NEW BRITAIN

MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

SUMMER–FALL 2026

Member Newsletter

Dear Friends,

One of my greatest joys since joining the Museum in 2022 has been witnessing the remarkable growth in public engagement, particularly the extraordinary turnout for our Community Days and culturally specific celebrations—and seeing what these gatherings truly mean to our community. Recently welcoming nearly 1,500 visitors for *Polish Heritage Day*, *Viva Puerto Rico!*, and *AAPI Heritage Day* has me reflecting on the local impact of a nationally important museum.

While the New Britain Museum of American Art is recognized nationally for its extraordinary collection and exhibitions, our most meaningful impact is often felt much closer to home—in the health, vibrancy, and sense of belonging experienced by our neighbors here in New Britain.

The Museum's commitment to our neighbors is visible in the many ways we collaborate with the City and serve residents directly. Through partnerships celebrating Borinqueneers Day and Juneteenth, for example, we create opportunities for our community to gather in pride, reflection, and joy. Through subsidized school tours for New Britain students, we ensure that young people encounter original works of art at a formative age, often for the very first time. Through Free New Britain Saturdays on the first Saturday of every month and monthly Access for All Community Days offering free admission to all visitors, we continue to reduce barriers to access and invite everyone to see themselves reflected here.

Some of the most powerful moments at the Museum are full-circle moments. Residents today openly celebrate their cultures, histories, and identities inside the very institution established generations ago to ensure broader access to the arts. These gatherings are joyful and deeply human. They affirm belonging. They create connections across generations. They remind us that museums are not simply places to view art, but places where people can feel seen and valued.

That sense of belonging is especially visible during the annual New Britain and Berlin Student Art Shows, which welcome approximately 1,200 students and family members annually into the galleries. For generations, displaying artwork at the Museum has become a rite of passage—a moment of pride. Seeing one's own artwork exhibited in a museum of national stature sends a powerful message to a child: *your existence matters here*.

Our campus itself also serves as a cultural anchor at the edge of Walnut Hill Park, one of New Britain's most heavily used public spaces. The Museum contributes to the vibrancy, safety, and identity of this shared civic landscape, offering residents and visitors alike a place where art, nature, and community intersect. The presence of world-class art in New Britain instills a powerful sense of civic pride—that this city and its

people are part of a community connected to cultural resources and artistic experiences of the highest caliber.

At the same time, the Museum draws tourism that supports nearby restaurants, retail, hotels, and services. Our programs and events create opportunities for local artists, educators, musicians, and creative professionals.

The Museum's national reputation and local mission are inseparable. **A great American art museum should not stand apart from its community, but at the center of it**—serving as a place of learning, celebration, and connection for all while honoring the many ways people experience and define what it means to be American.

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations, corporate partners, and government agencies whose generosity transforms an investment in art into an investment in people. Their support makes possible the kind of experiences and connections that extend far beyond our walls, as art quietly improves the lives of the community around it.

Warm Regards,

BRETT ABBOTT
Executive Director and CEO

IN MEMORIAM

Beverly Bartosiak / Longtime Member and Donor

Mary Ann Biella / Member

Gilda S. Brock / Former Member and Donor

Donald Davidson / Donor, Heritage Society Member, and Former Member

Sandra DeGraff / Longtime Member and Donor

Howard Epstein / Member

William E. Fuller / Former Member and Donor

Judith Hedenberg / Longtime Member

Edeltraud E. Hessmer / Longtime Member

Lois Ann Hodlin / Docent and Volunteer, Former Member, and Donor

Masood Karimian / Longtime Member and Donor

Andrea F. Levy / Docent, Volunteer, Premier Member, and Donor

John Reilly / Former Member

Bernd J. Selig / Longtime Member and Donor

Stuart R. Small / Longtime Member

Mervyn F. Strauss / Former Member and Donor

Stephen G. Utz / Longtime Member and Donor

Rosemary Winandy / Docent and Volunteer, Former Member, and Donor

ON THE COVER: Louise Nevelson (Pereiaslav, Ukraine, formerly Russian Empire), 1899–1988, New York, New York), ***Dream House XXIII*** (detail), 1972, painted wood, 70 ⅝ × 29 × 16 ⅞ in., On loan from the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York: Gift of the American Art Foundation. 96.124

Our thanks to the following NBMAA supporters

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Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development Office Of The Arts

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Architects of Being

Louise Nevelson and Esphyr Slobodkina

JULY 30–NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Robert & Dorothy Vance Gallery
and Stitzer Family Gallery

Bringing together nearly eighty artworks across sculpture, painting, collage, textile, fashion, jewelry, and design, *Architects of Being: Louise Nevelson and Esphyr Slobodkina* places pioneering artists Louise Nevelson (1899–1988) and Esphyr Slobodkina (1908–2002) in dialogue for the first time. Though neither artist was formally trained as an architect, both employed architectural design principles—including spatial construction, material assemblage, and installation—to shape their artistic practices and personas. Taking its title from Nevelson's assertion that "character is the architecture of the being," the exhibition considers how both artists engaged architectural thinking to construct objects, artworks, environments, as well as identities and legacies.

