



Erie Art Museum

Quarterly

Spring 2023 Issue 1:4





A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Fresh beginnings are in bloom at the Museum this spring! Here are a few highlights of events, partnerships, and upcoming exhibitions:

NEW EAM STAFF



We are excited to welcome two new staff members; Melanie Vadzemnieks and Kelsie Ferry.

Melanie, our new Development Director, brings a wealth of experience in fundraising, donor relations, communications, and events from her time at Gannon University's development and alumni offices and other nonprofit organizations.



Kelsie joins the staff as our Administrative and Events Coordinator. With a bachelor's degree from Mercyhurst University in hospitality management, she brings several years of expertise in event planning from Peek'n Peak Resort among other venues.



DEVELOPMENT

We kicked off this year with our first *Up Close with the Collection* event. Members had the opportunity to explore our collection behind the scenes and tour our main art storage space. We were also pleased to highlight one of the first acquisitions of the Museum, thanks to support from Blasco Public Library staff. It was delightful to see a wonderful mix of new and longstanding members. More on this collaboration with the Library can be found on page 10.

Mark Perrott, photographer, Laura Domencic, Executive Director, and John Vanco, Director Emeritus, viewing Perrott's work at the *Up Close with the Collection* event in January.



From left to right: Lori Lindley, Dean, College of Humanities, Education, and Social Sciences, Laura Domencic, Lori Steadman, Director of Schuster Gallery, MC Gensheimer, Director of Communication and the Arts, Dr. Walter Iwanenko, Provost and Vice President of Student Experience, Yijing Wang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Visual Art.

PARTNERSHIPS

We were happy to host Gannon University faculty, staff, and students on January 24th to celebrate our new partnership! All Gannon students, faculty and staff now have free admission into the Museum with a current university ID. Partnerships like this are central to our mission of promotion and the advancement of the visual arts, encouraging art in all its forms, fostering lifelong art learning, and building community among artists, art students, and the public.

We've also deepened our partnership with the ExpERIENCE Children's Museum to help with summer camps. More information can be found on page 6.



Untitled, Amanda Kaiser, 1994. Charcoal, acrylic, pastel, and collage on paper. EAM Permanent Collection.

EXHIBITIONS

To celebrate the centennial anniversary of the *Spring Show*, we have a special set of exhibitions and related programming slated for this season. *Selections from a Century* presents works from past Spring Shows that have been acquired by the Museum.

The 100th Annual *Nicole and Harry Martin Spring Show* will open in March and an exhibit featuring the hand-altered Polaroids of Nicole Martin opens in April.

Family Tree, an exhibition surrounding the work of four sisters who are having conversations around the importance of trees, highlighting social, political, and environmental conditions, opens in May. More on *Family Tree* can be found on pages 11 and 12.



Elegy to the Underground 5, Sarah Slavick, 2022, oil on canvas.

In this exciting time of renewal, there is something for everyone at the Museum, as we add more classes, workshops and artist talks.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Laura Domencic, Executive Director

WHAT'S ON

March/April/May

FREE ADMISSION DAYS



The Museum will be offering four free admission days throughout 2023 for anyone wishing to visit the Museum - courtesy of **UPMC Health Plan**, a dedicated sponsor of events and activities at the EAM.

The first one of the year is **Thursday, March 23rd**. The 100th Annual *Nicole and Harry Martin Spring Show* will be officially open and there will be complimentary art activities for all ages!

Sponsored by: **UPMC HEALTH PLAN**

SPRING SHOW OPENING



100 years is something worth celebrating! Come party at the **Museum on Friday, March 17th** to commemorate the 100th Annual *Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show*. Awards and special programming at 7 pm, plus cake, a cash bar, and more. The Museum opens at 2 pm, this event is from **6 - 9 pm**.

The Spring Show is sponsored by: Nicole & Harry Martin, PennWest Edinboro's Art Department's Visiting Artist & Speaker Endowment, Courtyard Marriott, and UPMC Health Plan.

