

American University Museum  
*Annual Report for the Fiscal Year May 1, 2017 – April 30, 2018*

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# Letter from the Director and Curator

As we complete our thirteenth year of operation, we can look back and see tremendous growth in virtually every measurable category: critical reviews, publications, programs, tours, volunteers, collections, staff, memberships, fundraising, and attendance. Associate Director Kristi-Anne Shaer and the AU Museum staff compiled this report to show how far we have come in just the past year. It also demonstrates the success of our strategic thinking as we:

- Continue to increase the length and decrease the number of our exhibitions to allow more time to plan and execute high-quality programs and publications. This year we presented 26 exhibitions, down from 29 last fiscal year.
- Prepare for the acquisition of 9,000 objects from the Corcoran Art Collection. We have partnered with the College of Arts and Sciences and Office of Development to focus more energy and resources on fundraising in order to augment our storage capacity, make our collection accessible, grow our staff, and ensure full participation in the University's upcoming Capital Campaign.
- Begin a strategic planning process that will prepare the museum and university for the financial challenges that accompany a growing collection and further integrate the museum into the life and educational mission of the university.

I would like to thank our talented museum team and partners across the university for their hard work and support over the past year. We are flourishing in reputation and aesthetic achievement in a city of great museums. The future is only going to get brighter.



Jack Rasmussen

# CORCORAN LEGACY COLLECTION

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The American University Museum has been chosen as the recipient of nearly 9,000 works of art from the Corcoran Art Collection.<sup>1</sup> We plan to use this once-in-a-lifetime gift to establish The Corcoran Legacy Collection at American University. To give you a taste of this new collection, it contains some of history's most masterful artists such as the 16th-century Italian painter Titian, American artists Ansel Adams and Helen Frankenthaler; 18th-century British portraitist Thomas Gainsborough, as well as important American collections such as those of William A. Clark and Olga Hirshhorn.

In the spirit of our Alper Initiative for Washington Art, we are very excited to expand upon our collection of 20th-century Washington art, with works from the Washington Color School and paintings by figurative artists such as Sarah Baker, Manon Cleary, and Claudia DeMonte.

The gift will also supplement our collection of work by female artists and artists of color, in alignment with the legacy of the American University Art History department, a leader in feminist art history, and the university's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

For those who are curious, you may view the Corcoran's May 14th press release and the *Washington Post* announcement in the "Art in the News" section of the Annual Report.

In order to prepare for the legacy collection at AU, the university has invested in a new storage facility that will be home to works utilized most often by the museum, complete with rolling racks and shelving. We have also upgraded our collections management software and will be working with the registrars at the National Gallery of Art to incorporate the data on the new collection.

With every great collection comes great responsibility. We still have much work to do! American University is seeking support through a funding initiative designed to further expand our storage capacity, enhance the museum's exhibition space to accommodate the growing collection, and safeguard the Corcoran legacy for the greater arts community. We also aspire to create a collection viewing and study room to provide increased accessibility to scholars and visitors and new faculty and staff positions to care for the collection and ensure it is shared with the world through public program offerings.

We will continue to update you as this project progresses and look forward to celebrating this transformational milestone with you!

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<sup>1</sup> AU Museum's 2016-2017 Annual Report mentioned an expected gift of 7,000 works of art from the Corcoran. The gift increased by nearly 2,000 works before it was made official in 2018.

# EXHIBITIONS

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*Summer 2017*

*June 17 – August 13*

## **FREDERIC KELLOGG: WORKS IN OIL AND WATERCOLOR**

Curated by E.A. Carmean Jr.

Kellogg's work belongs within—and extends—what could be called a river of traditional American landscape, figural and still-life painting; a broad, quarter-millennium course flowing from John Singleton Copley and Thomas Cole to Milton Avery and Andrew Wyeth. Kellogg works by a combination of sketches made in his constant-companion notebook, of watercolors done *en plein air*, or in the studio from notes, or painting in oil on canvas. All three forms were included in this exhibition, featuring landscapes from Maine and Washington, DC where Kellogg splits his time.

## **VAL LEWTON: FROM HOLLYWOOD TO BREEZEWOOD**

*From Hollywood to Breezewood*, a retrospective of Val Lewton, brought it all to bear; Lewton's lifetime in front of the canvas, his knowledge of color, his unerring command of the paint-loaded brush and his certitude about how best to structure a painting. Lewton was born in California, the son of a film director, and moved to Washington to work as an exhibit designer at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (then the National Collection of Fine Arts). His paintings use the artifacts of traffic and run of the mill objects—cars, trucks, roadways, semi-demolished buildings, and paint cans—to create improbably beautiful and personal compositions.



Val Lewton, *Hennage Demolition*, 1984.

## **STATES OF MIND: CUBA AND NORTH KOREA BY CARL DE KEYZER**

This exhibition featured 60 photographs of two communist nations, North Korea and Cuba, by award-winning Belgian photographer Carl De Keyzer. The series of North Korean and Cuban photographs were shown together for the first time. They are the result of De Keyzer's extensive stay in each country, including more than 40 nights in North Korea, spent visiting and documenting each province in the country. De Keyzer is a globally renowned photographer and member of Magnum Photos, an international photographic collective, and the recipient of 17 international awards. The photographs in this exhibition powerfully captured both the struggles and leisure of everyday Cubans and North Koreans in uncommon scenes. Essay by Barbara Rose.

## **ESCAPE: FOON SHAM**

Foon Sham, a master of wood sculpture, created two monumental, horizontal and vertical tunnels for the American University Museum. The site-specific work *Escape* was meant to be entered and experienced phenomenologically. An immigrant himself, Sham built *Escape* in response to the hotly-contested issues of immigration and the plight of the refugee. It provided concealment and beacons of light.

## **PERFORMING THE BORDER**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

*Early Fall 2017*

*September 5 – October 22*

## **I AM: AN EAST-WEST ARTS INITIATIVE ORGANIZED BY CARAVAN**

Curated by Janet Rady

*I AM* was a strategic peacebuilding exhibition organized by CARAVAN that showcased the insights and experiences of Middle Eastern women as they confront issues of culture, religion and social reality in a rapidly changing world both in the Middle East and West. It addressed today's critical and increasing need of creating respect, developing understanding and encouraging friendship between the Middle East and West.

## **TWIST – LAYER – POUR: SONDRA N. ARKIN, JOAN BELMAR, MARY EARLY**

Curated by Sarah Tanguy

In *Twist – Layer – Pour*, the unexpected grouping of Sondra N. Arkin, Joan Belmar, and Mary Early yielded a dynamic, site-responsive meditation on systemized components and accumulated wholes. Step by step, link by link, their obsessive object making became a metaphor for conscious and intuitive gesture, relational interconnectivity, and the passage of time. At once public and private, monumental and intimate, the works professed an unswerving passion for their chosen materials: steel wire, synthetic papers, and beeswax. Individual variances and details invited close attention while in the aggregate, distilled shapes and rhythmic patterns emerged.



Huda Lufti, *Democracy is Coming*, 2008

## **BETWEEN TWO ROUNDS OF FIRE, THE EXILE OF THE SEA: ARAB MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY WORKS FROM THE BARJEEL ART FOUNDATION**

Curated by Karim Sultan

The works from the collection of the Barjeel Art Foundation, United Arab Emirates, illustrated an array of technologies of conflict. Conflict was defined as taking place on either a sociological or psychological plane, through assertions of language, between histories or between peoples, and the body itself as a site of conflict. This exhibition also explored mechanisms of power, and the power of artists to recognize and employ these mechanisms to directly address the issues of conflict, or more abstractly, notions of space, language, memory, geography, categorization, and identification that are part of conflict.

