



**NBMAA**  
2023 Summer Newsletter



## DEAR FRIENDS,

Just beyond the horizon of a blockbuster summer headlined by *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!*, a new season of dynamic special exhibitions illuminating diverse perspectives awaits. Its spectrum of voices includes trailblazing women artists of the Hudson River School, multimedia Native artists, female pillars of our Black community, and Pakistani-American and Mexican-American artists, among many others.

The first of two major exhibitions, *Women Reframe American Landscape*, will travel from the Thomas Cole National Historic Site later this fall. The exhibition highlights the accomplishments of women who painted in the 19th century and places them into conversation with contemporary artists to redefine how we understand the history and legacy of the Hudson River School and expand how we think about the landscape today. The NBMAA will then present its second major show of the year, *The Land Carries Our Ancestors: Contemporary Art by Native Americans*, in the spring of 2024. In collaboration with the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., Jaune Quick-to-See Smith will curate an exhibition at the NBMAA highlighting artworks by some 50 living Native artists that powerfully visualizes Indigenous culture and knowledge of the land.

In harmony with the two larger exhibitions, the NBMAA has orchestrated a vibrant lineup of shows and related programs

### IN MEMORIAM

Robert A. Black, longtime Premier Member  
Paul Cruikshank, former Member and donor  
Elizabeth Elia, former Member and donor  
Beth Kurker-Stewart, longtime Member  
Barbara Louis, former Premier Member, docent and volunteer  
Nancy Mangini, former Member  
Edwin Mercier, Jr, former Member and donor  
Lilijean H. Metcalf, former Member  
Mary Parley, former Member  
Gerald Raulinaitis, former Member and donor  
Nanette Shafer, former volunteer  
Christine Shivery, Trustee Emeritus, Premier Member and patron  
Michael Taub, former Member and donor  
Jonathan Willetts, former Member  
Murray Zinman, longtime donor, Member and volunteer

of varying themes throughout the year. Recently unveiled in historic Landers House, *The Black Matriarchs Series* by Kenneth A. Larson celebrates the legacy of a remarkable community of Black women who worked and lived in New Britain. On public view for the first time in 35 years, it is a tribute to Black and African American women who are pillars in their families and in their community.

This summer we celebrate three decades of work by acclaimed Hartford-based artist Ellen Carey with a two-part exhibition *Ellen Carey: Struck by Light*. In P.B. Stanley, works spanning the early 1990s to 2000s trace the development of her innovative career and showcase gifts and acquisitions from the NBMAA's collection. Hoffman Gallery will feature Carey's newest body of work, comprising a series of large-scale camera-less photograms that demonstrate her experimental approach to image-making.

We are also presenting a planned series of three exhibitions designed to highlight examples of the finest Shaker craftsmanship from the past 175 years. *Masterworks of Shaker Design: A Tale of Two Enfields* is on view through the summer, followed by *Shaker Masterworks: The Central Ministry (Mount Lebanon, NY)* and *Handled with Care: The Function of Form in Shaker Craft*.

The first of two NEW/NOW artists featured this year, Anila Quayyum Agha explores the complexities and contradictions of her experience as a Pakistani immigrant to the United States through her celebrated light sculpture *Intersections* in concert with new works. Then in the spring, contemporary artist Justin Favela draws upon his own Mexican and Guatemalan heritage to reinterpret artwork from the past in exciting installations that bridge past and present and create connections across cultures.

Don't miss your last chance to experience current special exhibitions already on view this summer. Since its opening in the spring, *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* has welcomed hundreds of families each day to create lasting memories together in the galleries, and attend sold-out talks, book signings, workshops, and classes. Representing the largest exhibition of Walter Wick's wonderful work to date, *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* spans 50 years of innovation and imagination. This show is a must-see for all generations.

*From the Vault: Post-War to Contemporary Art* celebrates work by impressive artists of our region, recent acquisitions from around the nation, and fan favorites from the NBMAA's "vaults," some on view for the first time ever at the NBMAA.

This exciting lineup of exhibitions and related programming is realized only through the generosity of Museum supporters like you, and tireless efforts of our talented staff. Thank you for continuing to make the Museum a space for people to connect, learn, create, and communicate. Together.

Brett Abbott  
Director and CEO

# NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

## 04 | EXHIBITIONS:

*Ellen Carey: Struck by Light*

*Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!*

*The Black Matriarchs Series*

*From the Vault: Post-War to Contemporary Art*

Sneak Peak: Indigenous Art at the NBMAA in 2024

11 | Education & Community

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19 | Live Music Schedule



## EXHIBITION SUPPORT

*Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* is made possible by The Saunders Foundation and the Cheryl Chase and Stuart Bear Family Foundation.

Additional exhibition support generously provided by the Bailey Family Fund for Special Exhibitions, Marian and Russell Burke, and Stanley Black & Decker.

*Women Reframe American Landscape* is made possible by the Kathryn Cox Special Exhibitions Fund and The Robert Lehman Foundation.