ART AFTER DARK



Art After Dark is an evening concert series in the Holstein Gallery with a free light snack and a cash bar. We showcase different music from the Erie region while inviting guests to explore and engage with our current displays.

April will be the last performance for this season until the concert series resumes in September. We would like to thank members, guests, musicians and donors that make Art After Dark possible!

March 2nd: Monica Lewis

April 6th: Shoefly Soul

5 - 8 pm. Free for members, Museum admission for non-members.

Sponsored by:



GALLERY NIGHT



Coming up! The next Gallery Night is **Friday, March 31st**. Listen to music, shop, eat, and visit your favorite local galleries! More information, including a list of participants, can be found at erieartmuseum.org/gallerynight.

Thanks to our sponsors!





FLAGSHIP CITY

FOOD HALL

The Flagship City Food Hall's Perry's Tavern and Perry's Pizza, operated by the Erie Downtown Development Corporation, generously support one local charity each month by donating a portion of their proceeds and collecting funds. The Museum has been selected for the month of March! Stop by the Food Hall throughout the month to lend your support. Two specialty drinks and a Museum-themed pizza have been added to this month's menu to commemorate this recognition!

Be sure to join Museum staff for a social hour at Perry's Tavern on **Thursday, March 23rd** from **4 - 6 pm**. Stop by the Museum afterward for a tour of *Selections from a Century* with Museum Preparator, James, at 6 pm. March 23rd is a Free Admission Day, courtesy of UPMC Health Plan!

CREATIVE CROWD



The Erie Art Museum is hosting the Erie Arts & Culture's Creative Crowd on **April 11th** from **5:30 - 7:30 pm**.

Mingle with artists and makers along with special guest Gaëtane Verna, juror of the *Spring Show* and Executive Director of the Wexner Center for the Arts.

PASSIONATELY CURIOUS



Young Naturalist, Eugene Iverd, 1932. Oil on Canvas.

Mark your calendars for a special evening at the opening of Tony Machi's *Passionately Curious* exhibition on **June 1st** from **7 - 9 pm**. You won't want to miss this!

Check our website for more details.

SECOND SUNDAYS



PHOTO BY MIKE CONWAY

Explore creativity, new mediums, and artistic processes with your family each Second Sunday of the month from **2 - 4 pm**! Admission is always pay-what-you-wish.

Join us for the following dates:

March 12th, April 8th (in observance of Easter, April's Second Sunday will be on Saturday) and May 14th.

More information at:

erieartmuseum.org/second-sundays

Sponsored by:



LEARN AT EAM

ASIAN WATERCOLOR *with Esther Hong*



This class will introduce students to the art of Asian watercolor painting. Learn to paint the basic form of orchid, bamboo, plum blossom, and chrysanthemum with traditional materials.

\$120 for members and \$135 for non-members.

Class meets on **Thursdays from 4 - 6 pm**, starting **April 6th to May 11th**.

Learn more: erieartmuseum.org/asianwatercolor

JEWELRY WORKSHOP *with Dan & Jan Niebauer*



Learn basic and advanced jewelry-making techniques. Create your own project plan from start to finish. This is a multi-week course, beginning in April at the Erie Art Museum. The remaining sessions are at the artist's studio.

\$125 for members and \$150 for non-members.

Class meets from **7:00 - 9:30 pm** on the following dates:

Wednesday, April 12th, 19th, 26th

Tuesday, May 2nd

Wednesday, May 10th, 17th

Learn more: erieartmuseum.org/jewelry-class

STUDENT TOURS



Student tours at the Erie Art Museum build on youth's natural curiosity and Pennsylvania state education standards. The Museum staff uses a mixture of storytelling, games, interpretation, and art-making to offer students opportunities to view and interact with art, increasing observational and critical thinking skills.