## **TETHERED TO THE CRADLE: KINETIC WORK BY CHRISTOPHER CARTER**

Curated by Aria Gannon

Christopher Carter's substantial and important sculptures were intended to invite viewer interaction, reflection and contemplation. The ready-made forms drew on Carter's experiences and memories of his adolescence for their inspiration. The individual pieces comprising the totality of the work interacted with each other, suggesting viewers reflect on the weight and meaning of their own experience of growing up.

## **WILLIAM WOODWARD: THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS**

For the past two decades, William Woodward has delved into the rich history and aesthetic possibilities of the seven deadly sins. The master drawings and narrative paintings in this exhibition owed a great deal to the films of Federico Fellini, Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and the *commedia dell'arte* tradition. The artist tried to imagine, had these directors and actors been painters, how they might have depicted their subjects in whimsical and elusive ways rather than strident and explicit interpretations.

## **MAKING A SCENE: JEFFERSON PLACE GALLERY**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

*Late Fall 2017*

*November 11 – December 17*



Anne Marchand, *Eternal Feminine*, 2017

## **RADIX: THE ETERNAL FEMININE**

Curated by Claudia Rousseau, Ph.D.

*RADIX* was a collaboration of three Washington artists: Cianne Fragione, Pat Goslee and Anne Marchand. All three had been working, in paintings and assemblages, with the concept of *The Eternal Feminine*. Defying simple definition, this concept had different but analogous meanings for each artist. Each found a means to express this feminine energy in contemporary and abstract terms, from her own perspective.

## **RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE ROTHFELD COLLECTION OF CONTEMPORARY ISRAELI ART**

The Rothfeld Collection of Contemporary Israeli Art, part of the American University Museum's permanent collection, inspired dialog about political and cultural issues involving Israel through the paintings, sculptures, and mixed media work of prominent and emerging Israeli artists. The collection was gifted to the AU Museum by Donald Rothfeld in 2011 and has been growing ever since.

## **THE TRAWICK PRIZE**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

## **BETWEEN TWO ROUNDS OF FIRE, THE EXILE OF THE SEA: ARAB MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY WORKS FROM THE BARJEEL ART FOUNDATION**

\*Continued from early fall

## **WILLIAM WOODWARD: THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS**

\*Continued from early fall

## **TETHERED TO THE CRADLE: KINETIC WORK BY CHRISTOPHER CARTER**

\*Continued from early fall

*Winter 2018*

*January 27 – March 11*

## **ERIK THOR SANDBERG**

This exhibition featured a series of new paintings by American artist Erik Thor Sandberg within the context of selected earlier works. Sandberg is known internationally for pushing the skillful illusionism of master oil painting to the current edge of Magic Realism on three-dimensional wood panels of his own design. Grounded in humanism, Sandberg's paintings present a compelling contemporary expression of how people connect with each other, nature and basic elements of life.

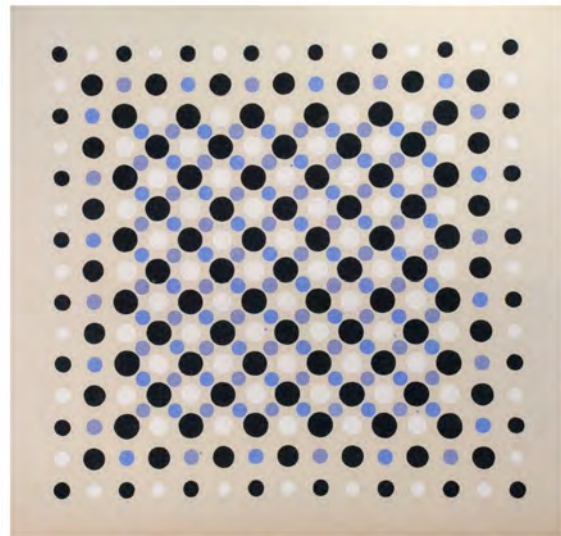
## **VITAL SIGNS**

Curated by Meskerem Assegued

Abel Tilahun, a multidisciplinary artist from Ethiopia, explored universal human experience through the manifold meanings we associate with the human body, its parts, its sustenance, and its loftiest ambitions in *Vital Signs*. The exhibition reflected the artist's skill in sculptural installation, video art, painting, and drawing, linked by a common thread of semiotic concerns and an unwavering voice of his generation. Tilahun maintains a studio practice both in Washington, DC and Addis Ababa.

## **THOMAS DOWNING AND THE SUBLIME DECORATIVE**

Downing's distinctive geometrically organized canvases, executed during the height of the "Washington Color School," that glorious moment in American painting born in Washington, DC in the late 1950s and 1960s, constitute a singular and important body of work in twentieth century art. With the perspective of hindsight, Downing's elegant "circle/dot" compositions are seen to rival those of his great teacher, Morris Louis, and his better-known peer, Kenneth Noland. This presentation gave us an opportunity to rediscover, and savor, the gorgeous and challenging work of this artist whose reputation is undergoing a major revision.



Thomas Downing, *Untitled*, 1960



### **KATEŘINA VINCouroVÁ: ARTERIA**

Curated by Karina Kottová

Czech artist Kateřina Vincourová focused on the fragile nuances of interpersonal relations played out in time and space. The exhibition *Arteria* thus became a large-scale spatial drawing, rather than a collection of individual artworks. The personal is political for Vincourová, who intersects her minimalistic compositions with textiles or household objects, highlighting both the emotional charge of their individual components, and our ability to observe them from a distance.

### **BRIAN DAILEY: WORDS**

Brian Dailey's multi-screen video installation *WORDS* presented the artist's six-year investigation into the relationship between language, culture, and national identity and the challenges we face in our efforts to communicate key concepts across linguistic boundaries and national borders in the age of globalization. Dailey saw *WORDS* as the creative summation of his global experiences, spanning 80 countries, compelling viewers to come to terms with the unstable relationship between language and concept, between interpretation and meaning.

### **FRANK DIPERNA RETROSPECTIVE**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

*Spring 2018*

*April 3 – May 27*

### **KUMO: MIYA ANDO**

Curated by Aria Gannon

Miya Ando's artwork ranged from monochrome to subtle color palettes, offering a glimpse of the immense calming energy of the infinite. Ando created an immersive work that engaged the viewers, bringing nature to mind, reminding the viewers of their own connection to, and place within, nature and nature's cycles. Her works brought attention to the fragility, the deep power and the uncompromising force of nature via experiential art installations which created environments of reflection and wonder. Distinctive in her highly adept presentation of subtle realities, Ando's work has given her an international reputation as one of the most innovative working artists.

### **JIHA MOON: DOUBLE WELCOME, MOST EVERYONE'S MAD HERE**

Jiha Moon's works addressed the intersection of imagery native to Korea, Japan, and China and elements of the West in order to explore cross-cultural perceptions. Originally from Korea and presently based out of Atlanta, Georgia, Moon's work presented our current global identity as influenced by popular culture, technology, racial perceptions, and folklore. By melding the artistic traditions and iconic imagery of both East and West, Moon's work explored ideas of both the foreign and the familiar. This exhibition was presented as part of the Visiting Artist Program organized by AU Studio Art.

### **ENTANGLEMENT: CAROL BROWN GOLDBERG**

Carol Brown Goldberg's exhibition *Entanglement* offered vivid evidence of her artmaking as the convergence of intellect, emotion, and technique. Her paintings in the exhibition—marked by images of dense, imagined foliage—were rooted in a unique interplay of tightly packed philosophical concepts and more ethereal poetic imaginings.