First Fridays are sponsored by The Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

Cover: Detail of: Ellen Carey, *Crush & Pull with Hands & Penlights*, 2022, Polaroid color panels; 6 positives (shown), 70"H x 22"W (each) or 70"H x 132"W (all), Courtesy of the Artist, JHB Gallery (NYC, NY), and Galerie Miranda (Paris, FR)

## Our thanks to the following NBMAA supporters:



StanleyBlack&Decker

Jay and Lorraine  
Breuninger Memorial  
Fund







# ELLEN CAREY: STRUCK BY LIGHT

**JULY 20, 2023 — JANUARY 28, 2024**

Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Gallery

*Part One of this exhibition was installed on June 22 in the Helen T. and Philip B. Stanley Gallery*

Since the early 1990s, artist Ellen Carey (b. 1952) has created experimental and abstract works that defy photographic conventions. *Struck by Light* represents the largest survey of Carey's innovative photo-objects and lens-based artworks. Spanning 30 years of her prolific career, the exhibition includes examples of her *Photography Degree Zero* (1996–2020) practice of Polaroid 20 X 24 lens-based images—including *Pulls* and *Rollbacks*—as well as her *Struck by Light* (1992–2020) series of camera-less photograms—*Dings* and *Shadows*—inspired by the earliest examples of paper photography. Collectively, the works trace Carey's enormous contributions to the field of photography through her pioneering explorations of light, color, and

shadow, and are drawn from the collections of the New Britain Museum of American Art and the artist.

Ellen Carey received her BFA from KCAI-Kansas City Art Institute (1975) and her MFA (1978) from SUNY@Buffalo (now UB). She is Associate Professor of Photography (1983–2023) Hartford Art School (HAS)-University of Hartford.

A recent article written by Chris Wiley for *The New Yorker* (February 2023) sees the arc of her career as well as the solo exhibition *Light Struck* at Fox Talbot Museum (2023–2024), the home of photography in Lacock (England).

Ellen Carey, *Crush & Pull with Hands & Penlights*, 2022, Polaroid color panels; 6 positives (shown), 70"H x 22"W (each) or 70"H x 132"W (all), Courtesy of the Artist, JHB Gallery (NYC, NY), and Galerie Miranda (Paris, FR)

Opposite: Ellen Carey, *Dings & Shadows* (2014), Color Photograms, 20 Panels, 24"H x 20"W (each) or 24"H x 100"W (one row), Courtesy of the Artist, JHB Gallery (NYC, NY), and Galerie Miranda (Paris, FR).

## ELLEN CAREY ARTIST STATEMENT

Photography changed our world. Now universal, a photograph links a global humanity with our picture culture from each image to hundreds, millions, billions seen every day; we are visual.

### A PICTURE IS A POEM WITHOUT WORDS - HORACE

*Struck by Light* is a phrase that sparks imagination, tells of inspiration, a metaphor for discovery, to conceive something anew, a rare feeling, a brainstorm ... *Eureka!* ... says it all. Photography, discovered in the 19th century, is Greek - *phōs* for light, *graphis* for drawing - *light drawing*.

Light's immateriality challenges its 'camera operators' today. Analog versus digital technologies double these challenges. *Struck by Light* has multiple meanings for my experimental and lens-based works. It names my creative practice in photogram, while *Photography Degree Zero* sees my Polaroid 20 X 24 works. Light, wherever/whenever it strikes, is to be free.

*Struck by Light* is different in meaning for photographers. When light-sensitive paper/film is exposed to/struck by light, if intentional, a negative/film or image/paper is made; however, if light strikes the paper/film, accidentally it is "fogged" - darkened - light travels. Photographers are often called light travelers; I see my work in this context, giving content to it.

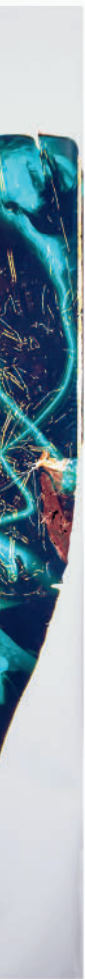
Photographers use light in all different ways - silhouette, shadow, outline, reflection; however, I often cannot see light while I work [in the darkroom], leading me to wonder what the light does on its own. What are light's first traces?

Light finds my Catholic birth name - Celtic, Gaelic, Irish - a prescient gift from my parents; Ellen means *light* or *bringer of light*. Color is universal, an artist's universe, in that universe is photography's planet, where light and color overlap and meet; it is called photographic color theory - RGBYMC - a palette that conceptually underscores my twin practices.

*Struck by Light* is the DNA of my dual artistic endeavors, a double helix with light and color, photography within process, that combines destiny and fate. When light becomes visible the photo-object speaks. My photographs say craquelure, parabola, hue, abstract, process, minimal, photogram, light, beauty, color, wonder, invention, innovation.

**"All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware"**

~ MARTIN BUBER





# WALTER WICK Hidden Wonders!

**NOW THROUGH SEPTEMBER 3, 2023**

William and Bette Batchelor Gallery, Alix W. Stanley Gallery, Mary and George Cheney Gallery

The whimsical world of Walter Wick has fascinated people of all ages since 1991, when his first children's book series *I SPY* found its way onto the bookshelves of millions of American households. The success of Wick's books has established him as one of the most celebrated photographic illustrators of all time. A Hartford native, Wick began his artistic career as a landscape photographer before becoming enamored with the technical aspects of studio photography. Wick aspired to master studio techniques, but also to represent such concepts as the perception of space and time in photographs, and experimented with mirrors, time exposures, photo composites, and other tricks to do so. This manipulation of processes and perception has led to a prolific career that has now, over 30 years after the release of *I SPY: A Book of Picture Riddles*, resulted in the publication of more than 26 children's books.