To plan a school tour for your group, please contact Lakshmi Cruz Galan, Education Manager, at lakshmi.cruzgalan@erieartmuseum.org or call the Museum at 814-459-5477. The Museum has EITC funding to assist with costs for students in Erie County.

CALL FOR DOCENTS!

The EAM is seeking enthusiastic and passionate individuals to join our team as a per diem Docent. As a Docent, you will play a vital role in educating and engaging visitors of all ages in the world of art and its impact on our lives.

Multilingual individuals are strongly encouraged to apply.

For more information and to apply, visit: erieartmuseum.org/teaching.

Subtle Situation #2, Charlie Roth, etching, 1975.
EAM permanent collection. Featured in *Selections from a Century: Spring Show Acquisitions 1924-2023*.

DRAW AT THE MUSEUM



Guided by local artists, drawing at the museum will allow you to gain a deeper connection and appreciation of art in a calm, safe environment. Chairs will be set up throughout the gallery spaces, inviting you to sit a while with a piece of artwork. Work independently, or ask for guidance.

Every second Saturday of the month from 2 - 4 pm. All ages are welcome, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Free with admission.

Learn more: erieartmuseum.org/drawing

SUMMER CAMPS



When school is out, send your little learner on an epic camp adventure! Due to current construction at the ExpERIENCE Children's Museum, we're happy to provide space at the EAM to our friends and neighbors at the ECM for their *Aspiring Artists* camps this summer.

To learn more and sign up, visit eriechildrensmuseum.org/education/discovery-day-camps.

ARTIST TALKS:

Sponsored by



March 23rd | 6 PM

Tour *Selections from a Century* with Museum Preparator, James, at 6 pm.

April 12th | 6 PM

Spring Show Juror's Talk. *Curating: Essential Work – The Essence of Work* with Gaëtane Verna, Curator and Executive Director of the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University.

Dr. Paula Burleigh, Art History Professor and Gallery Director at Allegheny College, will be moderating a Q & A with Verna and Dr. Rhonda Matthews after Verna's Keynote address at PennWest Edinboro in the Alexander Music Recital Hall. This VASE event is free and open to the public. Supported by a longstanding collaboration with PennWest Edinboro's Visiting Artist Speakers Endowment.

April 20th | 6 PM

Closing reception for *Out Of Many – Stories of Migration*. Artist talk in the gallery at 6:30 pm.

May 24th | 6 PM

Opening reception with artists from *Family Tree*. Artist talk in the gallery at 6:30 pm.

EXHIBITIONS

March/April/May



New York Window, Mary Beth McKenzie, oil on canvas, 1999. EAM permanent collection.

RESURFACE: SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT COLLECTION

As part of an initiative to reorganize and digitally document the art in our storage, *Resurfaced* features works from the EAM collection that haven't been displayed in many years.

On view through April 2nd, 2023.

SELECTIONS FROM A CENTURY: SPRING SHOW ACQUISITIONS 1924-2023

In celebration of the Spring Show's 100th year, *Selections from a Century* features art that was acquired from the Spring Show's past, celebrating the history and culture generated by this storied, regional event.

Curated by James Pearson, Collections Manager, and Jamie Keim, Program Manager.

On view through February of 2024.



Untitled, *Barbara Rowe*, two-color lithograph, 1977. EAM permanent collection.



Tony Ray-Jones, *Beauty Contest, Southport*, 1968. EAM Permanent Collection.

CONNECTING WITH THE COLLECTION: PHOTOGRAPHY

This exhibition is a selection of fifty photographs from the EAM collection that spans the history of photography as a form of art. Guest curated by Pittsburgh documentary photographer, Brian Cohen.

On view through June 25th, 2023.

Supported by ArtBridges, PA Humanities, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.



EIGHTY-SIX REASONS KIMBERLY CHAPMAN

Inspired by the West Virginia Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum's *Reasons for Admission*, *Eighty-Six Reasons* examines the unfair and misconstrued diagnosis and treatment women received at the hands of medical misogyny.

