

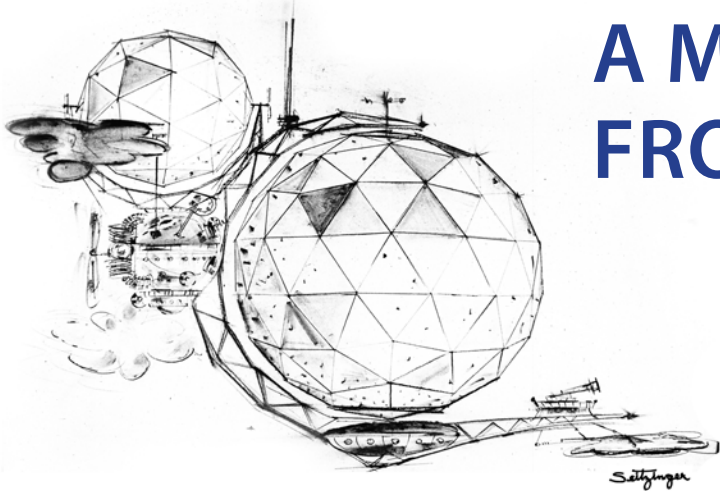


Erie Art Museum

Quarterly

Summer 2023 Issue 2:4





A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



This summer, we have an exciting slate of new programs and initiatives for creative ways to engage with the collection. Here are a few highlights of our upcoming events, partnerships, and exhibitions:

DEVELOPMENT + EVENTS

We were thrilled to host an Up Close event on June 1st, with behind-the-scenes access to the Museum's collection. This included the progress on the restoration of *NIMBUS*, a "flying machine" (sketch above) by Erie artists John Vahanian and David Seitzinger. It also marked the beginning of a Kickstarter campaign for its restoration and reinstallation. You can learn more about the process on page 12.

Even though it's summer, we're thinking ahead and planning a fabulous fall with our new gala event, Masquerade at the Museum! More on this event can be found on page 4.

PARTNERSHIPS + PROGRAMMING

Arts education is a crucial part of our mission, and we couldn't do it without the support of community partners like Erie Insurance. Special thanks to EI for contributing to us via the EITC program, making it possible for school students to enjoy trips and art making experiences at the Erie Art Museum.

We are also grateful for the Ronald McDonald House Charities grant, which enables us to develop programs and events for differently abled children, families and their caregivers. Special thanks to our advisory group, including staff at the Barber National Institute, Mercyhurst,



PennWest Edinboro, and Emily Wachter Early Intervention Services, for their valuable input in creating more opportunities to view and enjoy art.

Our education programs offer an array of workshops including fabric collage with *Spring Show* artist, Eric Berdis, altered books, and botanical cyanotypes. More information on these offerings can be found on page 6.

EXHIBITIONS

We also have several new exhibitions arriving over the next season.

Family Tree presents the work of four sisters who are having thoughtful conversations about trees.

Painterly Polaroids, an exhibit of the hand-altered Polaroids and prints by Nicole Reinhold Martin, features large projections of her work.

Passionately Curious follows the creative journey of Tony Machi, a performance artist and documentarian. Beginning with his time as an Edinboro student in the late 60s, the exhibit incorporates his photographs, mixed media works, sculptures and short films.

Themes of nature and our interaction with it also rise to the surface in *Connecting with the Collection: Entre Plantas y Mujeres* featuring artist and guest curator, Ana Balcazar. For more on her study of the permanent collection and the paintings she is creating in response, see pages 9 and 10.

With a unique blend of hands-on art making and casual presentations in a beautiful setting, the Museum offers opportunities to talk with working artists about their process and inspiration. We look forward to your visit!



Laura Domencic

Laura Domencic, Executive Director

WHAT'S ON

June/July/August

PAINTERLY POLAROIDS MEET THE ARTIST



Meet artist Nicole Reinhold Martin, as she discusses her exhibit, *Painterly Polaroids*, that plays with the boundaries of photography and painting. Enjoy refreshments while learning about her unique process of altering Polaroids with a stylus, often using a hot car or hairdryer to keep the emulsion fluid. **Saturday, June 24th** from **4 - 6 pm** (Free Admission Day!)