In the past 16 years, the New Britain Museum of American Art has celebrated Wick's delightful imagery in several installations, including the highly acclaimed 2006 exhibition *Walter Wick: Games, Gizmos, and Toys in the Attic*, which traveled to 15 additional museums across the

United States. In 2015, through the generosity of Walter Wick and Linda Cheverton Wick, the NBMAA was gifted a collection of 84 of Wick's masterful photographs. The appeal of Wick's photographs, books, and installations has continued to draw admirers of all ages, from across Connecticut and around the world.

In March of 2023, the NBMAA was thrilled to launch the largest survey of Wick's work to date. Titled after his recent book, *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* spans 50 years of innovation, wonder, and imagination. Tracing the span of Wick's career, the exhibition is organized by themes that have long fascinated Wick, including *Miniature Worlds*; *Floor Games*; *Craft-Built Worlds*; *Optical Illusions*; *I Spy Games*; *Puzzle Challenges*; *Wonders of Science*; *Connecticut Woods*; and *Curiosity Shop*. The exhibition pairs beloved images, including over 15 never-before-seen works, with numerous three-dimensional models upon which his photographs are based. Celebrating five decades of creativity, as well as Wick's indelible role in the development of photographic illustration, this exhibition is a must-see for art lovers of any age.





# THE **BLACK** **MATRIARCHS** SERIES

**NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Landers House

The New Britain Museum of American Art is tied, inextricably, to the history and people of New Britain, Connecticut. The Museum's exhibition *The Black Matriarchs Series* celebrates the legacy of a remarkable community of Black women who worked and lived in New Britain, and is organized in collaboration with Jimmie Elizabeth Nkonoki-Ward, the James and Agnes Timmons Legacy, Nkonoki-Ward Family, and Community Initiatives.

On public view for the first time in 35 years, this series of pen, ink, and charcoal portraits was commissioned in the late 1970s by historian and educator Jimmie Elizabeth (Timmons) Nkonoki-Ward, from her friend, artist Kenneth A. Larson (1947-1994)—both of whom were long-time New Britain residents. These compelling portraits depict leading figures in the community, including wives, educators, and women who were involved in local churches—including A.M.E. Zion Church (now known as Spottswood A.M.E. Church), Trinity Methodist Church, St. Joseph Catholic Church, and McCullough Temple CME Church—as well as local organizations, such as The Every Woman's Club of New Britain, The Garden Club, and the Mary McLeod Bethune Club, among others.

Included in this Black community and depicted within this inaugural series are trailblazers and women who personally inspired Jimmie Elizabeth Nkonoki-Ward, including Mrs. Jessie Lorraine Eirby Gay, Mrs. Agnes Gay Timmons, Mrs. Laura Bellamy, Mrs. Alma Bean Williams, Mrs. Meana McDew, Mrs. Daisy Bates, Mrs. Rosabelle Willis, Mrs. Virginia Morehead, Mrs. Mary Thompson, Mrs. Alice Barnes, Mrs. Martha Mosley, Mrs. Jane Jordan, Mrs. Hazel Jackson, Mrs. Mary Diggs, and Ms. Armentha Coley. The depiction of one youth, Monica Willis, now Dr. Monica Parker, symbolizes the progeny of the Black community.

Additional Distinguished Black Matriarchs of note in our Community not pictured in this initial series include Ms. Iola Choice, Mrs. Kitty Williams, Mrs. Thelma Beach, Mrs. Carrie Coleman, Mrs. Berniece Bellamy, Mrs. Ruth Cunningham, and Mrs. Frances Roberts, to name a few others.

*The Black Matriarchs Series* is a tribute to Black and African American women who are pillars in their families and in their community—women who infuse culture, faith, education, and the arts as a cornerstone of a vibrant community, full of possibility—and in which these Black Matriarchs were exemplary.

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**“The Black Matriarchs are women sometimes not publicly acknowledged, or celebrated, like our teachers, yet never to be forgotten as the cornerstone and pillars of every community in cities across this nation. These ladies are the Unsung Heroes and bridge builders, steeped in culture, education, tradition and legacy, the real heart and soul of our communities, and true keepers of all of our histories and women to proudly emulate!”**

- J. ELIZABETH NKONOKI-WARD

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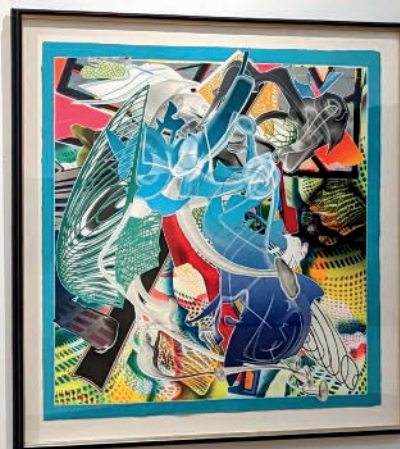


# FROM THE VAULT

## POST-WAR TO CONTEMPORARY ART

Following World War II, American artists began to challenge traditional modes of pictorial representation by embracing new styles, techniques, and mediums, and by questioning the role of art in society. Nearly a century later, American creativity continues to encompass diverse artistic approaches while addressing social, political, and environmental issues of our time.

Spanning the 1940s to the 2000s, *From the Vault* is the largest display of permanent collection masterworks of the Post-War era ever staged at the Museum, and comprises beloved highlights, recent gifts and acquisitions, and numerous works on view for the first time. Presented chronologically, the exhibition traces key art historical movements, including Abstract Expressionism, Surrealism, Pop Art, Minimalism, Photorealism, and Contemporary Art. Collectively, works by leading figures in American art, including Robert Motherwell, Louise Nevelson, Kay Sage, Anni and Josef Albers, Sol LeWitt, Frank Stella, Andy Warhol, Jim Dine, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, and Titus Kaphar, among others, reflect the incredible evolution of American artistic expression over the last 80 years.