On view through May 14, 2023.

Sponsored by Doug & Deb Murphy.



Scott Goldsmith

OUT OF MANY – STORIES OF MIGRATION

Out of Many: Stories of Migration features the faces and experiences of multiple generations of migrants and immigrants through the use of original, contemporary photography and essays.

On view through April 30th, 2023.

Funding for Out Of Many is generously provided by: Opportunity Fund, Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation, The Fisher Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation, Hillman Foundation, and The Heinz Endowments.

COMING UP



Hustle & Rise, Digital Photograph, Jaime Bird

100TH ANNUAL NICOLE & HARRY MARTIN SPRING SHOW

The hundredth anniversary of our annual open-call group exhibition!

On view March 17th.

Sponsored by:

PennWest
EDINBORO.

COURTYARD
BY MARRIOTT
Erie Bayfront

UPMC
HEALTH
PLAN



PAINTERLY POLAROIDS

This series of surreal photographs from artist and philanthropist, Nicole Martin, was created by moving the pliable Polaroid emulsion with a stylus. In collaboration with the 1020 Collective.

Opening April 20th.



FAMILY TREE

Four sisters of the Slavick family meditate on the lives of trees and how they connect with our own. More information on pages 11 and 12.

Opening May 18th.



TONY MACHI: PASSIONATELY CURIOUS

In conjunction with the publishing of the book, *We All Look, But Rarely See*, this multimedia show celebrates the creative path of award-winning producer, performance artist, and Edinboro alumni, Tony Machi.

Support is provided by PennWest Edinboro and WQLN.

Opening June 1st.

LOANED FROM THE ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY: *UNRECONCILED*



As part of the recent special event at the Museum, attendees had the chance to view our very first acquisition. The Art Club was founded in March of 1898 and held its first exhibition at Erie Academy later that year. In 1899, the new public library building (complete with an art gallery) was opened to the public, and the Art Club's second exhibition, featuring the work of American artists, was shown there from February 16th to March 16th of 1899. Frederick Stuart Church's *Unreconciled* was shown in that exhibit.



From the Art Club's minutes on Friday, March 3, 1899:

"The President made the announcement that Mr. F. S. Church's picture 'Unreconciled' had been purchased by Mrs. A. R. Lee, and given to the library, and that Mrs. Lee had also given \$25 to the club as her membership fee." Lee's donation of \$25 dollars to the Art Club would be equivalent to about \$890 in 2023.

Frederick Stuart Church (1842–1924) was an American painter and illustrator, known particularly for his often humorous or allegorical animal paintings. His illustrations appeared in many periodicals, including *Harper's Bazaar* and *Ladies' Home Journal*.

In its early years, the Art Club of Erie had no building of its own to hold meetings, house its collection, and display art, so the public library served this purpose. The growing collection was put on permanent display in the library's public gallery. When the Art Club acquired its own building in 1952, some of the collection remained with the library, and is still under their care today.

Special thanks to the Blasco Library for loaning us this painting that is a part of their permanent collection, as well as supplying archival materials on the history of the Art Club for further research.

FAMILY TREE

On view May 18th



elin o'Hara slavick,
Fukushima Persimmon Tree Heavy with Contaminated Fruit II, 2019
Solarized silver gelatin print



Sarah Slavick, *Elegy to the Underground*, 2020
Oil on canvas

elin o'Hara slavick / North Carolina
Madeleine Slavick / Aotearoa New Zealand
Sarah Slavick / Massachusetts
Susanne Slavick / Pennsylvania



Madeleine Slavick, *Parking Lot Conversation*, 2020
Archival inkjet prints

In a 1940 poem, Bertolt Brecht asked:
What kind of times are they, when
To talk about trees is almost a crime
Because it implies silence about so many horrors?

In a 1995 poem, Adrienne Rich answered:
.....so why do I tell you anything?
Because you still listen, because in times like these
to have you listen at all, it's necessary
to talk about trees.