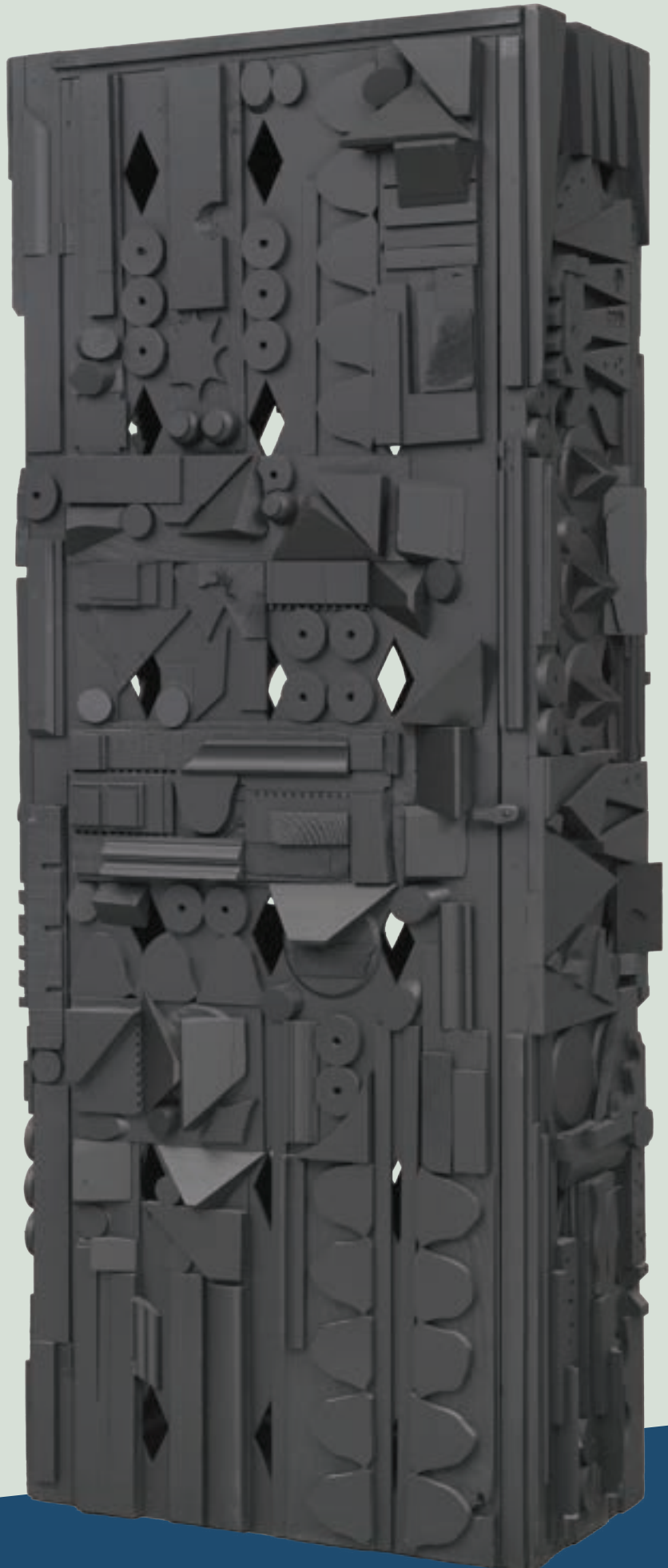
Born nine years apart in different regions of the former Russian Empire, Nevelson and Slobodkina came from Eastern European Jewish families who immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Tenaciously devoted to their artistic pursuits, Nevelson and Slobodkina moved to New York City in the 1920s, and emerged as pioneers of abstraction in the decades to follow. Nevelson gained acclaim for her monumental wood constructions, immersive installations, and architecturally inspired garments and jewelry, famously declaring herself an "Architect of Shadow." Slobodkina, informed by her studies in mechanical drawing, designed two modern houses and collaborated on interior environments; her sustained engagement with mechanics and engineering is evident across her sculptures, paintings, and designs.

Through their multimedia practices, Nevelson and Slobodkina challenged conventional definitions of art, abstraction, and architecture in mid-century America. Spanning the 1930s to the 1970s, *Architects of Being* foregrounds women who, undaunted by the challenges of a male-dominated art world, embraced interdisciplinary and experimental approaches to art and architecture as modes of self-fashioning and creative agency.