### **FRANCISCO TOLEDO: TOLEDO MÚLTIPLE**

Curated by Fernando Gálvez de Aguinaga

As Mexico's most prolific and influential graphic artist, Francisco Toledo has been exploring the fantastical and expanding the expressive range of his printmaking over more than 50 years. This exhibition encompassed a wide range of Toledo's work, revealing the progression and creative process evidenced in his printmaking. The exhibition also included 21 works by both Mexican and foreign printmakers as part of Toledo's collection for the Instituto de Artes Graficas de Oaxaca (IAGO). These works have been influential in developing Toledo's creative vision and serve to contextualize the medium in a global art history.

Francisco Toledo, *The Carnival*

### **MASTER OF FINE ART FIRST YEAR AND THESIS EXHIBITIONS**

April 3-April 25 and May 5-May 27

AU's Department of Art presented a two-part exhibition featuring the work of first and second year MFA candidates working in diverse media. The first-year experience was riddled with experimentation, questioning, and transformation. *Year One: A Closer Look* exhibited the work of artists J'han Brady, Amanda Muhlena Hays, Sarah Jarrett, Arnaud Leclere, Sonimar Maldonado, Bryan McGinnis, Guy Miller, Veronica Salas, and Nadia Shihabi. *Eight* represented the culmination of two years' work by the eight graduating members of American University's Studio Art MFA program. At the close of four semesters of experimentation, discovery, dedication, and reinvention, these artists claimed their space and purpose in an exhibition that was both an ending and a beginning. Featuring the work of Holly Trout, Tim Magenta, Tiffany Raquel, Fallon Chase, Ban Alwehaibi, Michelle Gagliano, Michelle Tangires, and Paige Stewart.

### **MICHAEL CLARK: WASHINGTON ARTIST**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

# EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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## RECURRING PROGRAMS

### YOGA IN THE GALLERIES

Certified Kripalu yoga instructor Eva Blutinger teaches a rejuvenating class in the peaceful surroundings of art every Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the museum. Cost is \$10 per class and \$5 for members. Museum members at the Associate's Level and above may attend for free.

### WEEKLY TOURS

Each Friday at 11:30 a.m., all are welcome to explore the galleries with our knowledgeable docents. Tours highlight the current exhibitions and cover a new subject every week.

### KIDS@KATZEN

Kids@Katzen offers children from ages 5-12 and accompanying adults a unique opportunity to engage with current exhibitions and to each create their own works of art in a hands-on studio experience. The program is offered two times per semester. Cost is \$10 per child. Museum members at the Family Level and above may attend for free with up to two children.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### SUMMER 2017

#### Summer Members' Preview featuring Frederic Kellogg

Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen invited members to preview the Summer exhibitions early, which included a gallery talk with the artist Frederic Kellogg and curator E.A. Carmean Jr.

#### Gallery Talk: *States of Mind*

Artist Carl De Keyzer, US Foreign Policy Master's Candidate Teresa Garcia Castro, and Professors Sarah Gordon, Leena Jayaswal, and BG Muhn, discussed Communist-led Cuba and North Korea as seen in De Keyzer's series of 60 photographs in *State of Mind*.



Darren Rabinowitz balancing as part of Street Light Circus performance.

#### Summer Opening Reception

Artists, curators and museum patrons mingled at the opening of four new summer exhibitions. Performance works by Street Light Circus.

#### Painting with Frederic Kellogg

Artist Frederic Kellogg gave a demonstration of watercolor painting *en plein air* at the museum. Using sketchbook and easel, Kellogg focused the class on finding composition through sketches to develop larger watercolor paintings. The artist encouraged participants of all levels to bring a sketchbook or easel and take part.

**Gallery Talk on Val Lewton: From Hollywood to Breezewood**

Claudia Minicozzi, Benjamin Forgey, and Jack Rasmussen discussed the life and work of Val Lewton in this retrospective exhibition.

**Free Parking featuring the artists of *Performing the Border***

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

*EARLY FALL 2017*

**Early Fall Members' Preview**

Museum Members were invited to preview the six new fall exhibitions prior to the opening. The evening included a special program on the *I AM* exhibition by CARAVAN featuring His Excellency Shaikh Abdullah bin Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, Bahraini Ambassador to Washington, Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, President of CARAVAN, Kate Seelye, Senior Vice President of Middle East Institute, and participating artists.

**Gallery Talk: The Barjeel Foundation, United Arab Emirates**

Curators from the Barjeel Art Foundation Karim Sultan and Mandy Merzaban discussed the ideas behind the current exhibition *Between two rounds of fire, the exile of the sea*.

**Early Fall Opening Reception**

Artists, curators and museum patrons mingled at the opening of six new Early Fall exhibitions. This event was free and open to the public.

**Artist's Lecture with the James Renwick Alliance**

In conjunction with the JRA's Distinguished Artist Series, artist Alex Bernstein discussed his cast and polished glass sculptures.

**Gallery Talk: *Twist - Layer - Pour***

Artists Joan Belmar, Mary Early, and Sondra Arkin and their curator Sarah Tanguy discussed their site-specific installations.

**Free Parking featuring the Jefferson Place Gallery**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

**Special All American Weekend Event: The Seven Deadly Sins**

As part of All-American Weekend, Director Jack Rasmussen and William Woodward discussed his series of paintings titled *The Seven Deadly Sins*.

*LATE FALL 2017*

**Late Fall Members' Preview**

Museum members were invited to preview three new exhibitions with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen. Artist Christopher Carter and curator Aria Gannon gave a tour of *Tethered to the Cradle*.

**Gallery Talk: "Best in Show" Trawick Prize**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

**Late Fall Opening Reception**

Artists, curators and museum patrons mingled at the opening of three new Late Fall exhibitions.

### ***The Seven Deadly Sins, A Comedy***

The museum hosted a gallery talk with the artist William Woodward on his solo-exhibition *The Seven Deadly Sins*. Artist Clarice Smith, Author Katherine Neville and Museum Director Jack Rasmussen discussed these narrative paintings with the artist.

### **Artist's Lecture with the James Renwick Alliance**

In conjunction with the JRA's Distinguished Artist Series, Sonia King discussed her mosaic techniques, using both a micro and macro approach to creating organic forms.

### **Gallery Talk: *RADIX: The Eternal Feminine***

Curator Claudia Rousseau and artists Anne Marchand, Pat Goslee, and Cianne Fragione discussed the Feminine energy in their collaborative exhibition of paintings and assemblages.

### **Holiday Brunch in the Galleries for Katzen Circle Members**

Members were invited to spend the morning with us for a special holiday brunch served in the galleries.

## *WINTER 2018*

### **The Washington Winter Show**

The Washington Antiques Show was founded in 1955 for the purpose of raising funds for local charities serving the needs of at-risk children and families through an annual show of antiques and fine arts.

This year, the annual Washington Winter Show, held at the Katzen Arts Center, explored chi-noiserie—the European interpretation of Asian art as a decorative style—and its intrigue and inspiration for the world of decorative arts.

### **Winter Members' Preview**

Museum members were invited to preview the Winter Exhibitions early, including an intimate tour with Czech artist Kateřina Vincourová and curator Karina Kottová that explored consumer culture through spatial installations in *Arteria*.

### **Gallery Talk: Vital Signs**

Artist Abel Tilahun and curator Meskerem Assegued discussed the conceptual rendering of the human body in this immersive exhibition.

### **Winter Opening Reception**

Artists, curators and museum patrons mingled at the opening of six new Winter Exhibitions.

### **Gallery Talk for Erik Sandberg**

Curator Vesela Sretenović and Erik Sandberg discussed the artist's latest paintings of Magical Realism.

### **Drawing Tools You Can Use With Beverly Ress**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

### **Remembering Walter Hopps**

The museum hosted a discussion of the life and work of iconoclastic curator Walter Hopps and his posthumous book *The Dream Colony: A Life in Art* with Anne Doran, artist and Senior Editor at *ARTNews*, Deborah Treisman, writer for *The New Yorker*, and artist Sam Gilliam.

