From the Executive Director

Pamela L. Myers

With gratitude,

Until we can do so, please stay connected with us, with art, and with one another. We look forward to reopening the doors to our Museum and welcoming all of you in a strong and vibrant future for the Museum and our partners throughout the city, county, region.

As a lifelong museum professional, I have often been privileged to wander museum galleries and exhibitions alone. I have treasured those times of quiet reflection, learning, and appreciation, and the insights I gained. Since mid-March 2020, when we closed the Museum to keep our community and our team safe during this time of coronavirus, those of us rotating on-site safeguarding the Collection and facilities have time, mostly alone, surrounded by the creativity and energy of American artists from throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. I have come to appreciate, in a way I never imagined, a sentiment artist Carrie Mae Weems expressed that “art is the one place we all turn for solace.”

Similarly, artist Hans Hofmann challenges us to look at a painting and see the whole world. In this time of uncertainty, and for many isolation, art can heal the soul. It can make us laugh, or cry, it can place us in another’s shoes. It can bring us together and make us appreciate, and the insights I gained. Since mid-March 2020, when we closed the Museum to keep our community and our team safe during this time of coronavirus, those of us rotating on-site safeguarding the Collection and facilities have time, mostly alone, surrounded by the creativity and energy of American artists from throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. I have come to appreciate, in a way I never imagined, a sentiment artist Carrie Mae Weems expressed that “art is the one place we all turn for solace.”

Similarly, artist Hans Hofmann challenges us to look at a painting and see the whole world. In this time of uncertainty, and for many isolation, art can heal the soul. It can make us laugh, or cry, it can place us in another’s shoes. It can bring us together and give us hope, whether we can physically be in the same location or not. These thoughts invigorate me. Museum Trustees, staff, and volunteers continue to work as a team (remotely) caring for our colleagues, families, and the wider community, in addition to the Collection we hold in the public trust for you. We are working with other cultural and education organizations in our region and with museums around the world. I am uplifted by the sharing of stories and ideas, the camaraderie, and the dedication of the creatives in our midst. I am also inspired by the kind words and support you have shared with myself and other staff. Your support, phone calls, and emails have meant the world to us as have your tremendous response to and participation in our many virtual programs as well as your engagement with us on social media. Please keep liking our posts and sharing your ideas. Thank you for being part of the Museum community. Together we will re-envision a strong and vibrant future for the Museum and our partners throughout the city, county, and region.

We look forward to reopening the doors to our Museum and welcoming all of you in person. Until we can do so, please stay connected with us, with art, and with one another.

With gratitude,

Pamela L. Myers

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAYS, 12:30PM

It goes without saying that these are unusual and challenging times. Although we wish we could see you all in the Museum, we are grateful to spend part of our week with you through our virtual Member-only programs. Members receive emails on Mondays with details and registration information for programs happening on Wednesdays. Past programs are available to view on our YouTube channel including Conversation with the Curator, 50 Years of Western North Carolina Glass and Focus on the Collection: Black Mountain College.

WILLIAM MILLER

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL: Director’s Forum

MEMBER SINCE: 2014

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A MUSEUM MEMBER?
My wife, Constance, and I (pictured right at a Museum benefit event) have always lived in larger cities where their museums serve as cultural hubs of their communities. The Asheville Art Museum serves that purpose in Western North Carolina.

SHARE A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE YOU’VE HAD AT THE MUSEUM.
I continue to be impressed with the Museum’s education program that serves all of Western North Carolina. This is especially important as public funding of arts programs continues to shrink. I especially appreciate how the Museum hosts an annual WNC high school juried art contest (WNC Regional, Scholastic Art Awards). The quality of the art is amazing!

WHAT BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP DO YOU APPRECIATE MOST?
As an upper-level member of the Asheville Art Museum I have reciprocal privileges to most museums in other cities.

ARE THERE PARTICULAR ARTWORKS, EXHIBITIONS, OR GALLERIES THAT ARE SPECIAL TO YOU?
I especially like displays of local, regional, and Eastern Band of Cherokee artists.

