

Dear Friends,

Through our ambitious and diverse exhibitions and programs, the NBMAA strives to create myriad opportunities for visitors to explore the origins and ever-evolving story of American art. This effort is reflected in two major exhibitions opening mid-October, that collectively span over two-hundred years of American art history, from 1809 to now. On our second floor, visitors will find Bill Viola's tour-de-force video installation, entitled *The Raft* (2004). Inspired by Théodore Géricault's *The Raft of the Medusa* (1818–19), Viola's work addresses our shared humanity in moments of crisis.

Opening concurrently, we are thrilled to present *For America: Paintings from the National Academy of Design*, including over 90 paintings from the collection of the National Academy of Design, the oldest artist honorary society in America, founded by Samuel F.B. Morse, Asher B. Durand, and Thomas Cole, among others. Be sure to attend our symposium featuring exhibition curators, as well as additional lectures, gallery talks, workshops, and art classes that explore artistic contributions of many of America's best-known artists.

This season, visitors are also invited to explore the NBMAA's newly established Art and Book Nook, in our American Savings Foundation Art & Education Center. Here, families can relax and read books on art and artists, learn through play, and create their own art. In addition to enriching studio programs for all ages, our adult programs include the Museum's 13th Annual Museum After Dark Halloween Bash, musical offerings by the James Montgomery Blues Band, Mass-Conn Fusion, and Sea Chanteys, as well as our celebrated Holiday Maker's Market.

Save the date for two NBMAA trips to the Berkshires and Newport, RI, as well as our 2020 Art Party of the Year Gala on Saturday, April 25. Finally, I would like to thank our patrons and especially our Premier Members, the Museum's most passionate and dedicated contributors to excellence in art and education.

Warmly,

Min Jung Kim