Works Center

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra:
Maria Callas
October 8

Eric Mintel Quartet | Charlie Brown Jazz
December 10

Julie Ribchinsky
November 12

Randall Kane Quartet
January 14

Attending Concerts in Stanley Works Center at the NBMAA

"Members Sit First" at Sunday music programs! Members, please have your Membership card handy at the entrance to the performance space. Once Members are seated, the doors will open for the general public, and seating will be first come, first served. Seating capacity is limited to 120.

Concert attendees must register at the Front Desk upon arrival. Museum Members are free, and Museum guests are welcome with purchase of Museum admission ticket.

All shows begin at 3 p.m.; doors to event space will open at 2:30 p.m.

First Friday

Our signature social event features live music, art, food, spirits, and good friends. New Britain's best Happy Hour, since 1995!

Online Only: Members \$8; non-Members \$16
At the Door: Members \$10; non-Members \$20

Cash bar available; access to Museum galleries is included with your ticket.

Al Fenton Big Band, Inc.
October 6

Eight to the Bar
December 1

Locomotion
November 3

Mass-Conn-Fusion
January 5

Sponsored by The Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

**Please Note: First Friday is a 21+ event. For the safety of all patrons, the attendance of children at First Friday is prohibited.*



MAD PARTY: YULE BALL

Looking for another occasion to dress up and party at the Museum?

Join us for the NBMAA's first ever Museum **After Dark Yule Ball on December 15!** Get ready for an enchanting experience filled with magic and music at the Museum. Come wearing your best ball attire for an evening of wintry whimsy!

Learn more about this event at nbmaa.org/events/mad-yule-ball-2023

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56 LEXINGTON STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT
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GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

An NBMAA Membership makes the perfect holiday gift that keeps giving all year long with free admission to the Museum, discounts on programs and classes, invitations to exhibition openings, and a discount in the Museum Store and Café. Be sure to purchase early to ensure a timely delivery.

Consider upgrading for additional benefits. A Friend's Circle Level Membership includes a North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Membership. You will be armed with two NARM cards affording you admission to 1,300+ museums no matter where you roam on vacation throughout the year! Passionate about the NBMAA? Become a Premier Member.

To become a Member, purchase a gift Membership, or upgrade your Membership, please visit nbmaa.org/support-us



GENERAL ADMISSION

Members FREE
\$17 for Adults
\$12 for Seniors (age 62 and up)
\$10 for College Students
\$10 for 13-17 years old
12 and under FREE

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday: CLOSED
Wednesday-Sunday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

SATURDAY ADMISSION

Free from 10 a.m. to noon
thanks to support from
the American Savings
Foundation.

MUSEUM CAFE

Wednesday-Sunday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
featuring local New Britain
fare.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please inquire at the Front
Desk for any assistance
you may require. We are
wheelchair accessible
and have two wheelchairs
available free of charge.

DIGITAL

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