On **Sunday, June 25th**, stop by the 1020 Collective, 1020 Holland St., from **11 am - 2 pm** for a brunch reception with Nicole Reinhold Martin and to see more of her work in *Painterly Polaroids: Florals*.

ENTRE PLANTAS Y MUJERES: OPENING RECEPTION

Mingle with Ana, guest curator and artist-in-residence, as well as Museum staff while enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a tour of Ana's work and selections on **Thursday, July 13th** at **6 pm**.

Learn more about Ana and her time here on pages 9 and 10.

GALLERY NIGHT



Coming up! The next Gallery Night is **Friday, June 23rd**. Visit all of your favorite local galleries! More information, including a list of participants, can be found on page 13, and at erieartmuseum.org/gallerynight.

Sponsored by:  

FREE ADMISSION DAYS



The Museum will be offering several free admission days throughout 2023 courtesy of **UPMC Health Plan** and **National Fuel**, dedicated sponsors of events and activities at the EAM. Stop by!

May 27th, June 24th (free workshop day - see page 6), **July 29th, November 4th & December 1st**.

Sponsored by:  

NEW SUMMER HOURS!

The Museum will now be open on **Wednesdays** from **11 am - 6 pm**, starting **July 5th** through **September 27th**.

MID DAY ART BREAK

Erie Art Museum

We're taking a break from Art After Dark for the summer to bring back Mid-Day Art Break! The popular summer concert series will take place on our 5th Street patio. Mark your calendars to join us at **12 pm** on **Wednesday, July 5th** and again on **Wednesday, August 9th**. The Museum will be open and we plan to have food trucks on 5th Street. This event will be held rain or shine and will move indoors to the Holstein Gallery in the event of inclement weather. Check our website and social media posts for complete information.

Sponsored by:  Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority



In All Seriousness, Erie's popular dinner theater organization, will be presenting *Maui Mayhem* at the Museum on **Saturday, August 12th**. In this show, it's Luau Night at the Medvale Country Club, and the sixth (and possibly final) event of the club's year-long "Survivor Medvale" contest! There are just four contestants left and they will battle for the right to survive crazy events, Hawaiianstyle.

Can you help lei down the law and find the guilty party before they are all voted off the island? Tickets are \$50 per person and include dinner. Make your reservation today at erieartmuseum.org/hula

SPRING SHOW ARTISTS



Join us for a PechaKucha style Artist Talk with 100th Annual *Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show* award winners on **Thursday, June 29th** at **6 pm** in the Holstein Gallery.

Participating artists include juror awardees Sarah Jacobs, David King, and Hayden Haynes. View the artists' work on [page 14](#).

PechaKucha is a storytelling format where a presenter shows 20 powerpoint slides for 20 seconds. Artists will discuss aspects of their artistic work and guests will have an opportunity to ask the artist questions after each presentation. Our bar will be open for drinks! This event is free for members of the Museum, non-members pay regular Museum admission.



MASQUERADE AT THE MUSEUM

October 28th ★ Erie Art Museum

Mark your calendars for the Erie Art Museum's newest gala, Masquerade at the Museum! In past years, we have packed the Museum with attendees to our creative ARTrageous parties. Masquerade at the Museum! is our new offering and will carry over many of those fun aspects - wonderful food, performances, dynamic art experiences, music, dancing, plus a haunted Customs House tour and more! This year's event promises to be THE place to be on **Saturday, October 28th** from **7 - 11 pm**.

CLASSES

ASIAN WATERCOLOR | ESTHER HONG

Learn to paint flora using traditional Asian techniques.

Thursdays starting **June 15 - July 20th** from **4 - 6 pm**.

Members – \$120, Non-Members – \$135. Sign up online at erieartmuseum.org/asianwatercolor

STILL LIFE OUT LOUD | STEPHANIE KOOSER

Investigate and interpret expressive styles into unique still lifes.

Tuesdays starting **July 11th - August 1st** from **6 - 8 pm**.