QUICK! WHAT’S ONE WORD YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR “ASHEVILLE ART MUSEUM”?
Inspiring.

Want to share what your membership means to you in our next Member Spotlight? Email Lindsey Grossman at lgrossman@ashevilleart.org. Learn about our Membership levels and benefits at ashevilleart.org/membership.

Member Spotlight

MAY

Now more than ever, we’re striving to provide you with inspiration, education, relaxation, and solace through art. We invite you to explore the Collection, virtual programs, blog, and art activities through our Museum From Home page.

#MAKERMONDAY
Look for a new art activity to inspire young makers published every Monday.

ARTFUL ADVENTURE
Make Your Own Sculptures
MONDAY, MAY 4

TOT TIME
Printing with Fruits and Vegetables
MONDAY, MAY 11

MAKERSPACE
Dot Paintings
MONDAY, MAY 18

TOT TIME
Color Is Everywhere
MONDAY, MAY 25

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS
All virtual programs require registration. Register online or call 828.253.3227.

SLOW ART FRIDAYS
While the Museum is closed, docents lead virtual, interactive conversations about a few artworks in our Collection or special exhibitions. The goal is simple: slow down, discover the joy of looking at art, and talk about the experience with others. Learn more.
FRIDAYS, 12PM

ADULT STUDIO
Cultivating Digital Photography Skills: Light
In this four-part class, explore natural and artificial light using digital photography! Through a series of weekly assignments, hone your observation skills, and capture landscapes, portraits, and more in a variety of lighting situations. Use images from the Museum’s Collection and other sources for inspiration. Learn more.
WEDNESDAYS, MAY 6, 13, 20 & 27, 6–8PM
Cost: $75 Museum Members, $85 non-members
Register by May 5

DISCUSSION BOUND
This monthly discussion is a place to exchange ideas about readings that relate to artworks and the art world, and to learn from and about each other.

Why Your Five-Year-Old Could Not Have Done That:
From Slashed Canvas to Unmade Bed, Modern Art Explained by Susie Hodge.
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 12PM

CRAFT BEER & TRIVIA
Presented with Burial Beer.
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 7PM

- Test your knowledge with craft-inspired trivia pertaining to American art, craft, and beer.
- Beer deliveries and pick-up available from Burial’s taprooms and Forestry Camp.
- Culinary delights to-go prepared by our Perspective Café partners Food Experience.
- More details to come!

Space is limited; to register, email Kristen Boddy, membership & Museum events manager at kboddy@ashevilleart.org, or call 828.253.3227 x117. Zoom login information emailed in advance to participants. Learn more.

COLORING & COCKTAILS
Presented with the Asheville Symphony and Cultivated Cocktails.
THURSDAY, MAY 7, 7PM

- Curator interview with artist Adonna Khare about using animals to tell fantastical tales in A Telling Instinct and her recently published coloring book.
- Animal-themed music selected by the Asheville Symphony, introduced by Music Director Darko Butorac.
- Creature-inspired cocktail recipes from bartender Chad McRorie of EDISON at the Omni Grove Park Inn.
- Culinary delights to-go prepared by our Perspective Café partners Food Experience.
- Cocktail provisions available from Cultivated Cocktails.

Space is limited; to register, email Kristen Boddy, membership & Museum events manager at kboddy@ashevilleart.org, or call 828.253.3227 x117. Coloring pages and Zoom login information emailed in advance to participants. Learn more.
WHAT’S IN STORE FOR SPRING

The Museum Store looks to the Collection, special exhibitions, and local makers for its art-inspired gifts, books, toys, and more. We hope you’ll find something to brighten your day or someone else’s!