### **Gallery Talk: *Thomas Downing and the Sublime Decorative***

The museum hosted a discussion with Jane Livingston, Chief Curator of the Corcoran Gallery of Art during the last ten years of Downing's career and E.A. Carmean, Jr., Curator of Twentieth-Century art at the National Gallery of Art for the entirety of Downing's career.

### **Gallery Talk with Brian Dailey**

Brian Dailey and curator Wendy Grossman discussed the creation of his virtual Tower of Babel that took place over six years and in 80 countries.

### **Free Parking with Frank DiPerna**

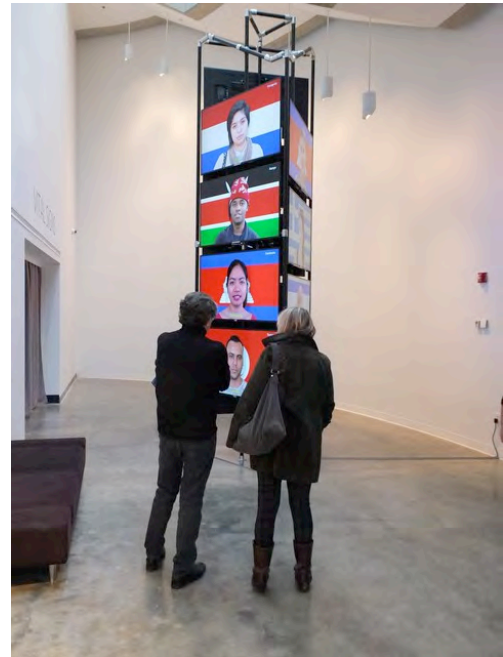
\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

### **Two-Day Artist as an Entrepreneur Program for Visual Artists**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

### **Artist's Lecture with Chris Antemann**

In conjunction with the James Renwick Alliance's Distinguished Artist Series, local artist Chris Antemann discussed her figurative pieces that portray contemporary narratives in the guise of 18th century figures.



Artist Brian Dailey and guest in front of his video installation *Words*. Photo by Bruce Guthrie.

## *SPRING 2018*

### **Gallery Talk with Jiha Moon**

Korean artist Jiha Moon discussed her work that explores cross-cultural intersections between East and West and reflects the changing face of globalization. This event was presented in conjunction with AU Studio Art.

### **Spring Members' Preview**

Museum Members were invited to attend a special evening viewing of our new exhibitions, featuring a talk by the curator of *Toledo Múltiple*, Fernando Gálvez de Aguinaga.

### **Spring Opening Reception**

Artists, curators and museum patrons mingled at the opening of the six new Spring exhibitions at the Opening Reception.

### **James Renwick Alliance Lecture**

In conjunction with the James Renwick Alliance's Distinguished Artist Series, studio jeweler Sharon Church discussed the inspiration and process behind her nature-inspired jewelry.



Artist Carol Brown Goldberg and Director Jack Rasmussen discuss her exhibition *Entanglement*.  
Photo by Bruce Guthrie.

### **Gallery Talk: Carol Brown Goldberg**

Washington artist Carol Brown Goldberg discussed the intersection of philosophy and poetry in her ethereal images of densely-packed foliage.

### **MFA Thesis Candidate Reception**

We celebrated the achievements of AU's Department of Art Thesis candidates with a gallery talk and reception.

### **Gallery Talk: Miya Ando**

Curator Aria Gannon discussed the creation of Miya Ando's celestial works rendered in painting and glass sculpture.

### **Gallery Talk with Michael Clark**

\*Description under Alper Initiative for Washington Art

### **Inclusion Rider**

This event featured conversation about diversity, identity, and inclusion in art organizations in the DMV area. Hosted by AU's Art Department and co-hosted by the Studio Visit and 'sindikit, this open discussion identified and examined the structures and economies that impact artists' lives.

### **Amanda Huron Book Talk: Carving Out the Commons**

In support of the Metropolitan Policy Center, the AU Museum hosted Amanda Huron as she led a discussion on her book *Carving Out the Commons: Tenant Organizing & Housing Cooperatives in Washington, D.C.* Professor Huron is an assistant professor of interdisciplinary social sciences at the University of the District of Columbia, where her research focuses on housing, gentrification, the decommodification of land, and the history of Washington, D.C. In *Carving out the Commons: Tenant Organizing and Housing Cooperatives in Washington, D.C.*, she theorizes the urban commons through examining the experiences of limited-equity co-ops in the fast-gentrifying city of Washington, D.C.

# CONCERTS

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MUSIC IN THE MUSEUM, the Museum's concert series with Ensemble-in-Residence INTERFERENCE/intermedia new music collective, returned for its third season with two ambulatory concerts in the gallery. The first concert featured Russian and American Music commemorating 100 years since the Russian Revolution of 1917. The concert was sponsored by AU's Carmel Institute of Russian Culture and History and the Contemporary Music Forum.

The second concert drew connections to the notion of process music, including minimalism, algorithmic music, and chance determination. Featuring a combination of acoustic and digital musical instruments, computer performers, and visual components, INTERFERENCE explored this terrain with a distinct intermedia focus.

## **The Sins in Concert**

Conductor James Blachly and the Experiential Orchestra presented seven new compositions in response to *William Woodward: The Seven Deadly Sins*.

## **Alma de Cuerdas Concert**

We hosted an evening of traditional Mexican music in honor of the exhibition *Toledo Múltiple*. The Alma de Cuerdas Ensemble was founded in 2015 by violinist Octavio Zárate. Comprised of eight professional musicians hailing from the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, the group has developed both a national and international presence by participating in a diverse range of festivals, quartets and orchestras. The Alma de Cuerdas Ensemble is committed to fostering the arts among the youth, and to bringing the music that identifies Mexico as a nation of great cultural diversity to all regions within and outside the country.



# ALPER INITIATIVE FOR WASHINGTON ART

## Alper Initiative for Washington Art Exhibitions



Street Light Circus, *Him*, 2016

### **Performing the Border**

Curated by Megan Rook-Koepsel

*June 17 - August 13, 2017*

Where do we draw the boundary line? How do we know where one moment ends and another begins? The borders that separate people and things are constantly changing, and quite often completely arbitrary, yet the importance placed on them would seem to suggest otherwise. Featuring Washington artists Clay Dunklin, Amy Lin, Susana Raab, Jenny Wu, and Street Light Circus, the works in *Performing the Border* explored the concept of borders and boundaries, both the ways we perform within them, and the way those borders are often themselves a performance.

### **Making a Scene: Jefferson Place Gallery**

Curated by John Anderson

*September 5- October 22, 2017*

*Making a Scene* marked the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Jefferson Place Gallery: a small cooperative gallery dedicated to showing the work of DC-area contemporary artists of the late 1950s. Founded by four American University professors and Alice Denney, the gallery would quickly evolve from extension of AU faculty's pedagogy, to an early supporter of the Washington Color School, to a host of exhibitions featuring prominent national and international contemporary art figures including Jack Tworkov, Robert Goodnough, Toko Shinoda, Robert Rauschenberg, and Jasper Johns.

### **The Trawick Prize**

*November 11 - December 17, 2017*

The Alper Initiative for Washington Art celebrated an award that has become synonymous with Washington area artistic talent: The Trawick Prize for Contemporary Arts. One of the first regional competitions with the largest award that annually recognizes visual arts, The Trawick Prize was established by Carol Trawick, a longtime community activist in Montgomery County. *The Trawick Prize* exhibition featured new works by the "Best in Show" recipients of the award over the last 15 years: Lauren Adams, Richard Cleaver, Larry Cook, Neil Feather, Mia Feuer, Lillian Bayley Hoover, Gary Kachadourian, Maggie Michael, Jonathan Monaghan, Jiha Moon, David Page, James Rieck, Jo Smail, and René Treviño.