# FROM THE VAULT: POST-WAR TO CONTEMPORARY ART

**NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 29, 2023**

Richard and Virginia McKernan Gallery,  
Stitzer Family Gallery, and Robert and  
Dorothy Vance Gallery

Following World War II, American artists began to challenge traditional modes of pictorial representation by embracing new styles, techniques, and mediums, and by questioning the role of art in society. Nearly a century later, American creativity continues to encompass diverse artistic approaches while addressing social, political, and environmental issues of our time.

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**NEW EXHIBITION**



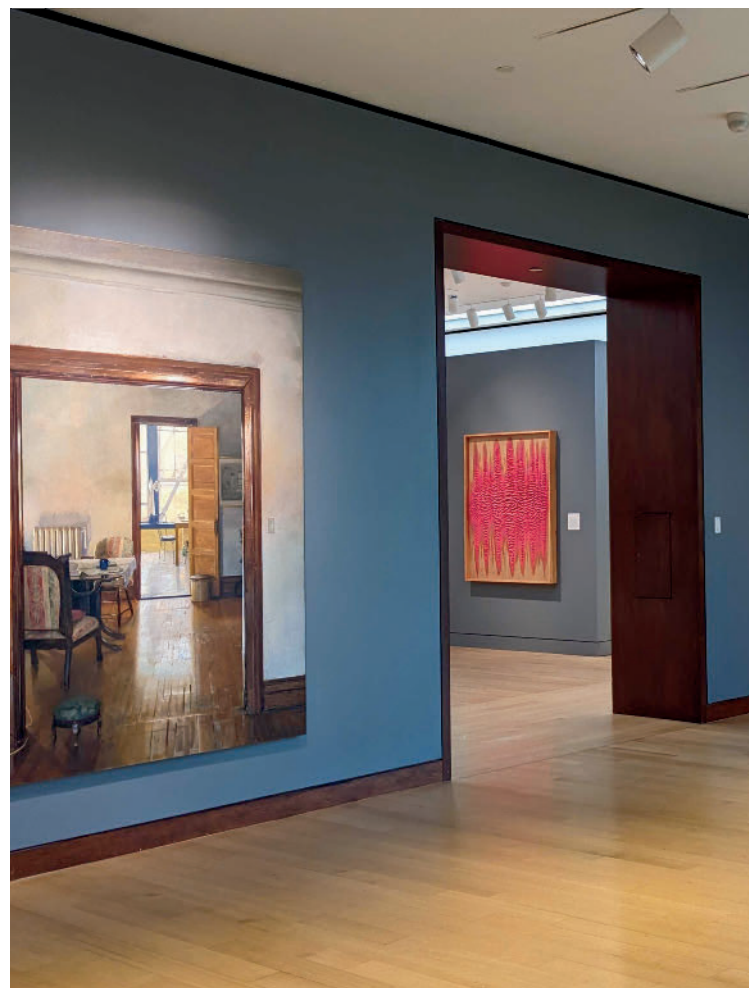
## FEATURED ARTISTS:

Negar Ahkami	Adolph Gottlieb	Paul Perras ■
Eric Aho ■◆●	Cleve Gray	Richard Pousette-Dart
Anni Albers	Zbigniew Grzyb ■●	Jaune Quick-to-See Smith ■
Josef Albers	Irene Hardwicke Olivier	John Rappleye ◆
Radcliffe Bailey	John Edward Heliker	Abraham Rattner
John Anthony Baldessari	Titus Kaphar	John Raye ■●
David Bates ◆	Deborah Kass ■	Lance Richbourg ◆
Paul Baylock ●	Martin Kline ■◆●	Stone Roberts
William Baziotes	Fay Ku	Kay Sage
Roberto Bernardi ◆	K. William LeQuier III ◆	Jimmy Sanders ◆
Aaron Bohrod	Sol LeWitt	Sean Scully
Power Boothe ■●	Hung Liu	Cary Smith ■●
Giorgio Cavallon	Michael Mahalchick ◆	George Soppelsa ■●
George Chaplin ◆	Joseph McNamara ●	Nancy Spero
Kay Knight Clarke ■●	Dina Melicov ■	Theodoros Stamos
Cynthia Cooper ◆●	Robert Motherwell	Pat Steir
Cathleen Daley ◆	Elizabeth Murray	Frank Stella
Stephen DeStaeblér ◆	Barry Nelles ■	Drew Tal ◆
Jim Dine ■	Louise Nevelson	Lois Tarlow
Joe Fig ■●	Isamu Noguchi	George Tooker ◆
Nobu Fukui ◆	Doug Ohlson ■	Gabi Trinkaus
Howard Fromson ●	Lillian Orlowsky	Peter Waite ●
Christopher Gallego ◆	Graydon Parrish ◆	Andy Warhol

■ *From the Vault* includes a work by this artist that has never been on view at the NBMAA

◆ *From the Vault* includes a work by this artist that has not been on view at the NBMAA in nearly decade or longer

● Local Artist



## **| SNEAK PEAK:** INDIGENOUS ART AT THE NBMAA IN 2024

As part of the Museum's mission to represent the diverse artistic expressions of all Americans, the NBMAA is thrilled to present two major exhibitions in 2024 featuring Indigenous art. These projects come on the heels of NBMAA's acquisition of four works by Jaune Quick-to-See Smith in 2021, which are the first works by a Native American woman ever to enter the Museum's collection. These works—and our upcoming exhibitions—allow us to tell richer and more nuanced stories about America and its people throughout our galleries.