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON BIRDER’S JOURNAL
Perfect for both novice and experienced birders, this journal includes plenty of room for documenting sightings, more than 30 full-color images by John James Audubon, quotations, and so much more.
$16.95

STORMTROOPER ICE MOLD
‘May the 4th’ be with you. We have a fun selection of Jedi-grade kitchen accessories inspired by Collection artist Matt Jones’s Star Wars-themed ceramics.
$7

CONCRETE PLANTER
Brighten your green thumb with these beautiful planters, handmade by Mona Does Concrete.
$39

RAINBOW MAKER
We could all use some extra wonder in our lives these days, which is why we are so in love with this standing rainbow maker (that and its amazing solar-powered design).
$36

SPRING FOREST NECKLACE
This hand-painted pendant by local jewelry designer Fernworks features a miniature spring forest scene layered in resin and comes with an 18-inch sterling silver chain.
$80

TIGER QUEEN
Anne Lemanski shares her artistic process.

It has always been an aspiration for the animal-loving artist to build a tiger, and Anne Lemanski was prepared for it to be a very involved, time-consuming process. Adding to the challenge was her “inner vision” from the beginning for the tiger to be positioned standing on a ball. In her research phase, Lemanski looks for images of her subjects in their specific poses. This proved difficult, but not impossible, for Tigris T-1.

Lemanski sculpted her way from the feet up, with many adjustments, working intentionally to ensure her proportions were accurate. She also has an in-house engineer in her husband, Matthew Anders, who helps her with some of the logistics.

She allows her imagination and computer to run wild together with the “skins” of her sculptures. The print on the tiger’s skin is comprised of neon bubble tea straws from Asheville’s Asian Market, where she remembers being so enamored by the hot pink, stating: “I just love pink!”

Tigris T-1 is on view as part of the exhibition A Telling Instinct: John James Audubon & Contemporary Art, which will continue when the Museum reopens (date TBD).

“Audubon’s work is brilliant and has been a huge source of inspiration for me, and to be featured in a Museum exhibition right alongside him is incredible,” Lemanski says. “And Adonna Khare, I just adore her work. I swear we share the same brain—she was one of the first people to appreciate my proportion and the scale of my work.”

Lemanski’s next big project is a life-size horse, and while she’s constructed a horse head before, this will be her largest sculpture yet. For now, she’s finishing up two pileated woodpeckers—there is, of course, a pecking order.

Anne Lemanski, Tigris T-1, 2018, copper rod, archival print on paper, artificial sinew, epoxy, and plastic, 64 x 61 x 30 inches. Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas, Gift of Fleur S. Bresler
© Anne Lemanski, photo courtesy Penland Gallery.
HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Renowned artist Wolf Kahn peacefully passed on the morning of March 15, at the age of 92. Kahn was born in Germany and emigrated to the United States in 1940. After attending the University of Chicago, he went on to establish himself in New York City. He is known for his vibrant landscape paintings that create a unique, colorful version of the world that seems almost dream-like.

IN MEMORIAM

The Museum also regrets the loss of Member, volunteer, and supporter Michael (Mike) Bernatovicz, friend Toby Goldstein Bogner, Collection artists John Pfahl and George D. Green, and collector and friend James Goode.

Trees and flowers are blooming and the extraordinary place we call home has come alive with spring colors and textures. Even though we cannot fully enjoy the pleasures of this season of renewal in this time of pandemic restrictions and hardships, we can celebrate and honor our community, its people and its unique art, culture, and heritage.

This month we launch the beginning of our Spring Appeal. The Spring Appeal is part of our Annual Fund Campaign, which raises essential funds to cover our operations and supports our staff, Collections, and programs. As is the case with many arts organizations across the country, the Museum’s closure has greatly changed our plans for the season. However, we are very fortunate to be part of such a supportive community.

Our Members and donors are the heart of our institution and powerful advocates for the arts. We ask that if you are able, please consider donating to our Spring Appeal. Your donation will be a gift to the community, and will allow us to continue to provide critical arts outreach, education, and engaging experiences to the people of Western North Carolina now and in the future. Along with you we remain optimistic about the strength and the future of our community. We wish you a hopeful beginning of spring and look forward to seeing you back at the Museum soon!