## **Frank DiPerna Retrospective**

*January 27 - March 11, 2018*

*Frank DiPerna Retrospective* was a comprehensive survey of the artist's photographic work over more than forty years. Comprised of multiple bodies of work beginning in 1974 continuing through today; each project was accomplished through using the most advanced technology of the time—from black and white to color film to the classic Polaroid SX-70 to the possibility of digital color photography. The flow of work, from series to series over decades, reveals a careful eye recording and at times choreographing a changing yet consistent world transcending both time and place. Organized by Jayme McLellan.



Frank DiPerna, *Eroded Hills, Bad Lands, South Dakota, 1977*

## **Michael Clark: Washington Artist**

*April 3 - May 27, 2018*

Michael Clark (a.k.a. Clark Fox) has been an influential figure in the Washington art world for more than 50 years, despite dividing his time equally between the capital and New York City. Clark was not only a fly on the wall of the art world as the last half-century played out- he was in the middle of the action, making innovative works that draw their inspiration from movements as diverse as Pop Art, Op Art, Conceptual Art, Minimalism, and the Washington Color School.

## **Publications**

Performing the Border

39 pages; ISBN: 978-0-9982944-6-9

Making a Scene: Jefferson Place Gallery

73 pages; ISBN: 978-0-9982944-9-0

The Trawick Prize

41 pages; ISBN: 978-0-9993328-0-1

Frank DiPerna Retrospective

61 pages; ISBN: 978-0-999-3328-1-8

Michael Clark: Washington Artist

55 pages; ISBN: 978-1-7321553-0-5

## **The Alper Initiative for Washington Art Book Collection**

In addition to Alper exhibition catalogues, the Alper Initiative for Washington Art Book Collection offers books on the art history of Washington and the local artists that played a role in that history, as well as those making history today. The book collection is available in the Alper study space

located in the AU Museum. All are welcome to peruse the books over a cup of coffee or tea during normal museum hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00am-4:00pm.

To review the books available prior to visiting, patrons may reference the book collection Pinterest page or search the AU Library Alper Book Collection Catalog. Furthermore, anyone interested in contributing to the collection may submit a donation proposal through the book donation form on the Alper webpage.

## Programming

### Alper Salon Series

FREE PARKING is a series of salon-style, early evening conversations in the Alper Initiative for Washington Art space. The format of these events ensures an intimate evening of lively discussion. The salon is open to anyone interested in discussing the art and artists of the Washington Metropolitan area.

**FREE PARKING: *Performing the Border*** featured local artists whose performance-based visual art reflects on the tensions surrounding issues of immigration, border security, and international relations. Washington artists Clay Dunklin, Amy Lin, Susana Raab, Jenny Wu, and artists from Street Light Circus discussed their work with curator Megan Rook-Koepsel.

**FREE PARKING: *Jefferson Place Gallery*** featured curator John Anderson in conversation with artists and friends of the Jefferson Place Gallery—Washington’s premiere contemporary art space opened by artists in 1957.

**FREE PARKING: *Frank DiPerna Retrospective*** featured Washington artist Frank DiPerna in conversation with gallery director and curator Jayme McLellan about DiPerna’s life-long photographic work.

### Other Events

#### **Gallery Talk: “Best in Show” Trawick Prize**

This season’s salon-style conversation in the Alper Initiative for Washington Art took a different approach to celebrating Washington artists by recognizing the recipients of the Trawick Prize over the past 15 years. The Trawick Prize for Contemporary Art is one of the first regional competitions with the largest award that annually recognizes visual artists. The award was established by Carol Trawick, a longtime community activist in Montgomery County.

#### **Gallery Talk with Michael Clark**

This event featured a conversation with Michael Clark, Jim Harithas, former director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art in the 1960s and current director of the Station Museum of Art in Houston, and Paul Richard, art critic for *The Washington Post* from 1967-2009. They discussed Clark’s paintings that both embrace and evade categorization within the sphere of contemporary art.

#### **Drawing Tools You Can Use with Beverly Ress**

*Drawing Tools You Can Use with Beverly Ress* returned for another 6-week session teaching the fundamentals of drawing representatively. This program is part of the Alper’s series of artist-led classes.

### **Two-Day Artist as Entrepreneur Program for Visual Artists**

Through the support of the Stephen & Palmina Pace Foundation, New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) in partnership with the American University Museum (AUM) offered a free boot camp focused on the artist as an entrepreneur. The two-day-long program was customized to fit the needs of Washington DC Metropolitan-area artists. The weekend featured a blend of formal lectures, breakout sessions, and one-on-one meetings. Participants left with an “action plan,” and a blueprint for specific aspects of their practice.

## **Alper in the News**

Raab, Susana. “Performing the Border at the Alper Initiative for Washington Arts/American University Museum opening June 17.” *Look Underfoot*. May 17, 2017.

Editorial Team. “Alper Initiative for Washington Art Hosts “Free Parking” an Artist-led Conversation.” *East City Art*. Oct. 11, 2017.

Jacobson, Louis. “At the American University Museum, a Retrospective of Photographer Frank DiPerna.” *Washington City Paper*. Feb. 9, 2018.

# Fellowships, Internships & Student Employment

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## FELLOWSHIPS

*Gala Cude-Pachecho*

*First Year, M.A. Arts Management*

Museum Volunteer Program: museum tour coordination, volunteer newsletter oversight, development of volunteer educational materials and docent guides

*Cynthia Hodge*

*First Year, M.A. Art History*

Alper Initiative: liaison to Alper artists, loan agreement organization, book collection management

*Elise Pertusati*

*First Year, M.A. Arts Management*

Museum Visitor Services: campus and community outreach, museum shop retail assistance

*Victoria Proctor*

*Second Year, M.A. Art History*

Alper Initiative: Alper artist liaison, loan agreement organization, book collection management

## INTERNSHIPS

Allison Hebert

*Second Year, M.S. School of Public Affairs*

Events and programs: event planning and execution

Maisha Maliha-Hoque

*Senior, School of International Service*

Museum Marketing: social media strategy and execution, community outreach

Sarah Leary

*First Year, M.A. Art History*

Office of the Associate Director: exhibition logistics, gallery attendant management

Claire Osborn

*Senior, School of Communications*

Museum Marketing: design of museum outreach materials

Katherine Stephenson

*Second Year, M.A. Art History*

Office of the Registrar: exhibition shipping and logistics, collections management

## ADDITIONAL STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Each semester, the museum employs 15-20 student gallery attendants, 2-3 Registrar and Preparator assistants, and 3-5 museum shop attendants.

# Volunteer Program

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*Museum Volunteers serve as hosts, providing a welcoming atmosphere and a vital link between the American University Museum at the Katzen Art Center and its visitors. Volunteers serve as interpreters to facilitate conversations that promote a deeper understanding of the exhibited art works, as well as the museum's focus on exhibiting political art, international art, and local art. In addition, the role of a Volunteer is to promote interest in the museum and to educate the community. Volunteer participation includes opportunities to serve on the Events and Greeting, Touring Docent, and Kids@Katzen Committees.*

## Volunteer Enrichment Program 2017 -2018

The enrichment program for the volunteers consists of activities designed to increase knowledge of contemporary art and to strengthen the role of the volunteer at the Museum. These activities include exhibition tours with Director & Curator Jack Rasmussen, a lecture series on contemporary art, and educational field trips to galleries, museums, historic sites, artist studios, and private collections. The speakers for the lectures are experts in their fields and come from various museums and university disciplines.