Members – \$120, Non-Members – \$135. Sign up online at erieartmuseum.org/still-life

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SECOND SUNDAYS



Different art making activities for families and loved ones, every **Second Sunday** of the month from **2 - 4 pm**.

Join us this summer!: **June 11th, July 9th, August 13th**.

Pay what you wish.
More information at:
erieartmuseum.org/second-sundays

Sponsored by:



UPMC HEALTH PLAN

DRAWING AT THE MUSEUM



Drawing at the Museum will allow you to gain a deeper connection and appreciation of art in a calm, safe environment. Work independently, or ask for guidance from docents.

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

ACCESS ART



Access Art is a class for adults with special needs and abilities to engage with art. The class encourages the exploration of different mediums for interpretations such as movement, drawing, painting, and poetry.

Every second Friday of the month starting **August 11th** from **10 am - 12 pm**.

Free for all. Participants must register ahead of time:
erieartmuseum.org/access-art

Supported by:



WORKSHOPS

DON'T LET THEM CUT YOUR TINY LITTLE WINGS: BUG MAKING WORKSHOP | ERIC BERDIS

Fashion little fabric bugs and celebrate Pride with Museum staff and Eric, 100th Annual *Spring Show* Artist.

Saturday, June 24th from 11 - 3 pm. Learn more at erieartmuseum.org/bug-making
Free admission day! No registration required.

ALTERED BOOKS AS INTIMATE SPACES DR. SHEILA LORENZO DE LA PENA

Transform the pages of a book of your choice.

Thursday, June 29th from 6:30 - 9 pm. \$55 for members & \$70 for non-members.
Register at erieartmuseum.org/alt-books

EXPLORE BOTANICAL CYANOTYPES SARAH MOODY & ANA BALCAZAR

Join artists Sarah and Ana to explore florals through the cyanotype image making process. They will lead you through a guided tour of the Museum while your images set.

Sunday, July 16th from 2 - 5 pm. \$55 for members & \$70 for non-members.
Register at erieartmuseum.org/cyanotypes

FOUND OBJECTS JEWELRY WORKSHOP

Join Dan and Jan Niebauer in crafting jewelry from found objects near the Museum.

Saturday, August 5th from 4 - 6 pm and **Sunday, August 6th** from 1 - 4 pm.
\$30 for members & \$45 for non-members. Register at erieartmuseum.org/found-objects

WILDERNESS THERAPY EXPERIENCE: CONNECTING WITH FAMILY TREE | SYLVIE SILVA

Engage with current exhibition, *Family Tree*, and spend time at the Lake Erie Arboretum. Create meaningful work outdoors from natural materials. Transportation from EAM to LEAF (and back) provided by the Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority.

Saturday, July 22nd from 1 - 5 pm. \$40 for members and \$55 for non-members.
Register at erieartmuseum.org/wilderness



CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

June/July/August



Nicole Reinhold Martin, *Tall Ships*, hand-altered Polaroid, 1993 - 1995

PAINTERLY POLAROIDS

This series of surreal photographs from artist and philanthropist, Nicole Reinhold Martin, was created by moving the pliable Polaroid emulsion with a stylus. It also highlights the Museum's efforts to preserve and digitize the original art objects in the permanent collection.

In collaboration with the 1020 Collective.

On view through April of 2024.



Tony Machi, *Two Chairs*, performance photos, 1971

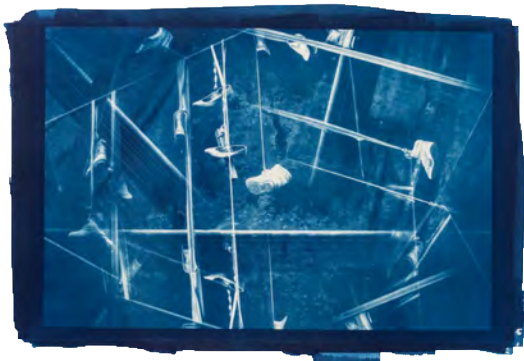
TONY MACHI: PASSIONATELY CURIOUS

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.

The exhibit is presented in part by WQLN PBS NPR.

Opening June 1st.