Architects of Being: Louise Nevelson and Esphyr Slobodkina is organized by the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts and is accompanied by a scholarly illustrated catalogue published by University of Arkansas Press. The catalogue for *Architects of Being: Louise Nevelson and Esphyr Slobodkina* is supported in part by the Wyeth Foundation for American Art. The exhibition is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, Alan DuBois Fund for Contemporary Craft, and Ellsworth Kelly Foundation. In New Britain, this exhibition is supported by the Chase Family Fund for Curatorial Excellence and National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by Susan and John Alston; the Wolf Kahn Foundation; Jay Bombara and Allison Reilly-Bombara; and David and Sharon Jepson.

Louise Nevelson (Pereiaslav, Ukraine, formerly Russian Empire), 1899–1988, New York, New York), ***Dream House XXIII***, 1972, painted wood, 70 ⅝ × 29 × 16 ⅞ in., On loan from the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York: Gift of the American Art Foundation. 96.124.

Esphyr Slobodkina (Chelyabinsk, Russia, 1908–2002, Glen Head, New York), ***Abstraction with Red Circle***, 1938, oil on canvas, 29 x 13 x 1 ¼ in., New Britain Museum of American Art: Olga H. Knoepke Fund. 1994.02.



OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, July 30, 5–7 p.m.

Preview the exhibition and
enjoy a special lecture at 6 p.m.

Seeing Light

RECENT PAINTINGS BY KAY KNIGHT CLARKE

JUNE 11–NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Landers House

This summer, the New Britain Museum of American Art is thrilled to present recent paintings by Connecticut-based artist Kay Knight Clarke. Inspired by the ephemeral effects of light, color, and atmosphere along the Connecticut shoreline, Clarke's works offer contemplative reflections on time, place, perception, and feeling. On view in the Museum's historic Landers House, the exhibition celebrates Clarke's poetic artistry and her longstanding friendship with the Museum, as a dedicated steward and Trustee.

Artist Statement

"Look at the sky. At first you see blue, then you see beauty and then you see infinity."

—AGNES MARTIN

My paintings are about the mystery, power, and wonder of the landscape. They are also about abstraction, color, light, the rhythm of shapes, and tension between flatness and space.

The work speaks of hope and beauty, while it recognizes humankind's insignificance within the universe. It aligns me with the natural world and reflects nature's timeless cycle, the ephemeral sense of life, and the question of what else might be. Distant sky and water—with an occasional bow to earth in one form or another—are my favored landscapes. Their vastness and sense of infinity are mesmerizing. I seek to capture the feeling generated by the light, air, and color; it is my spirit. This power of nature is what T. S. Eliot described when he talked of "music that is heard so deeply that it is not heard at all."

Contemplation of nature and painting are related meditations that remove me from my past hummingbird-like activity. I spent most of my adult life in the corporate world. It was fast paced, filled with stress and constraints, but without enough freedom for self-expression or the connection to a larger world that the arts provide.

Freedom is important to me; both the act of painting and the distant views offer that. Focus on the long view combines the abstraction inherent in the distance and its relationship to infinity.

Color is equally important. It is my greatest source of experimentation; color makes me happy. A fifth-century Chinese painter and philosopher, Tsung Ping, said that the function of landscape painting is to find joy in one's soul. The combination of color and the abstraction of distance brings me joy that transcends the landscape itself but embodies the power of nature.

LEFT: Kay Knight Clarke, ***Fall Leaves*** (detail), Oil on linen, 24 x 30 in., Courtesy of the Artist

ABOVE: Kay Knight Clarke, ***At the End***, Oil on linen, 30 x 30 in., Courtesy of the Artist

PORTRAITS OF A COLLECTION

The Hamm Family Curatorial Fellowship

BY LYDIA HOLLECK

Since joining the Museum as the Hamm Family Curatorial Fellow, I have enjoyed working on a wide range of collection research and exhibition planning projects that have deepened my engagement with the Museum's stellar permanent collection.

A highlight for me was participating in the planning process for the reinstallation of the Flora Humphrey Bentley Gallery, which houses the Museum's earliest works.

This project is part of a larger initiative, begun in 2022, to reinstall the first-floor permanent collection galleries. Unlike previous updates that relied on shifting temporary walls, this reinstallation introduces newly constructed ones—a change that improves sight lines and creates uninterrupted views across the first-floor galleries.

In preparation, I worked with the Museum's Collections and Exhibitions team to review more than 80 objects—paintings, drawings, textiles, silhouettes, and early photographs—dating from roughly 1730 to 1850. Guided by the goal of telling a cohesive story of early portraiture, we refined this group through close study and collaboration, selecting works based on condition, conservation needs, and display considerations.