Below is the schedule of meetings and field trips:

May 9	Tour of <i>Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors</i> exhibition at the Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum
June 5	Museum Communications Part 1, Tutorial with AU Museum Marketing & Publications Specialist
June 14	Docents' Preview with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen
June 19	Exhibition training with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen

September 6	Docents' Preview with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen
September 11	Exhibition training with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen
September 25	Gallery Talk with Lisa Rappaport, former instructor at Dar Al-Hekma University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
October 16	Museum Communications Part II, Tutorial with AU Museum Marketing & Publications Specialist
October 23	Tour of the Smithsonian's Freer Sackler Galleries with curator Tommy Wide
November 8	Docents' Preview with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen
November 13	Exhibition training with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen and Ori Z. Soltes, PhD
November 28	Gallery Talk at the National Gallery of Art, <i>Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting: Inspiration and Rivalry</i>
December 4	Tour of <i>Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War (Annotated)</i> at the Smithsonian's American Art Museum
December 16	Volunteer Appreciation Brunch and <i>RADIX: The Eternal Feminine</i> Gallery Talk
January 29	Exhibition training with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen
February 12	Tour of the United States Department of the Interior Stewart Lee Udall Building
February 27	Tour of <i>Americans</i> exhibition and behind-the-scenes tour at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian
March 13	Tour of <i>A Dark and Scandalous Rockfall (Una oscura y escandalosa caída de piedras)</i> exhibition with curator Laura Roulet at the Mexican Cultural Institute
April 2	Exhibition training with Director and Curator Jack Rasmussen

## AU Museum Volunteers



Natalie Abrams  
Harriet Belkin  
Harriet Berlin  
Holly Bolter  
Andrea Boyarsky-Maisel  
Natalie Brenner  
Shelley Brodecki  
Florence Brodkey  
Vivian Brodsky  
Susan Cole  
Aileen Cooper  
Yacsire Cutler  
Joan de Pontet  
Jo Anne Fink

Beverly Flowers  
Tina Fried-Heller  
Judy Gann  
Donna Grell  
Jay Guerber  
Marilyn Hardis  
Phyllis Heller  
Lorrie Kaitz  
Terry Kelly  
Ellen King  
Marie Kissick  
Kathleen Koehler  
Anita Lampel  
Terri Lassar

Kathleen Madigan  
Rona Mendelsohn  
Marilyn Paul  
Sandy Pritzker  
Nancy Raskin  
Gerry Robin  
Zita Rudolph  
Myrna Seidman  
Sharon Simon  
Mary Jo Smith  
Nena Thayer  
Hope Zoss  
Sandy Zuckerman

*Volunteer Deborah Grant passed away on December 14, 2017. Volunteer Emeritus Jean Phillips Bradford died on December 30, 2017 at her home in Garrison, New York. We are grateful for Deborah's and Jean's years of dedication to the AU Museum and the Washington arts community.*



## Volunteer Run Programs

### **Kids@Katzen**

*Our Kids@Katzen program offers children from ages 5-12 and their families a unique opportunity to engage with current exhibitions and create their own works of art in a hands-on studio experience.*

Early Fall: *Twist-Layer-Pour*

After learning about work in the group exhibition *Twist-Layer-Pour*, children created sculptures using everyday objects and found material.

Late Fall: *Sculpting with String & Wire*

Based on *Tethered to the Cradle*, an exhibition of sculptures by artist Christopher Carter, children used string, wire, and other materials to produce their own playful sculpture.

Winter: *Register for Color School!*

Inspired by the work of Washington Color School artist Thomas Downing, children created collage artworks using color, size, and shape.

Spring: *Getting Tangled with Carol Brown Goldberg*

Carol Brown Goldberg led the children in drawing their own botanical interpretations inspired by her *Entanglement* exhibition.

## Tours

Volunteer docents provided tours of the exhibitions every Friday during the run of exhibitions. They also gave 18 tours upon request for university classes, community groups, and tourists.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
June 29, 2017	Ring House	13
July 21, 2017	Knollwood Military Retirement Community	17
July 21, 2017	School of Public Affairs Young Scholars	18
August 9, 2017	Sunrise Senior Living Center	12
August 9, 2017	Goodwin House Assisted Living	9
October 5, 2017	Howard Community	44
October 14, 2017	Orlando Museum	21
October 15, 2017	Wellesley Alumni	12
December 5, 2017	AU Middle Eastern Studies Institute	30
February 28, 2018	AU History Department	45
March 1, 2018	Marymount University Prof. Michele Colburn's Color Theory Class	47
March 9, 2018	University of Maryland	13
April 12, 2018	AU Prof. Andrea Pearson's Visual Identities Class	40
April 16, 2018	AU Prof. Marin's Spanish Class (in Spanish)	50
April 18, 2018	Living Independently for Everyone	2
April 19, 2018	AU Prof. Sarah Gordon's Modern Art Class	40
April 20, 2018	AU Prof. Kruckenberg's Art Appreciation Class	39

# PUBLICATIONS

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## Catalogs:

### Summer 2017

*Performing the Border* (Alper Initiative for Washington Art)  
39 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9982944-6-9

*Val Lewton: From Hollywood to Breezewood*  
80 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9982944-3-8

*Frederic Kellogg: Works in Oil and Watercolor*  
44 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9982944-4-5

### Early Fall 2017

*Between Two Rounds of Fire, the Exile of the Sea*  
74 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9982944-8-3

*William Woodward: The Seven Deadly Sins*  
36 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9982944-7-6

*Making a Scene: The Jefferson Place Gallery* (Alper Initiative for Washington Art)  
73 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9982944-9-0

*Twist - Layer - Pour*  
40 pages. ISBN: 978-0-09993328-0-1

### Late Fall 2017

*The Trawick Prize* (Alper Initiative for Washington Art)  
41 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9993328-0-1

### Winter 2018

*Thomas Downing and the Sublime Decorative*  
46 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9993328-2-5

*Erik Thor Sandberg*  
44 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9993328-3-2

*Frank DiPerna Retrospective* (Alper Initiative for Washington Art)  
61 pages. ISBN: 978-0-9993328-1-8

Spring 2018

*Michael Clark: Washington Artist* (Alper Initiative for Washington Art)  
55 pages. ISBN: 978-1-7321553-0-5

*Brochures:*

Summer 2017

*States of Mind: Photographs of Cuba and North Korea by Carl de Keyzer*  
8-page brochure

Early Fall 2017

*Tethered to the Cradle: Kinetic Work by Christopher Carter*  
Tri-fold brochure

Late Fall 2017

*The Rothfeld Collection*  
Bi-fold brochure

*RADIX: The Eternal Feminine*  
12-page brochure

Winter 2018

*Kateřina Vincourová: Arteria*  
Tri-fold brochure

*Vital Signs*  
Bi-fold brochure

Spring 2018

*Kumo: Miya Ando*  
Tri-fold brochure

# Art in the News

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"Acontecer diario SÍNTESIS PERIODÍSTICA." *Sucesos y Sucedidos*. April 12, 2018.

"Alper Initiative for Washington Art Hosts "Free Parking" an Artist-led Conversation." *East City Art*. Oct. 11, 2017.

"American University Museum fall shows: Arab art, process art, kinetic art, and the deadly sins." Dallas Art Dealers Association. Sep. 5, 2017.

"American University Museum fall shows: Arab art, process art, kinetic art, and the deadly sins." *MyHeadlinez Online*. Sept. 5, 2017.

"American University Museum Reveals Cuba and North Korea in Photographs, Among Summer Exhibitions." *ARTFIXdaily*. June 13, 2017.