PennWest
EDINBORO.



Christianna Kreis, *Recomposed II*, photography, cyanotype, 2021

100TH ANNUAL NICOLE & HARRY MARTIN SPRING SHOW

The *Spring Show* has reached its 100th year and we couldn't be more excited! It features over 70 works in a wide range of subjects and mediums from local and regional artists.

Closes August 11th.

Sponsored by:

PennWest
EDINBORO.

COURTYARD
BY HARRIOTT
Erie Gayfront

UPMC
HEALTH
PLAN



elin o'Hara slavick, *There Have Been 528 Nuclear Tests to Date*, chemical drawings (developer and fixer) on outdated/fogged silver gelatin paper left in a Caltech darkroom, 2022

FAMILY TREE

Family Tree brings together the work of four sisters - elin, Madeleine, Sarah, and Susanne Slavick - to 'talk about trees.' As curators, painters, photographers, and writers, they portray trees in social, political and environmental conditions. This exhibit offers both critical commentary and sensual delight in visualizing trees that stand as refuge and livelihood, consumed and consuming, under assault and triumphant, as historical record and as harbinger of things to come.

On view through October 8th, 2023.



Hubert Haisoch, *Wallet-Wednesday, February 7th*, Collagraph, 1975, EAM permanent collection

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.



Rick Smolan, *Stranger and Stranger*, Gelatin silver print, 1982, 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.

COMING UP

CONNECTING WITH THE COLLECTION: **ENTRE PLANTAS Y MUJERES**

Opening July 13th



Ana Balcazar in EAM's third floor office, converted to a studio and future educational space.

A Q&A with Ana Balcazar

As a regional art museum, we celebrate the generations of artists before us and their connection to the artists of our time. Our mission is to present ways to engage with these works and understand their meaning, explore their relevance to our community today, and consider how to shape this resource for the future. In an initiative to explore the Museum's collection, we are inviting artists, curators, and community members to put together exhibitions that involve the works we house, to present multiple perspectives on collecting art and how it represents our culture.

For the upcoming 2023 *Connecting with the Collection* exhibition, we invited Peruvian visual artist and educator **Ana Balcazar** to curate and create works in response to the Museum's collection. She will be in residence from late April through late July. Ana's stay is sponsored in part by Gannon University.

Tell us a bit about yourself and your background. What brought you to Erie, PA?

I studied in Peru for my Bachelor's in Art for eight years, and a Master in Arts Education for two. I have done lots of things, from movies and cultural management to art education, but my greatest passion is for painting. I started painting murals professionally in 2017 and that brought me great opportunities to travel and to be a full time artist.

The first time I was in Erie, PA was to visit family in 2011. I wanted to see the frozen lake but it was impossible to leave the house because of a great winter storm. I came back ten years later to visit again in May of 2021. They happened to have several large canvases at home for me to use, so I decided to start painting in the backyard of my new Erie studio and posted some of the work on my Instagram.

Later that year, I came back to Erie from Estonia to work on my first commission in the USA. That's when Erie Arts & Culture discovered me on a geotag from my post in May. Patrick Fisher, who was their executive director, introduced me to the art community. I then received two solo show offers. The first was at Erie Center for Arts & Technology, and then came *Botanicals* at 1020 Collective, both in 2022. I was then invited to paint my first mural in the USA for the Purposeful Placemaking program. All in all, 2022 was a great year. I also had my first solo show in Europe, titled *Amazon Baroque* in Tallinn, Estonia. Now I am back in Erie to work with the Museum's collection.



Bill Heimanson, *Brenda*, type c-print, 1981, EAM permanent collection

You've spent a lot of time exploring our collection, what particular things were you looking for?

I decided to explore the archives with an open mind. I wanted the collection to surprise me, so I did not have a specific idea of what I was looking for, but the enthusiasm of having such a valuable opportunity to see and work with these treasures. The collection is a broad sweep of generations, subjects, styles, and mediums. I really enjoyed spending all those hours in the obsessive activity of going through piece by piece, reading the tags, imagining the past, and immersing myself in each artist's world.