**Organized in collaboration with The Thomas Cole National Historic Site, *Women Reframe American Landscape: Susie Barstow & Her Circle/Contemporary Practices* (November 16, 2023–March 31, 2024)** explores the history of landscape painting and presents contemporary artists who expand and challenge notions of “land” and “landscape” today. The exhibition features accomplished 19th-century women artists, including Susie Barstow, Julie Hart Beers, Fidelia Bridges, Charlotte Buell Coman, Eliza Greator, and others, who were previously excluded from the history of the art movement now known as the Hudson River School of landscape painting. In dialogue with this historical material, works by contemporary artists move beyond conventional landscape painting and open up an exploration of land through expansive perspectives and art practices. Among the internationally acclaimed contemporary artists are three leading Indigenous artists: Wendy Red Star, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, and Kay WalkingStick, whose photographs and paintings convey Indigenous perspectives on the history, use, and significance of our land.

***The Land Carries Our Ancestors* (April 18–September 15, 2024)** is presented in collaboration with the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. Curated by internationally acclaimed artist Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, the exhibition highlights artworks by some 50 living Native artists who powerfully visualize Indigenous knowledge of land/landbase/landscape. Brought together by Smith, this intergenerational group of artists from across the nation display works that span a range of practices, including weaving, beadwork, sculpture, painting, drawing, photography, performance, and video. Their interpretive expressions reflect the diversity of Native intellectual acuity according to individual, regional, and cultural identities. At the same time, these works share a worldview informed by thousands of years in reverence, study, and concern for the land.



**Both exhibitions will be accompanied by robust programming and will engage our local Indigenous community. We look forward to welcoming you!**

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





EDUCATION AND  
COMMUNITY

## Children, Families, & Community

This summer, we look forward to seeing you and your family creating and learning in our studios and galleries! Join us for an Artist Talk related to special exhibition *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!*, ignite your creativity in one of our studio classes, and bring your family and friends to enjoy live music, games, and art making at Art Summer Nights.

## ART SUMMER NIGHTS



July 13, 4-8 p.m.  
August 10, 4-8 p.m.

### FREE ADMISSION

These special Thursday evening events will have something for everyone to enjoy! Live music, vendors, lawn games, artist talks and demonstrations, and hands-on art making.



### BECOME A STUDIO VOLUNTEER

Studio Volunteers assist the Museum Educator with preparation for studio activities and assist with pre-k through high school groups. If you are a friendly, creative individual who enjoys discussing art and the art making process, studio volunteering would be a great fit for you! Reach out to Sommer Byers, Museum Educator, through e-mail at [byerss@nbmaa.org](mailto:byerss@nbmaa.org) or 860-229-0257, ext. 227 with any questions.

### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

#### HIDDEN WONDERS SUMMER CAMP

Camps start July 11th!  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Explore the hidden wonders of the Museum with half-day summer camps for ages 6-9. Campers will create their own Walter Wick-inspired artwork during weekly three-day sessions (9 a.m.-12 p.m.) and play games outdoors on the Museum's beautiful grounds.

#### July 11-13 | Out of this World

Create your own UFOs, rockets, and paper-mache planets and discover connections between art and science.

#### July 18-20 | Fairytale Fun

Let your imagination run wild as you build robots, toy trains, and castles inspired by toy story narratives!

#### July 25-27 | Puzzle Challenge

Explore science, art, and technology through designing your own Rube Goldberg machine to complete a simple task in a complex way.

#### August 1-3 | Found Objects

Campers will build an I Spy box, treehouses, and pirate ships—all from recycled and natural materials!

REGISTER HERE



## LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, GALLERY TALKS, AND FILMS

### ARTIST TALK | RANDY GILMAN

Wednesday, July 12, 1-2 p.m.

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## ADULT STUDIO

### ACRYLIC LANDSCAPE PAINTING WORKSHOP

#### KATHLEEN SMITS

Thursdays, July 6 and 13, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Thursdays, August 24 and 31, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Thursdays, September 14 and 21, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP | SKETCH WITH THE MASTERS

Sunday, July 16, 2-4 p.m.

### PHOTOGRAPHY WITH PETER GLASS

Saturdays, July 23 and 30, 12-3 p.m.

### POUR PAINT WITH SUE BYERS

Wednesdays, August 9 and 16, 2-4 p.m.

### PRINTMAKING WITH ROBERT CHARLES HUDSON

Thursdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28, 5-7 p.m.

## TOURS

### WALK-IN TOUR | MUSEUM MASTERPIECES

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

### WALK-IN TOUR | SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS - FROM THE VAULT

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

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## SCHOOL SERVICES AND EDUCATOR PROGRAMS

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | EXPLORE EMOTION THROUGH ART

Tuesday, August 29, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

In this full- or half-day teacher workshop, explore how art looking and art making can underscore and enhance social emotional learning. Throughout the day there will be tours of the NBMAA's special exhibitions, *Ellen Carey: Struck by Light* and *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!*, and hands-on art making in the studios. The day will also feature a presentation by Stacy Parsons, School-Partnership Coordinator, McKinney-Vento Regional Liaison, North Adams Public Schools, on the importance of keeping students connected to school and the arts.