The installation considers how portraiture has shaped notions of identity and status over time. Early American portraits often centered wealthy elites—or those who could afford to commission a painted portrait—reflecting the social structures of their moment.

These expanded narratives also connect to the Museum's America 250 initiative, which reflects on the nation's founding and evolving identity. Within this context, portraits of George Washington and *Children Playing Soldiers (Fourth of July)* highlight how American identity has been constructed, performed, and remembered across generations.

At the same time, this reinstallation acknowledges these historical frameworks while expanding them. *Gentleman with Attendant*, attributed to Ralph Earl, reveals how hierarchy was visually constructed, while Titus Kaphar's *Jaavon and the Unknown Gentleman* offers a contemporary reconsideration of representation and agency. *Mew-Hew-She-Kaw, The White Cloud, Chief of the Ioways* by George Catlin remains on view but is newly foregrounded to consider how Native American figures were represented and how their voices were often mediated through non-Native artists and audiences.

To plan the installation, we created scaled miniatures of each object and tested arrangements within a model space. Final stages included research, writing interpretive labels, repainting, constructing new walls, and reinstalling selected works.

Together, these efforts offer a renewed perspective on early portraiture and how these works continue to shape our understanding of the past. I hope you'll visit the Bentley Gallery to see what is new!

GALLERY TALK WITH LYDIA HOLLECK

Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m.
Wednesday, November 4, 1 p.m.

Join Hamm Family Curatorial Fellow Lydia Holleck for a Gallery Talk spotlighting works from our permanent collection.

NOR'EASTER

The 56th Annual Juried Members Exhibition

AUGUST 15–SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

A showcase of your peers, the Annual Juried Members Exhibition features contemporary work from fellow Museum Members. For 56 years, this prominent exhibition in the Northeast region has highlighted the exceptional work of emerging and established artists in a variety of media. This year's juror, Robert Calafiore, Associate Dean of Finance and Administration at the Hartford Art School, has chosen a wonderful selection of works by artists from Connecticut, New England, and beyond. Don't miss this stunning showcase of our Members' talent!

Community Engagement and Family Programs

For more information on pricing and to register for programs, please visit our website

We encourage you to register in advance for all lectures and gallery talks. These programs can sell out before the day of the event.

Guided Gallery Conversations

WALK-IN TOUR

American Canvas

Saturdays at 1 p.m.

WALK-IN TOUR

Special Exhibition

Sundays at 1 p.m.

Private Guided Gallery Conversations

Experience the beauty and wonder of the Museum together! One of our Docents will lead your group through engaging conversations on works of art throughout the Museum. We invite you to browse our menu of themes to align with your group's interests. You can also pair a Docent-led tour with a hands-on art studio activity. No art experience required!

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Visit our website to book your own private gallery conversation: https://nbmaa.org/adult-university-tours

These experiences are available for a minimum of 8 participants and must be booked at least two weeks in advance, as our schedule fills rapidly and ample time is needed to schedule Docent volunteers.

The New Britain Museum of American Art, the first museum dedicated to American art in the nation, is celebrating our country's 250th anniversary with year-long themed programs and tours. Look for the 250 logo throughout the year!

Lectures & Gallery Talks

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Designing Lives: Stories Behind *Architects of Being*

Thursday, July 30, 6 p.m.

CATHARINE M. ROGERS LECTURE SERIES

Dr. Catherine Walworth is the Jackye and Curtis Finch, Jr., Curator of Drawings at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts and curator of *Architects of Being: Louise Nevelson and Esphyr Slobodkina*.

LECTURE

Architects of Being with Lisa Hayes Williams

Thursday, September 24, 5:30 p.m.

Join Curator and Head of Exhibitions Lisa Hayes Williams for a lecture on special exhibition *Architects of Being: Louise Nevelson and Esphyr Slobodkina*.

GALLERY TALK

Lydia Holleck

Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m.
Wednesday, November 4, 1 p.m.

Join Hamm Family Curatorial Fellow Lydia Holleck for a Gallery Talk spotlighting works from our permanent collection.

GALLERY TALK

25th Anniversary of Remembering September 11th

Wednesday, September 9, 1–2 p.m.

Join Docent Mona Cappuccio for a talk on Graydon Parrish's painting *The Cycle of Terror and Tragedy: September 11, 2001*.

ARTIST TALK

Kay Knight Clarke

Friday, September 18, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

Join artist Kay Knight Clarke for a talk on her current exhibition *Seeing Light*.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Glorious Country: How the Artist Frederic Church Brought the World to America and America to the World with Victoria Johnson

Saturday, October 3, 2–3 p.m.

Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist Victoria Johnson shares the dramatic and consequential life of Frederic Church in her new biography on the Hartford-born artist.