I found many botanical compositions, but when I was getting deeper into the archive, I noticed there were a lot of portraits of women, and I became interested in how these women were depicted, why they were painted or photographed, who they were, what the artist was trying to say through these female bodies, personalities, characteristics and scenarios. I also noticed the lack of represented minorities, and I am hopeful to find a way to balance this in the exhibition.



Jock Sturges, *Jennifer*, silver gelatin print, 2001, EAM permanent collection

What connections are you finding between botanical representation and female representation in art?

To say I am finding connections in art is too broad. I can talk about the specific curatorship of my selections, but even more than just finding the connections, I like to think I am creating them and complementing the work from past artists.

There were images that I could not get out of my mind, like artistic white women nudes, young white girls in nature, portraits of older women and very intriguing compositions that imagine less idealized and even confrontative ways of femininity or women's representation. I started connecting things by color, subject, composition, and meaning. I found a link between these women's representations and botanicals. I had to make my decision. I narrowed the 8,000 pieces down to 200, and then to 40. I had finally found my subject: *Between Plants and Women*.

CONNECT WITH ANA DURING HER RESIDENCY:

Saturday, June 10th: Ana will be facilitating Drawing at the Museum

Sunday, June 11th: Second Sunday - drop-in art making with Ana for families

Friday, June 23rd: Gallery Night! Check out Ana's studio in the Museum

Thursday, July 13th: Exhibition opening - mingle with Ana while enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a tour of her work and selections

Sunday, July 16th: Cyanotype workshop with Ana and local artist, Sarah Moody

Sunday, July 23rd: Spanish language artist talk in the gallery, Spanish speaking docents available for tours

THE AVALON

Lisa Lichtenfels
EAM Permanent Collection



One of the goals of the digitization efforts at the Erie Art Museum is to increase accessibility to the collection, and one of the prime examples of this is our efforts conducted in 3D modeling the *Avalon Restaurant*, a popular, historical sculptural piece created by Lisa Lichtenfels in 1981-1982. While investigating needed repairs to the Customs House, where the *Avalon Restaurant* resided for decades, Museum staff removed the piece to complete repairs to the space and to execute needed restoration and cleaning of the artwork. Before doing so, a 3D model was created using Photogrammetry, which is a 3D modeling technique consisting of hundreds of 2D photos of a subject combined to create a textured & colored 3D object.

Thanks to RealityCapture, the software used to scan the *Avalon*, this technology not only allows the Museum to preserve our collection in a digital format, but it also provides visitors with an immersive and interactive experience, allowing them to view the artwork from all angles and appreciate the details in a way that was previously impossible.



THE FLYING MACHINE

John Vahanian and David Seitzinger | EAM Permanent Collection



We welcome the return of an old Erie Art Museum staple, *NIMBUS*, John Vahanian and David Seitzinger's "flying machine" that was finished in 1979. This striking sculpture was fashioned from sheets of glass and brass, tubing and fittings from antique lamps, silver, electric motors, and other technological materials. The steampunk aesthetic of *NIMBUS* was inspired by the inventions of Leonardo Da Vinci, the art of Buckminster Fuller, and the adventures of Buck Rogers.



In 1979, *NIMBUS* was chosen to be displayed at former governor Richard Thornburgh's inaugural festivities at the William Penn Memorial Museum in Harrisburg. The motorized sculpture was also exhibited at the Erie Art Center in 1979, and in 2012, it found its forever home as part of the Museum's permanent collection.

John Vahanian has made a name for himself as a glass worker and expressionist painter, while David Seitzinger is a retired commercial artist, inventor, and toy designer. Both artists have been working hard at restoring the "flying machine" in the basement of the Customs House so that Museum visitors can enjoy it again.

Expect to see the hanging sculpture in all its glory soon.

To contribute to the restoration of NIMBUS, contact Development Director, Melanie, at melanie.vadzemnieks@erieartmuseum.org

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: **LAKSHMI CRUZ GALAN** EDUCATION MANAGER



How long have you been involved with the Museum?

I have been working at the Museum since August 2022. Although I grew up in Erie, I wasn't very involved with the Museum until now.