"American University Museum spring shows feature science and art entangled, Zapotec myth and magic, among others." *Artdaily.org*. April 3, 2018.

"American University Museum spring shows feature science and art entangled, Zapotec myth and magic, among others." Dallas Art Dealers Association. April 3, 2018.

"American University Museum summer shows." *Artdaily.org*. July 25, 2017.

"Apocalypse, Right Now: Abel Tilahun: Vital Signs." *Brooklyn Rail*. March 6, 2018.

"Arab art brings focus to conflict." *The Washington Post*. Sept. 22, 2017.

"Arab art, process art, kinetic art, and the deadly sins." *Artdaily.org*. Sept. 5, 2017.

"Artist found inspiration in the District's unglamorous features." *The Washington Post*. Aug. 2, 2017.

"Asia shapes two art shows at the American University Museum." *Alpha Omega Arts*. May 4, 2018.

"At AU, three local abstractionists invoke the 'Eternal Feminine'" *The Washington Post*. Dec. 10, 2017.

"At the American University Museum, a Retrospective of Photographer Frank DiPerna." *Washington City Paper - Online*. Feb. 9, 2018.

"Barjeel Collection At CCS Bard." *Harpers bazaar arabia*. Aug. 9, 2017.

"'Between two rounds of fire, the exile of the sea' at American University Museum, Washington, D.C." ARTnews Online. Sept. 22, 2017.

"Bodies of work on the works of bodies." *The Washington Post*. Feb. 23, 2018.

"Body of a child, head of a monster." *The Age*. July 9, 2017.

"Brian Dailey's Strange Odyssey from Art to Terror and Back Again." *The Village Voice*. Feb. 23, 2018.

"Charm of Chinoiserie at WWS Jan. 12-14." *The Georgetown Dish*. Jan. 4, 2018.

"Competition Finalist: Updraft America at the Katzen Museum." *Bourgeon*. July 17, 2017.

"A conversation with Hudgens Prize finalist Jiha Moon." *ArtsCriticATL.com*. Aug. 7, 2017.

"DC Gets Rare Glimpse at Celebrated Israeli-Arab Painter's Masterworks." *Tablet Magazine Online*. Sept. 14, 2017.

"Diario Plaza Juárez - Obra de Francisco Toledo llega a Washington." *Plaza Juárez*. April 11, 2018.

"Erik Thor Sandberg at the Katzen!" *Old Town Crier*. Feb. 1, 2018.

"East City Art Reviews: Erik Thor Sandberg at American University Museum Katzen Arts Center." *East City Art*. March 5, 2018.

"East City Artnotes: WORDS at the Katzen Arts Center." *East City Art*. Feb. 21, 2018.

"Ethiopia: Abel Tilahun's Exhibition 'Vital Signs' Curated by Meskerem Assegued Opens in DC." *Tadias Magazine*. Jan. 1, 2018.

"Ethiopian artist explores art and technology in new U.S. exhibition." *China Global Television Network*. Feb. 21, 2018.

"Exposición "Toledo Múltiple", en el American University Museum, en Washington – Proceso." *Proceso (MX)*. April 11, 2018.

"Feats of clay at the Mexican Cultural Institute." *The Washington Post*. Aug. 13, 2017.

"'Feminine' art, Washington art and Israeli art." *Artdaily.org*. Nov. 12, 2017.

"Foon Sham's Wood Tunnel Takes Viewers on Dual-Natured Journey." *The Washington Diplomat – Online*. May 9, 2017.

"Hirshhorn Director Melissa Chiu loves D.C. Here are her favorite spots." *The Washington Post Online*. Oct. 31, 2017.

"How Ralph Steadman, Travis Scott, And Quavo Brought Fear And Loathing To A New Generation." *MTV Online*. Jan. 9, 2018.

"'I AM' at Jordon – UK – USA." *Blouin Art Info*. May 17, 2017.

"In Foon Sham's work, a dream for some, a prison for others." *The Washington Post Online*. July 20, 2017.

"In the galleries: Show at American University invokes the 'Eternal Feminine.'" *News Reality*. Dec. 7, 2017.

"In the galleries: Show at American University invokes the 'Eternal Feminine.'" *The Washington Post-Online*. Dec. 7, 2017.

"In the galleries: Tehran doesn't reveal itself readily." *The Washington Post-Online*. Oct. 5, 2017.

"In the galleries: Where have all the people gone?" *The Washington Post-Online*. July 6, 2017.

"The James Renwick Alliance Hosts Chris Antemann." *East City Art*. March 10, 2018.

"Katerina Vincourová ve Washingtonu." *Artalk.cz*. March 5, 2018.

"Korean-Born, Atlanta-Based Artist Mixes Familiar with Foreign in Asian-Western Fusion." *The Washington Diplomat-Online*. May 1, 2018.

"Late Artist Kenneth Young Is Finally Getting His Due." *Washington City Paper – Online*. June 1, 2017.

"Middle Eastern Art Show Wins Admiration, Support." *Albawaba – en*. Oct. 17, 2017.

"North Korea, Cuba Photographs Offer Rare Glimpse Inside Closed Societies." *The Washington Diplomat-Online*. Aug. 2, 2017.

"Obra de Francisco Toledo llega a Washington." *La Cronica*. April 11, 2018.

"Obra de Francisco Toledo llega a Washington." *Frontera Info*. April 11, 2018.

"Obra de Francisco Toledo llega a Washington." *Tiempoonlinea*. April 18, 2018.

"Obra de Francisco Toledo llega a Washington." *El Universal*. April 10, 2018.

"Obra gráfica de Toledo llega a museo en Washington." *La Jornada (NI)*. April 11, 2018.

"Performing the Border at the Alper Initiative for Washington Arts/American University Museum opening June 17." *LOOK UNDERFOOT*. May 17, 2017.

"Photographs of North Korea by Carl De Keyzer." *The Daily Beast*. Sept. 4, 2017.

"A photographic series of Wong Maye-E and a display of Carl De Keyzer narrate North Korea." *Artribune*. June 19, 2017.

"A proposal for a DCResidentCulturePass in DC." *Real Estate + Tourism*. Aug. 18, 2017.

"Queen Rania Patrons Exhibition Celebrating Middle Eastern Women." *About Her*. Aug. 25, 2017.

"Rare photographs of daily life in North Korea go on show right in the heart of Washington D.C." *The Art Newspaper*. June 16, 2017.

"Rare photographs of daily life in North Korea go on show right in the heart of Washington D.C." *Artintern*. June 19, 2017.

"Reading Public Museum brings sculpture outside." *Reading Eagle*. Oct. 14, 2017.

"Representation to performance: American University Museum summer shows." *Dallas Art Dealers Association*. July 25, 2017.

"Retrospective of Ralph Steadman, British Graphic Artist and Hunter S. Thompson's Gonzo Journalism Collaborator, in D.C. this Summer." *ARTFIXdaily*. Feb. 16, 2018.

"Review | Asia shapes two art shows at the AU Museum." *The Washington Post-Online*. April 27, 2018.

"Se mostrará en Washington obra gráfica de Francisco Toledo." *El Imparcial Oaxaca*. April 12, 2018.

"Sharjah's Barjeel Art Foundation Collection On Show In Washington DC." *Harpers bazaar arabia*. Oct. 12, 2017.

"The Sins in Concert." *WETA-TV Online*. Oct. 5, 2017.

"Six artists go deep into the weeds." *The Washington Post*. March 4, 2018.

"Tehran doesn't reveal itself readily." *The Washington Post*. Oct. 8, 2017.

"This exhibit of female Middle Eastern artists' work aims to challenge stereotypes." *The Washington Post-Online*. Sept. 28, 2017.

"Toledo llega a Washington." *El Siglo de Torreón*. April 11, 2018.