Docents (L to R): Marie Carlson, Suzanne Roy, Barbara Smith, Judy Silver, Lynn Wadhams, Liz Wells, Hilary Freedman, Joan Kennedy



# | THE 2022-2023 DOCENT PROGRAM

Have you ever taken a Docent-led tour? It's a wonderful way to lean more deeply into some of the special works in the Museum or our outstanding special exhibitions. Visitors give our Docents rave reviews for their knowledge, insights, and engaging approaches.

Over the past year, an amazing 50 Docents provided almost 900 tours to 8000 Pre-K-12 students, university and college students, and adults. In addition, Joanna Biskupski gave the first Docent-led tour in Polish, and Kathy Wadsworth prepared the first Docent-led tour in Spanish. Hundreds of visitors enjoyed Docent tours of the exciting *30 Americans* exhibition in the fall and stunning *Edward Burtynsky: Earth Observed* exhibition in the spring. Docents also prepared new tours supporting military veterans, as well as designed specialized tours for a variety of audiences, including weddings and corporate events.

## ANNUAL RECOGNITION

Supported by the Museum, Docents research, prepare, deliver, and debrief their tours throughout the year. They capped off a busy 2022-2023 with the annual Docent luncheon in May. Docent Vice-President Mona Cappuccio thanked the outgoing NBMAA Docent Executive Board for their service.

- President, Carol Lacoss, 2013
- Recording Secretary, Sally Oxman, 2017
- Corresponding Secretary, Diane Therrien, 2015
- Treasurer, MJ Dunn, 2019
- Hospitality, Jan Hasenjager, 2010
- Trip Liaison, Joan Kennedy, 2007

And, as the incoming Docent President, effective July 1, Mona welcomed the new Docent Executive Board whose members will serve for the next two years.

- Vice President, Carol Raza, 2017
- Recording Secretary, Katharine Shaskus, 2019
- Corresponding Secretary, Barbara Mendelson, 2014
- Treasurer, MJ Dunn, 2019
- Hospitality, Margaret Bercovitz, 2014
- Trip Liaison, Pam Sorensen, 2019

Director and CEO Brett Abbott expressed his gratitude to the Docents and especially recognized nine Docents from the Docent Classes 2003-2009, who are not only actively touring but together were responsible for giving 20% of all tours this year-158 in all! Their superlative dedication, deep love of the NBMAA, and impressive knowledge of our art and the Museum's history make them museum treasures in their own right. While the work of every Docent is important, we proudly commend their following Docents for their long-time service.

- Mary Piazza, 2003, 20 years
- Marie Carlson, 2004, 19 years
- Judy Silver, 2005, 18 years
- Joan Kennedy, 2007, 16 years
- Susan Roy, 2007, 16 years
- Liz Wells, 2007, 16 years
- Hilary Freedman, 2008, 15 years
- Luc Ouellette, 2008, 15 years
- Donna Ozga, 2009, 14 years

**NBMAA Docents take to heart that education is at the center of the NBMAA's public service role. As we close out the 2022-2023 Docent Education Program, we appreciatively recognize the touring Docents who gave their time and expertise to share their love of art and to support the NBMAA in its mission.**

## THE TOURING DOCENTS THIS YEAR INCLUDE:

Ron Abbe, 2010  
Carol Benjamin, 2015\*\*

Margaret Bercovitz, 2014\*  
Joanna Biskupski, 2019\*  
Irene Braren, 2010\*  
Kathy Butler, 2017\*  
Mona Cappuccio, 2019\*\*  
Marie Carlson, 2004  
Diana Creamer, 2019  
Mary Jane Dunn, 2019\*  
Eileen Fisher, 2010  
Hilary Freedman, 2008\*  
Jackie Fastaia, 2013\*\*  
Jan Hasenjager, 2010\*  
Clare Gatta, 2015  
Terry Gianzenetti, 1997  
Maxine Gleason, 2019\*  
Elaine Hobart, 2017\*\*  
Angela Kane, 2019  
Gretchen Kelley, 2013\*  
Joan Kennedy, 2007  
Carol Lacoss, 2013\*\*

Andrea Levy, 2019\*  
Pam Lockard, 2017\*  
Barbara Mendelson, 2014  
Les Milch, 2012  
Margaret Milch, 2012  
Luc Ouellette, 2008\*  
Sally Oxman, 2017\*  
Donna Ozga, 2009\*  
Kathryn Papadakis, 2019  
Mary Piazza, 2003\*  
Beverly Pierz, 2011\*\*  
Carol Raza, 2017\*  
Dori Reidy, 2017\*  
Suzanne Roy, 2007\*  
Karen Schick, 2015  
Katharine Shaskus, 2019\*  
Anne Sheffield, 2019\*  
Judy Silver, 2005\*\*  
Susan Simonds, 2017\*\*  
Susan Smayda, 2019

Pamela Sorensen, 2019  
Judy Taddeo, 2017  
Mary Talbot, 2013  
Diane Therrien, 2015  
Anna Tufankjian, 2011\*  
Dianne Veale, 2019\*  
Kathy Wadsworth, 2019  
Liz Wells, 2007\*\*  
Roberta Woronow, 2019\*

*\*Denotes Docents who provided 10 or more tours in 2022-2023*

*\*\*Denotes Docents who provided 25 or more tours in 2022-2023*



**BY JASMINE DEJACKOME,** Manager of School Services and Adult Tour Programs

Spurred by the landmark *Sheff v. O'Neil* case, in 1996, the state of Connecticut established an integration program and reforms designed to increase racial diversity. Founded out of this case, the Multicultural Arts and Technology Program was created by Augustine Cofrancesco to promote diversity and improve student achievement through dance, cultural studies, music, and art making. Over the last 27 years, Augustine and his dedicated educators have brought together hundreds of students each year from New Britain, Farmington, Hartford, and Plainville to share in the transformative power of the arts. The New Britain Museum of American Art has been honored to be a partner in this commendable and necessary program.