Adult Classes

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Brick Stitch Beading Workshop with Eva Newell

Saturday, July 11, 12–3 p.m.

Join artist and educator Eva Newell (Pokanoket Tribe, Pokanoket Nation) for a beading workshop to make a beaded medallion that incorporates the brick stitch technique.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Plein Air Whimsical Landscapes

Friday, August 7, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Create your own whimsical landscape painting inspired by works of American Impressionism.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Learning to Draw with Mike Berlinski

Sunday, August 9, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Learn what makes a good drawing and how to better think creatively.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Stained Glass Workshop

Sunday, August 23, 12–3 p.m.

Discover the beauty of stained glass in this beginner-friendly workshop designed for absolute newcomers.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP

Sketch Book Making with Madelyn MacBryde

Sunday, September 20, 1–4 p.m.

Explore book making with an experienced printmaker and book binder.

ADULT STUDIO CLASS

Experimenting with Watercolor

Wednesday, October 7, 14, 21, 28, 1–3 p.m.

Do you pale at the sight of a blank sheet of watercolor paper? This class is intended to help take the fear out of working with watercolor.

ADULT STUDIO CLASS

Felting with Robin McCahill

Thursday, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 1–3 p.m.

Learn the basics of needle felting—a form of soft sculpture that can be worked on a flat background, creating a relief sculpture.

ADULT STUDIO CLASS

Fall Plein Air Painting Workshop

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
(Rain Date: Sunday, October 4, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.)

Paint a beautiful landscape painting outside, overlooking historic Walnut Hill Park.

ADULT STUDIO CLASS

Beginner to Intermediate Adult Painting

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, November 3 and 10, 1–3 p.m.

Express your creativity in this acrylic painting class.

Wellness

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Chair Yoga

Saturdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26
11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Chair yoga and movement classes offer gentle, accessible exercises designed to improve flexibility, strength, and circulation—all from the comfort of your chair.

Guided Breathwork and Meditation

Fridays, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 6–7 p.m.

A guided breathwork and meditation session offers gentle, intentional breathing paired with mindful awareness to calm the nervous system and bring you into the present moment.

Children's Art Classes & Programs

Homeschool Day

Tuesday, September 22, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Homeschool Art Exploration

Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28
1:30–3:30 p.m.

Back to School Family Night

Friday, August 21, 4:30–8 p.m.

Enjoy a fun and engaging evening at the Museum! Spend quality time together while exploring the galleries through interactive, art-guided activities created for all ages.

Youth Summer Camp AGES 7–13

9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Join us for an art filled summer where young artists will use inspiration from the Museum's art galleries to transform their art-making skills into Masterpieces.

WEEK 1

Sculpting the Museum Collection

Tuesday, July 7—Wire Hanging Sculptures

Wednesday, July 8—Mixed Media and Polymer

Thursday, July 9—3D Paper Landscape

Friday, July 10—Recycled Betye Saar Shadow Box

WEEK 2

Pastel Creations

Tuesday, July 14—Oil Pastel and Watercolor Landscapes

Wednesday, July 15—Collage and Oil Pastels

Thursday, July 16—Chalk Pastels Trees

Friday, July 17—Pastel Pond Shadow Box

WEEK 3

Alternative Arts

Tuesday, July 21—Artist Marker Floral Collage

Wednesday, July 22—Exploring the Role of a Curator

Thursday, July 23—Loom Weaving

Friday, July 24—Jewelry Architects of Being

WEEK 4

Painting Masterpieces

Tuesday, July 28—Painting Seal Rock!

Wednesday, July 29—Painted Cardboard Collage

Thursday, July 30—3D Watercolor Landscapes

Friday, July 31—Textured Mosaics

WEEK 5

Exploring STEAM in Art!

Tuesday, August 4—Sculpture building

Wednesday, August 5—Cyanotype Printing

Thursday, August 6—Sharpie Coasters

Friday, August 7—Recycled Landscapes

You can sign up for individual days or a full week!

For more information on education and community programs, visit our website

Access for All Community Days

Free Admission all day!
WALK-INS WELCOME

Generous support provided by Art Bridges Foundation's Access for All program. Additional support provided by New Britain Commission on the Arts and Murphy Charitable Contributions Committee, Legrand/Wiremold.

Chalk Art Festival

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Local artists and families are invited to participate in the Museum's chalk art festival! Assigned sections of Walnut Hill Park Rd will be available for paid reservations, and a designated area for a community zone with free chalk will be available for any visitor to participate.

Local Black Business Expo

Saturday, August 8, 2026

The Museum is partnering with New Britain Alderwoman Candyce Scott to host the New Britain Black Business Expo. This event aims to connect local business owners, build support, and promote cooperative economics.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Saturday, September 19, 2026

Join us in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with your family and friends through interactive performances and presentations that celebrate the rich folkloric traditions from various Latin American cultures.