Did you ever see yourself working in an art museum?

Absolutely! Art has always been a part of who I am and how I work to understand the world I live in. While I never saw myself working as a full time artist, I've always incorporated art into all that I do, which is why I am currently studying Art Therapy at PennWest Edinboro. It combines my interest in better understanding the human experience and how it is expressed through art.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I get to learn and become aware of new things everyday! It feels really good to be able to provide a platform for our community to explore, play, and discover as they see fit; this could be in community, independently, or through different modalities and techniques in art.

What are you looking forward to the most in the next year?

In the next year, I am really excited to see our educational programs continue to grow as well as our initiatives to make the Museum more accessible and welcoming to all. It'll be an amazing thing to see our creative community grow!

GALLERY NIGHT: **FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD**

PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS:

WHITETHORN GAMES | 11 EAST 12TH ST

PURRISTA CAT CAFE | 30 WEST 8TH ST

GROUNDLED PRINT + PAPERSHOP | 1902 CHERRY ST

FLAGSHIP CITY FOOD HALL | 22 NORTH PARK ROW

ARTIFACTS ON 10TH | 301 W 10TH ST

EMBER + FORGE | 401 STATE ST

KADA GALLERY & FRAME SHOP | 2632 WEST 8TH ST

1020 COLLECTIVE | 1020 HOLLAND ST

D' HOPKINS DENNISTON GALLERY FINE ART | 5 WEST 10TH ST

GLASS GROWERS GALLERY | 10 EAST 5TH ST

PACA | 1505 STATE ST

THE SHOP AT 19TH & CHESTNUT | 1909 CHESTNUT ST

BREW HA HA AT THE COLONY | 2612 WEST 8TH ST

ROBERTSON KITCHENS | 2630 W 12TH ST

FOOTLIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER | 947 WEST 12TH ST

100TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

On view through August 11th, 2023

For the hundredth year in a row, the *Spring Show* entrances the city of Erie with a broad look at current works from a variety of regional artists. This year's world renowned juror, Gaëtane Verna, chose sixty-five striking works from all across the tri-state area. There is an impressive variety of media, including guache, fabric, soil, neon, video, colored pencils, moose antler, and embroidery, among more traditional mediums such as oil painting and photography. This year's *Spring Show* also highlights a wide diversity of experience, vision, and execution, featuring many artists from the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ communities.

In conjunction with the announcement of our awards, we would like to invite you to attend the PechaKucha presentations (p. 4) from the winners on **Thursday, June 29th at 6 pm.**

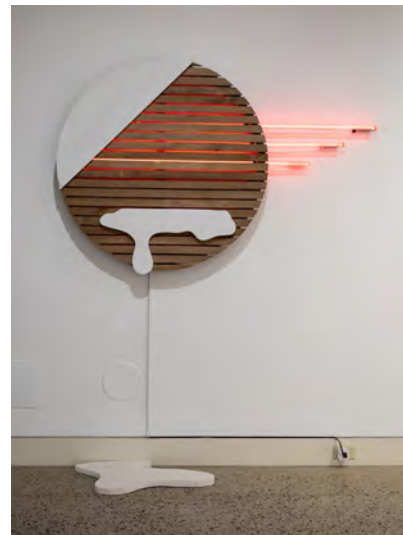
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JUROR'S CHOICE AND NPAA AWARD WINNERS:



Sarah Jacobs, *The Voyager*, oil, velvet, and digital print of watercolor-designed patterns



David King, *Picnic Basket*, pastel on board



Joshua Ice, *The Drip*, found object assemblage



Hayden Haynes, *Realization - The Story of the Corn Husk Doll*, digital photograph



Angie Jennings, *Below The Light*, color pencil on paper



Deborah Sementelli, *Yellow Chair*, fiber/embroidery

MUSEUM HOURS

Wednesdays: 11 am - 6 pm (*starting July 5th*)

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

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Erie, PA
Permit #44

Return Service Requested

On the Cover:

Guard on Duty, hand-altered Polaroid, Nicole Reinhold Martin

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.**



ERIE ART MUSEUM