Each year, Augustine receives fiercely competitive grants through the Bureau of Choice Programs to support the running of the Multicultural Arts and Technology Program at no cost to participants. The program is open to students in first grade through high school. So many aspects of the program are unique, but chief among them is that this program, unlike any other, is bringing together students from sister schools to learn with and from professional teachers and professional artists in schools and in cultural institutions.

Augustine is committed to his staff being as diverse as the students they teach. He says, “a diverse staff is very important, [the staff] are role models for the students and connections help with rapport.” It is clear from the amazing success of the program and its participants that the model created by Augustine is outstanding. Written pre- and post-program assessments quantify this impact. But perhaps more importantly, students and parents of participants are greatly complementary of the impacts of the program. Parents comment on the positive experiences for their children and students often choose to come back year after year. Some students even choose to become high school mentors for younger students in the program and many participants have gone onto careers in the arts.

Also important to the program is the opportunity for students to experience cultural locations firsthand. This often looks like field trips to museums but has also been overseas trips to locations such as Trinidad. For the last two decades, the NBMAA has hosted field trips during the school year and the summer, continued offerings virtually during the pandemic, and opened the Museum for year-end celebrations. When asked why Augustine continues to choose the NBMAA, he said, “the



NBMAA has gone a long way to diversifying its exhibitions. Exhibitions are always changing to offer a new reason to come back. The education staff is great and really knows how to work with students. Education staff are always creative in activity making but more importantly, they make it a collaborative experience to shape a rich and exciting program. We are able to do hands-on and perceptive work, which is a great balance.”

After 27 years as the Director of Grants for the Multicultural Arts and Technology Program, Augustine is retiring at the end of the 2022-23 academic year. The program will be taken over by Andrew Minor, Fine and Applied Art Department Leader, K-12 with Farmington Public Schools. Andrew was a student participant in the program when he was in school and as an educator continued to work and teach through the program. In his time with the Multicultural Arts and Technology Program, Andrew has fostered the continued ways students can stay engaged through the entirety of their school career, including as mentors.

#### **ALSO INTEGRAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM ARE:**

LANCE KAMAU JAMES  
African Drumming Instructor

SARAH HARRIS  
Vance Elementary School Principal

ELLEN BURSTEIN  
Sister School Instructor at Union School

JANET FOSTER  
Interdistrict Cooperative Grant Program  
Manager at the Connecticut State  
Department of Education

AMBER RIPLEY-WILSON  
Cultural Arts Instructor at Sarah J.  
Rawson Elementary School

LEONA CLERKIN  
Coordinator of Fine Arts at Consolidated  
School District of New Britain





#### 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 so many opportunities for Member engagement at the Museum this summer.

Please encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to join; consider purchasing a gift Membership; 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](https://nbmaa.org/support-us).**

## NOR'EASTER: THE 53<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL JURIED MEMBERS EXHIBITION

**Exhibition Dates: Thursday, September 21 – Sunday, October 8, 2023**

**Opening Reception and Awards: Saturday, September 23, 12-1:30 p.m.**

The Annual Juried Members Exhibition is the New Britain Museum of American Art's opportunity to expose contemporary visual arts to a wide audience. This prominent showcase in the Northeast region highlights the exceptional work of emerging and established artists in all media. This year's juror is Fritz Horstman; Fritz is a curator, educator, and artist based on Bethany, CT, where he is also Education Director at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation.

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## THE ART PARTY OF THE YEAR

Save the Date for the *21st Annual Art Party of the Year* on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

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## CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

Corporate Membership at the NBMAA provides a number of benefits for your employees, such as free admission, while simultaneously supporting the Museum.

For more information about Corporate Membership at the NBMAA and how to give your employees the Museum experience, please contact Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development, at (860) 229-0257 ext. 246 or [shumana@nbmaa.org](mailto:shumana@nbmaa.org)

### Institutional Memberships as of May 18, 2023

#### CORPORATIONS

Assured Partners Northeast

BonneeWeintraub

Delamar West Hartford

Hartford Steam Boiler, Inspection & Insurance Co.

Law Office of Kevin C. Ferry, LLC

Stanley Black & Decker

#### COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

Central Connecticut State University

University of Hartford

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## ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date for the Annual Meeting of the Membership

Wednesday, October 25, 2023 (details and invitation to follow)



## THANK YOU!

The New Britain Museum of American Art is proud to serve thousands of students and educators each year thanks to the generous support of the partners that provide funding for school services.