Halloween at the Museum

Saturday, October 31, 2026

Come to the Museum dressed in your costume and try out some Halloween-inspired activities!

Inspired by the exhibition *Pop! American Art in the 1960s*, the Museum partnered with cARTie to bring together original works of art inside a mobile art museum exhibition. Created by Museum visitors during April's Access for All Community Day, these prints will travel all over our state in Summer of 2026.

Visit nbmaa.org/cartie for a schedule of where the mobile art museum can be found.

Support provided by Art Bridges Foundation.

Hartford Art School Fellows

This year, the Museum began a new partnership with the University of Hartford to welcome two Work Study Fellows to the Museum's Learning & Engagement Department. Two graduating students, Maiya Cannon and Sabine Carey, joined the Learning and Engagement team as Hartford Art School Fellows, supported by federal work-study funds provided through the university's Office of Student Financial Aid.

Through the work-study program, Maiya and Sabine were able to gain practical experience in a museum environment and support the planning, implementation, and promotion of educational programming as related to the Museum's collection and current exhibitions.

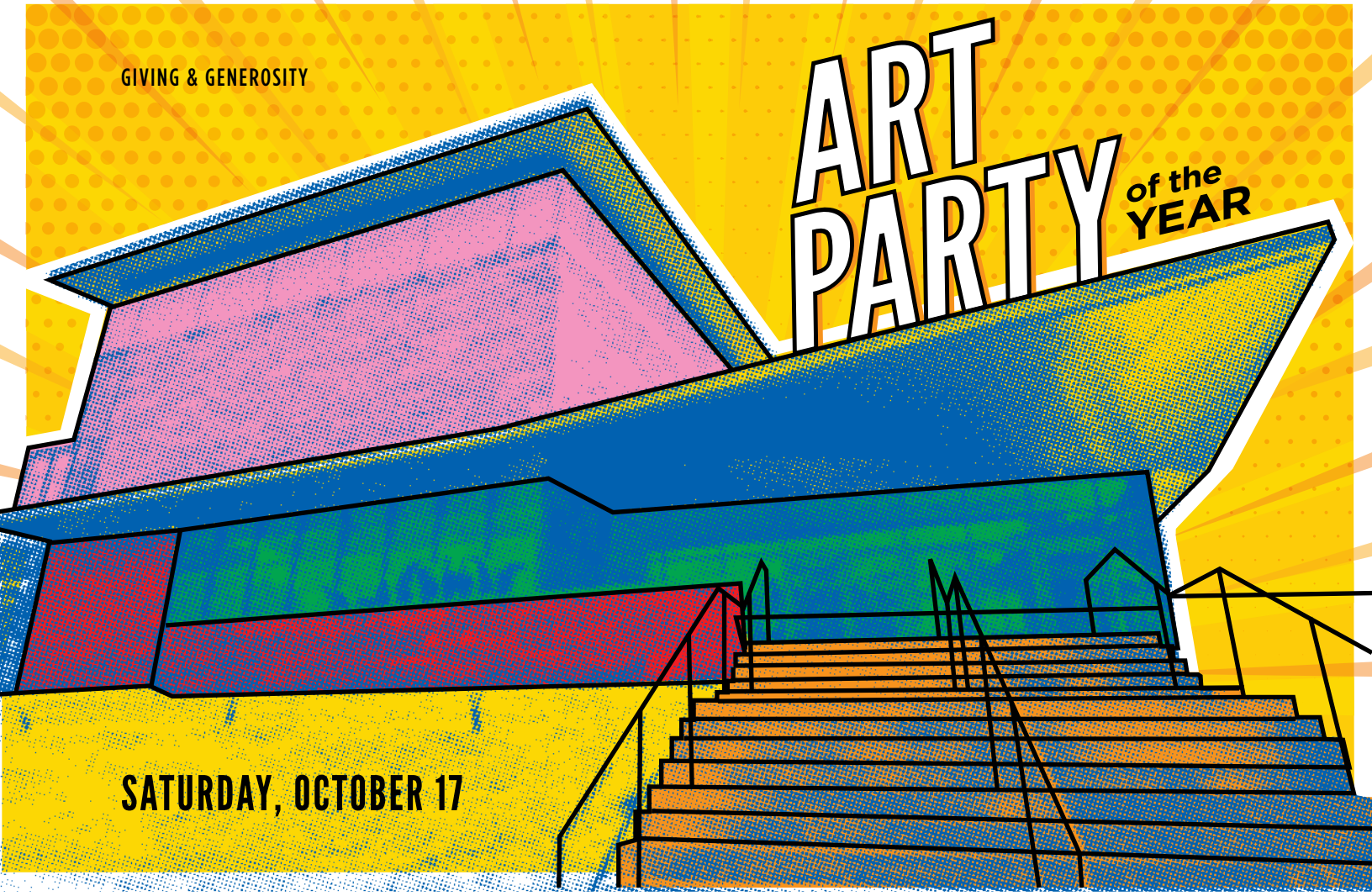
Maiya and Sabine each culminated their experience at the Museum by presenting Gallery Talks that explored highlights from the Museum's permanent collection through in-depth conversation and close looking.