Family Tree brings together the work of four sisters to 'talk about trees.' As curators, painters, photographers, and writers, they portray trees in social, political and environmental conditions — trees that stand as refuge and livelihood, consumed and consuming, under assault and triumphant, as historical record and as harbinger of things to come. Genealogical roots and botanical roots intertwine.



Susanne Slavick, *Tree of Life: Caucasus*, 2020
Gouache on archival inkjet print on
Hahnemühle paper

Photo source: Ayser Ghazaryan, former Deputy Minister of
Environmental Protection of Armenia, a scene from Ijevan. Kazak
carpet design Caucasus, ca. 1880.

In its beauty and bounty, nature is often regarded as benign and apolitical. We do not expect a tree to assume an editorial stance or embody ideology. The conceptual, analytical, and sensual intersect in *Family Tree* offers perspectives both unsettling and soothing. Addressing a variety of concerns, the artists probe a multitude of relations within and between trees and humans.

Based on her experiences in Japan, elin o'Hara slavick's works bear witness to the ongoing aftermath of atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the nuclear power disaster in Fukushima. Madeleine Slavick reveals dichotomies in our treatment and experience of nature through grouped images that decry the marginalization of trees, though not without notes of idiosyncrasy and humor. Sarah Slavick's paintings explore the underground life of trees in an elegiac series that conveys both grief and hope, for what is threatened and for what might survive through possible strategies that trees offer—for all species on the planet. Susanne Slavick hand paints trees derived from 'tree of life' carpet designs over printed scenes of environmental destruction and depredation. These trees do not lie down like doormats; they rise up and persevere, suggesting the possibility of recovery.

Whether bombed or irradiated, contained or sidelined, in underground union or standing in persistence, trees and their representations can offer solace and space—for the necessity of talking, listening, and learning.

With thanks for support from:
The City of Boston, College of Fine Arts at Carnegie Mellon University,
Hiroshima City University, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, The Japan
Society for the Promotion of Science, Lesley University and Masterton
Creative Communities/Creative New Zealand.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: ERIC DYE, MARKETING DIRECTOR



How long have you been involved with the Museum?

I've been working at the Museum since May of 2021.

Tell us about an exciting or unique project you've had the opportunity to work on!

We've been looking at new technologies to digitize the collection, and one of those is using photogrammetry to create 3D models of sculptural work by stitching hundreds of photographs together using software. I find the process fascinating. It gives me a unique opportunity to get up close to pieces in the collection, and I'm hoping we can optimize this form of digitization to share with the public this year to give them a unique new way to interact with the collection.

What are you looking forward to the most in 2023?

In 2022, we completely rebuilt erieartmuseum.org from the ground up. This year I'm excited to expand the website to make it a true extension of the Museum and become an additional way for people to interact with the collection, exhibitions, and artists. Ultimately I believe it's my duty to provide as many opportunities for communication and access between the Museum and its stakeholders as I can, and the website has many exciting ways to do that.

EITC - EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT TAX CREDIT



The Museum is the recipient of EITC donations from four local businesses for 2023. These donations directly benefit K-12 students throughout Erie County and into Warren and Crawford counties. Primarily used to offset the cost of school tours, EITC funds also help with the purchase of supplies for take-home art projects and to assist with transportation where needed.

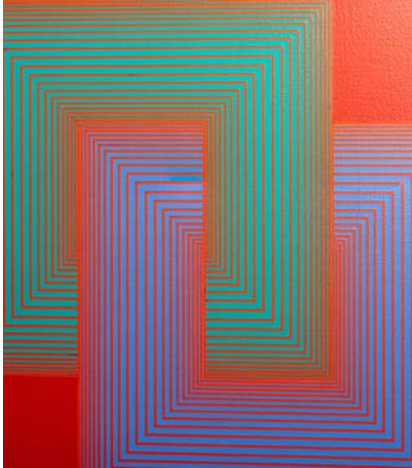


Many thanks to **Scott's Splash Lagoon**, **MacDonald Illig Jones & Britton LLP**, **Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.**, and **UPMC Health Plan** for recognizing the need and value of art education to Erie area school children.