We are grateful to the following funders for their support:

- Tinty Foundation
- SBM Charitable Foundation
- Webster Bank
- Duncaster
- Ion Bank Foundation
- Main Street Community Foundation
- Plainville Community Fund at the Main Street Community Foundation
- Burlington Community Fund and the James R. Parker Trust at the Main Street Community Foundation
- Elizabeth H. Norton Trust

Additional thanks to the following supporters of our educational programs: Stanley Black & Decker; American Savings Foundation; Community Foundation of Greater New Britain; Greater Hartford Arts Council; The Jack Warner Foundation; and Legrand Wiremold Charitable Contributions Committee.



**Are you interested in learning more about ways you can support the NBMAA's educational programs? Contact Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development, at (860) 229-0257 ext. 246 or [shumana@nbmaa.org](mailto:shumana@nbmaa.org)**

## EVENT RECAP: HERITAGE SOCIETY BRUNCH

On Saturday, April 29, 2023, members of the NBMAA's Heritage Society convened for the annual Heritage Society Champagne Brunch. Director and CEO Brett Abbott and Interim Director of Education Kathy Butler shared about the Education Department's ongoing success and insight into future projects and plans before delving into a delicious brunch.

Want to learn more about how to join the Heritage Society and ways in which you can leave a legacy to the NBMAA? Contact Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development, at (860) 229-0257 ext. 246 or [shumana@nbmaa.org](mailto:shumana@nbmaa.org)



## DIRECTOR'S DINNER

Dona V. Cassella, Chair, Board of Trustees and Brett Abbott, Director and CEO, recently hosted the annual black-tie Director's Dinner for John Butler Talcott Society Members at the Museum. The evening on Saturday, June 3, 2023 sparkled with good friends, fabulous food, and a shared love for the NBMAA.

## | MOVER AND SHAKER SPOTLIGHT



### Jan Hasenjager

I started to volunteer at the NBMAA about 17 year ago when the Museum was in the Landers House. I was working in a stressful job and wanted to do something completely different. I would volunteer as a greeter Thursday after work and for special events. I went on several tours with Docents and thought that this would be a wonderful thing for me to do in retirement. I was in the 2010 Docent training class and loved learning about the art work and interacting with people.

I love working with the young children and have many fond memories, but a special one is when I was on a memory loss tour with a group of veterans from the Veterans Hospital in Rocky Hill. I had never done this type of tour and was shadowing another Docent. We were in the Henry and Sharon Martin Gallery talking about the Hudson River School landscape paintings, and several veterans wandered over to look at Albert Bierstadt's *Sea/ Rock*. One of the veterans was a herpetologist who studied reptiles and amphibians. He had worked for zoos and traveled all over the world analyzing old paintings of reptiles and amphibians, comparing them to species of today. He told us the seals/sea lions had flat fur instead of round fur. Water didn't penetrate the flat fur and enabled them to skim through the water. I really enjoyed interacting with these veterans and learning about their lives, and I look forward to doing memory loss tours in the future. I always think of this moment every time I look at *Sea/ Rock*, which is my favorite painting in the Museum.

The Museum is one of my favorite places to go. I get energized when doing tours, volunteering at different events, and interacting with people. I especially like the Monday Docent meetings—meeting artists and learning about their art, practicing my touring techniques, and learning about various works of art and new exhibitions. I think of the Docents and Museum staff as family and have developed friendships with many of them.

I think the NBMAA is a safe, welcoming place for people of all ages and for families to bring their children. It provides a peaceful place to get away from our hectic lives and to learn about and enjoy art. The student tours the Docents give help students develop their critical thinking and cognitive skills. The Museum is an integral part of our community by providing activities, training opportunities, and community events that meet the varied interests of everyone.



# LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE

## Sunday Music Series

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

**3:00 PM | Stanley Works Center**

**Dave Giardina Guitar & Violin Duo**  
July 9

**Bridget De Moura Castro**  
August 13

**Sonoro**  
September 10

## First Friday

Join us for the best happy hour in New Britain, featuring live music, dancing, spirits, appetizers, and good friends.

**Members \$8; non-Members \$16 in advance online**

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

**Theresa Wright**  
July 7

**Lori & The Legends**  
September 1

**The Miles Elliot Experience**  
August 4

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

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

## Attending Concerts in Stanley Works Center at the NBMAA

We are thrilled to offer "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.

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

## Art Happy Hour

Thursdays, 5:30-8 p.m.  
Through August 31, 2023

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

In case of inclement weather, call ahead. Most nights, we can move the party indoors!

Please refer to our website for a full list of live music performances.



**NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART**  
56 LEXINGTON STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT  
(860) 229-0257 | [WWW.NBMAA.ORG](http://WWW.NBMAA.ORG)



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## GET MARRIED AMONG THE MASTERPIECES!

Your special day deserves a unique venue. With our world class American Art collection and the historic Walnut Hill Park as a backdrop, the NBMAA provides flexibility and elegance for your wedding, rehearsal dinner, bridal shower, family reunion, or other special gathering. We invite all couples to consider hosting their celebration in one of our stunning indoor or outdoor event spaces, including the beautifully renovated Sylvia Bonney Halcyon Lounge (inside the 1909 Landers House), the Stanley Works Center, the Pritchard Family Terrace, and the picturesque Museum grounds.

Plan a site visit to the NBMAA, and we will help curate your magical day!

**Learn more at [nbmaa.org/rent-the-museum](http://nbmaa.org/rent-the-museum)**



### GENERAL ADMISSION

Please go to [NBMAA.ORG/VISIT](http://NBMAA.ORG/VISIT) for current Museum hours and admission rates.

### 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

[www.nbmaa.org](http://www.nbmaa.org)  
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