Sabine Carey

Sabine Carey is a painter based in Hartford, Connecticut, whose work explores the intersection of environment and culture through evocative, antiquated-style portraits and landscapes that blend deep connections to history with contemporary expressions. Her haunting imagery and emotive use of color delves into themes of isolation, transformation, and the fragility of existence. She graduated with a B.F.A. in Painting and Art History from the Hartford Art School this May.

Maiya Cannon

Maiya Cannon is an emerging designer and architect in training, originally from New York City. Her work explores the intersection of education, sustainability, and spatial experience. Through her projects, Cannon examines how design can be both purposeful and responsive, creating spaces that not only serve functional needs but also foster community and inclusivity. She recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Architectural Design at the University of Hartford and graduated in May.



On Saturday, October 17, 2026, join us for the Art Party of the Year—our most significant fundraising effort of the year and a vibrant celebration dedicated to sustaining the Museum's role as cultural cornerstone for our entire region.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Chase Family Building, the landmark expansion that propelled the Museum into the 21st century. We proudly honor Director Emeritus Douglas Hyland (1998–2015) for his transformative leadership and indelible impact, along with Stanley Black & Decker for their tremendous, century-long commitment to the Museum and community.

The Art Party is a celebration of purpose, connection, and collective impact. We invite you to:

- **Connect** with fellow art lovers and advocates over cocktails, conversation, and creativity
- **Enjoy** a fine dining experience among the beautiful galleries
- **Toast** to our shared past, present, and future at a swanky dessert reception.

As we gather to reflect on the Museum's history, we look forward to raising the funds necessary to continue the momentum. The evening will feature:

- **Curated auctions** including a juried silent auction of fine art, goods and services, experiences, and the crowd-pleasing Mini Masterpieces
- **Raise your paddle** in high-energy testament to the Museum's value, led by an expert auctioneer. This is your moment to directly support the programs and exhibitions that inspire.

Join us! Keep your eye on artpartyoftheyear.org for tickets available early this summer.

Are you looking to commit your support early and maximize impact? Sponsorships are available at all levels. To learn more, contact Amanda Shuman-Bisson at shuman-bissona@nbmaa.org.

Together, let's toast to 20 years of impact and inspiration and look ahead to the next.

THANK YOU

PLATINUM

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As of 5/22/26

CURATED JOURNEYS

A Travel Program with the Museum of American Art

Do you love to travel? Are you passionate about art and culture? Our Member travel program returns with a robust schedule of inspiration, camaraderie, and exclusive access designed specifically for our Museum community.

Upcoming Adventure

THE WYETH LEGACY

December 3–4, 2026

Join Stephanie Heydt, Director of Collections and Exhibitions, and Lisa Williams, Curator and Head of Exhibitions, for an exclusive two-day journey into the heart of the Brandywine valley. Inspired by *The Wyeths: Three Generations* (opening in New Britain in November 2026—more to come on the exhibition in the next Member newsletter), this trip features a deep dive into the Brandywine Museum of Art and other premier regional destinations.

Sign up today by contacting Naomi Gorero at GoreroN@nbmaa.org or (860) 229-0257 ext. 103

DON'T MISS A DEPARTURE! Full itineraries and registration details for 2027's curated experiences will be released soon. To ensure you receive the latest updates and registration cycles, be sure your membership is current and you're subscribed to Museum emails.

PACK YOUR BAGS—ADVENTURE AWAITS!

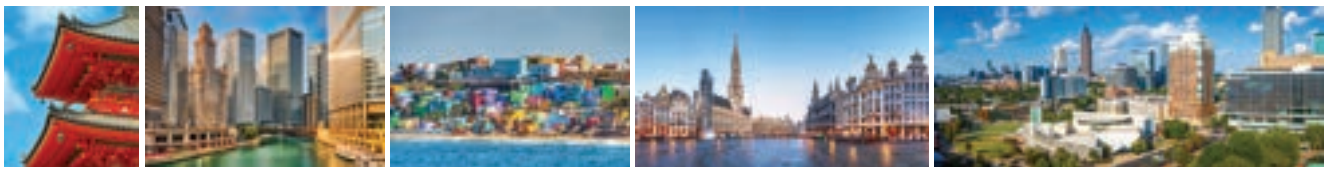
Flipping the calendar to 2027

SOUTHWESTERN SPLENDOR: SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Spring 2027

Executive Director and CEO Brett Abbott and Director of Collections and Exhibitions Stephanie Heydt will accompany you to the vibrant and rich heritage of Santa Fe. Experience a unique intersection of indigenous culture and modern American art through visits to private studios and renowned galleries.