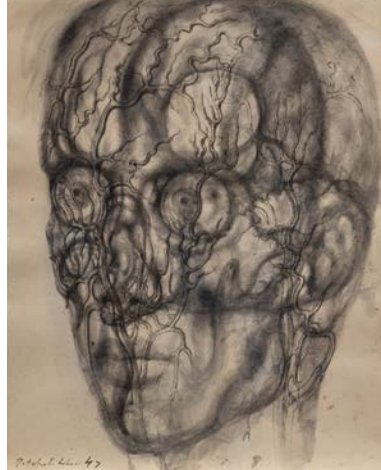
For more information on school tours, please contact Lakshmi, Education Manager, at lakshmi.cruzgalan@erieartmuseum.org.

ART ON THE MOVE

The EAM collaborates with museums and other nonprofits in our region, sharing information and sometimes even works of art. Loaning art from our permanent collection is one way we make an impact in our home community and beyond. Here are a few examples of this and the stories behind their travels:



The Palmer Museum in State College, PA has requested *Blue and Green Knot* (acrylic on canvas) by Richard Anuszkiewicz for their upcoming (May 2024) exhibition *MADE IN PA*. Anuszkiewicz grew up in Erie and was a student of Joseph Plavcan. He went on to become a major exponent of the Op Art style. *Blue and Green Knot* is one of the artworks featured on our new State Street banners (which will make a debut again this Spring!)



Pavel Tchelitchew's ink drawing on paper *Interior Landscape* was part of the Westmoreland Museum of American Art's exhibition *Alone Together: Encounters in American Realism* (May to September of 2022). The show explored early to mid-20th century American artists' attempts to process the traumas of war and social upheaval through their work in the realist style, including American scene painting and magical realism.



The Seneca Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca, New York is planning an exhibition in honor of Seneca contemporary artist, Carson Waterman. Waterman's 1976 painting *War and Peace* is part of our permanent collection, and will be featured in their upcoming show.



The EAM is loaning three massive paintings by abstract illusionist painter George Green to the Erie Center for Arts and Technology. Long-time visitors to the EAM will recognize *Stories of Light and Motion*, which was displayed in the Frenzel Gallery for a number of years. These dynamic pieces resonate with ECAT's mission to energize kids and adults to make positive change in the community through art and technology.

MUSEUM HOURS

Thursdays: 2 pm - 8 pm
Fridays: 2 pm - 8 pm
Saturdays: 10 am - 5 pm
Sundays: 1 pm - 6 pm



Erie Art Museum
20 East 5th Street • Erie PA 16507
erieartmuseum.org

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Permit #44

Return Service Requested

On the Cover:

Sunday Morning, oil, and digital print of watercolor-designed pattern, Sarah Jacobs.
100th Annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show.

The Erie Art Museum receives general support from Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.



Quarterly, a publication of the Erie Art Museum, 20 East 5th Street, Erie, PA 16507, is published four times a year.

**Interested in receiving a digital version of the Q?
Visit erieartmuseum.org.**

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

What inspires you to give to the Erie Art Museum?

Whether it is because you know the universal benefits of artistic expression, or you feel deeply that everyone can access our museum, you are making a difference by supporting our work. Thank you!

Giving is easy to do online at erieartmuseum.org/give. Or, send a donation by mail to **20 East 5th Street, Erie, PA 16507**.

Interested in learning more about making a difference for decades to come?

By making a planned gift to the Erie Art Museum, you can enrich your own legacy by supporting the future of our organization. Planned gifts include gifts of stock, bequests, charitable remainder trusts, designating a percentage of your assets to the Erie Art Museum, and more. For more information, please contact Melanie, Development Director, at: melanie.vadzemnieks@erieartmuseum.org.