Future Journeys



Stay tuned for more exciting travel experiences we are imagining for the future!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MUSEUM

A Toast to Rockwell Closing Reception

Thursday, February 12, 2026

The Museum of the Old Colony: An Art Installation by Pablo Delano Opening Reception

Thursday, March 12, 2026

Landers House Reopening Reception

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Supporting School Students

As we close an incredible 2025–26 school year, we are absolutely delighted to have welcomed 4,861 students to the Museum for field trips and after-school partnerships! For some, stepping into our galleries was their first field trip and a moment of wonder; for others, it was a chance to see their classroom lessons come to life. None of this would be possible without the incredible Museum Docents and staff who create a warm and welcoming environment for every student.

This amazing impact is largely thanks to the generosity of many funding partners. Through numerous grants that underwrite tour fees and rising transportation costs, these vital funding streams ensure that students from districts across Connecticut can experience the magic of the Museum. We aren't just hosting field trips; we are sparking lifelong curiosity, creating joyful memories, and fostering a lifetime of arts appreciation.

To learn more about how you can help support these transformative student experiences, please call Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development, at (860) 229-0257, ext. 246.

WE ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE FUNDING PARTNERS WHO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

Community Foundation of Greater New Britain

American Savings Foundation

Tinty Foundation

SBM Charitable Foundation

Farmington Greater Together Community Fund at Greater Hartford Gives

Thomaston Savings Bank Foundation

Burlington Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation

Ion Bank Foundation

Sid Bernard & Ed Miller Children's Fund for the Visual Arts at the Main Street Community Foundation

Glastonbury Community Fund at Greater Hartford Gives

AND OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

DiLoreto Middle School

Slade Middle School

The Pathways/Senderos Center

New Britain Boys and Girls Club

YWCA New Britain

FANDOM FEST

Saturday, September 12, 4–8 p.m.

Celebrate illustration and the world of heroes vs. villains at Fandom Fest, inspired by the Museum's Robert Lesser Collection of Pulp Art. Featuring an arcade gaming zone, a cash bar with cocktails inspired by fandom classics, and vendors from across the state selling comics, collectables, and novelties! GET YOUR TICKETS AT NBMAA.ORG.

MUSEUM AFTER DARK

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, October 24
8–11 p.m.

Museum After Dark's annual Halloween Bash—Connecticut's hottest Halloween party—returns for its 18th year to haunt the galleries of the Museum with spook-tacular dancing, dining, and drinks!

Cash bar will be available with cocktails. Strictly 21+; photo IDs checked upon entry.

Live Music Schedule

Sunday Music Series

3 p.m., Stanley Works Center

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

JULY 12
Melanie Chirignan and Laura Melnicoff

AUGUST 9
Liszt Society

SEPTEMBER 13
Judy Handler and Mark Levesque

OCTOBER 11
CT Virtuosi

Sponsored by Charles Parker Trust for Public Music Fund, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee

Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut

3 p.m., Stanley Works Center

SEPTEMBER 27
Inesa Synkevich

OCTOBER 18
Luigi Carroccia

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

First Friday

5:30–8 p.m.

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

Cash bar available; access to Museum galleries is included with your ticket. Event doors will open at 5:30 pm.

THERE IS NO FIRST FRIDAY IN JULY OR OCTOBER.

AUGUST 7
Eight to the Bar

SEPTEMBER 4
Soul Factory

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

Please Note: The venue has capacity for several hundred with limited seating available and a full dance floor. The rest of the space is dedicated for standing room only. Please arrive early for a better chance of securing chairs.

Art Happy Hour

Fridays in the summer
May 29–September 11
5:30–8 p.m.

Enjoy live music on Friday nights all summer long, with a front-row seat to the best view of Walnut Hill Park.

Visit nbmaa.org/art-happy-hour for a full schedule of performers.

NEW BRITAIN
MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

56 Lexington Street
New Britain, CT 06052
(860) 229-0257 | nbmaa.org

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Candid.

Curated Journeys

A Travel Program with the Museum of American Art

Our Member travel program is back! Flip to pages 20–21 to learn more about the Curated Journeys designed specifically for our Museum community.

@NBMAA
@NBMAA56
@NBMAA56

NEW 2026 MUSEUM HOURS

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday–Sunday:
10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Friday: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.

MUSEUM CAFE

Tuesday–Sunday
10 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

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.