"Two Arab Art Shows At American University Explore Conflict, Identity, And Community." *DCist*. Sept. 1, 2017.

"Two Exhibitions on Arab Art Challenge Stereotypes to Build Bridges." *The Washington Diplomat-Online*. Oct. 2, 2017.

"Two visual artists, worlds - and centuries – apart." *The Washington Post-Online*. Feb. 22, 2018.

"Washington Winter Show's Many Charms." *Antiques and the Arts Weekly - Online*. Jan. 12, 2018.

"Where is the DC Museum of Art?" *Old Town Crier Online*. May 2, 2018.

"Where to get your art fix this summer." *The Washington Post-Online*. June 2, 2017.

"Where to satisfy your cravings." *Washington Post*. June 4, 2017.

"Wilmer Wilson IV: Fire Bill's Spook Kit – Announcements." *e-flux*. June 27, 2017.

"Works from the Barjeel Art Foundation collection come to CCS Bard." *The Art Newspaper*. July 10, 2017.

“Works from the Barjeel Art Foundation collection come to CCS Bard.” *Artintern*. July 12, 2017.

“Wood Sculptures Rooted in Politics and Philosophy.” *Hyperallergic*. Aug. 3, 2017.

“Wood Sculptures Rooted in Politics and Philosophy.” *NYC Epeak*. Aug. 4, 2017.

“WPA artists of the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Area, part 3: Louisiana Small, Nelson Rosenberg, and William Calfee.” *New Deal of the Day*. July 27, 2017.

“Zbig, Gregg and Frank: Three More Leave Us.” *Georgetown Media Group Online*. May 30, 2017.

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*On May 14, 2018, American University in conjunction with The Corcoran Art Gallery Board of Trustees announced the Corcoran’s gift of nearly 9,000 works of art to the American University Museum. The released statements were republished over one hundred times by national and international news outlets. In addition, numerous outlets published their own stories on the gift.*

## **Corcoran Board of Trustees Announces One of the Largest Free Art Distributions in U.S. History; More Than 10,750 Works of Art Going to 22 Institutions in Washington<sup>2</sup>**

WASHINGTON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--May 14, 2018--The Corcoran Art Gallery Board of Trustees today announced that more than 10,750 works remaining in the Corcoran’s art collection will be distributed to 22 institutions across Washington in one of the largest free art distributions in U.S. history.

Today’s announced distribution includes paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture, textiles, and photographs featuring internationally recognized artists such as Ansel Adams, Gene Davis, Walker Evans, Helen Frankenthaler, Sam Gilliam, Dorothea Lange, and many others.

Honoring the Board’s previously stated commitment to preserve the Corcoran legacy in Washington, 99 percent of the Corcoran’s total art collection will remain in the city. This includes today’s distribution and 8,631 artworks previously accessioned by the National Gallery of Art after the Corcoran museum closed in 2014.

A complete listing of artwork and recipient organizations can be found on the Corcoran website at [corcoran.org/artdistribution](http://corcoran.org/artdistribution).

“I applaud the Corcoran Board of Trustees, who worked so diligently to honor the legacy of William Wilson Corcoran and keep the Corcoran’s art collection in Washington. Residents, students, teachers, historians, and visitors from around the world will all benefit from these artworks being

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<sup>2</sup> Business Wire; A Berkshire Hathaway Company (2018, May 14.) *Corcoran Board of Trustees Announces One of the Largest Free Art Distributions in U.S. History; More Than 10,750 Works of Art Going to 22 Institutions in Washington* [Press Release]. Retrieved from [www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180514005549/en/Corcoran-Board-Trustees-Announces-Largest-Free-Art](http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180514005549/en/Corcoran-Board-Trustees-Announces-Largest-Free-Art)



kept in DC, where they will be preserved and made available for the public to enjoy,” said Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser.

Recipient organizations include local universities (American University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Howard University, and the University of the District of Columbia); museums (Anacostia Community Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and seven other Smithsonian Institutions, The Kreeger Museum, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, The Phillips Collection and the National Gallery of Art); and locations appropriate for specific artworks, such as the Supreme Court of the United States receiving a painting of Chief Justice John Marshall.

The recipient organizations will take possession of their selected artworks in the next few months, and they only pay for packing, transportation and insurance costs. Additionally, the recipients have committed to keeping the artwork in the city for display and for student and scholarly study.

As is common with museums, approximately 80 percent of the art in the Corcoran Collection are on paper, including drawings, prints, and photographs. Many of these are unframed and safely stored until needed for an exhibition or study. The bulk of the Corcoran’s famous works on paper collection will be transferred to the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center where it will be preserved nearly in its entirety.

“As a proud member of the Washington Color School, I have a long history of creating and exhibiting my art in this town, and strong emotional ties to the city and its many cultural institutions. I am deeply gratified that the Corcoran’s extensive art collection, from the Color School and so many other talented artists, will remain here in DC,” said famed artist Sam Gilliam.

Of the entire Corcoran collection of 19,493 artworks, only 109 (0.6 percent of the total) are estimated to be leaving the District, including lace and other decorative work slated for the Smithsonian’s Cooper Hewitt Design Museum in Manhattan, and 17 artworks going to locations having a specific connection to the work, the artist and the Corcoran.

Distribution decisions were made by the Corcoran Board of Trustees after a multi-year process of evaluating requests submitted by institutions and organizations in Washington and nationwide. Three former Corcoran curators were hired to help evaluate these requests, and the curators operated under anonymity, so they could give candid assessments and recommendations to the Board.

“We are extremely pleased to distribute the Corcoran collection to so many worthy institutions across the city,” said Corcoran Board of Trustees Chairman Harry Hopper. “The Corcoran legacy is threefold: The school, which continues operation as part of The George Washington University, educating future generations of artists; the building, which is getting the much-needed repairs and renovation to preserve it for the future; and the Corcoran art collection, which remains in Washington to be exhibited across the city for generations to come.”

About the Corcoran Board of Trustees: The Corcoran Board of Trustees is committed to preserving the Corcoran legacy in Washington, DC through one of the largest free distributions of artwork in history. The Trustees’ distribution of the Corcoran collection will allow the artwork to be enjoyed by the public and studied by students and scholars for future generations.

## Bulk of Corcoran's remaining collection headed to AU museum at the Katzen<sup>3</sup>

*The Washington Post*, [Peggy McGlone](#) May 14

[The Corcoran Gallery of Art's](#) board of trustees will announce Monday that it will distribute almost 11,000 works remaining in its renowned collection, a historic giveaway that includes paintings by Washington Color School artist Sam Gilliam, photographs by Ansel Adams and Dorothea Lange, and prints by 19th-century French master Honoré Daumier.

Almost 9,000 pieces will go to the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center, with others headed to 10 Smithsonian Institution museums, several universities and the U.S. Supreme Court.

The distribution marks the final stage of the dismantling of the famed Washington institution. Under a [controversial 2014 deal](#), the National Gallery of Art had first dibs on the entire collection and ended up acquiring about 40 percent of the 19,493 works. George Washington University gained control of the museum's independent school and its two historic buildings, including the Flagg Building on 17th Street NW.

"Having three anchors, where the bulk of the collection legacy of the Corcoran could be accessed, seemed like a great balance," said Corcoran board chairman Harry F. Hopper III.

The artwork given to American University represents the largest piece of the Corcoran holdings and is a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Jack Rasmussen, director and curator of the [American University Museum](#) at the Katzen. American is in the process of finalizing the acquisition.

The Corcoran works, Rasmussen said, complement the university's focus on contemporary art and Washington artists. The major gift raises the national profile of the largest university-affiliated museum in the region.

"The Corcoran was the center of the art world in Washington, and the center of gravity has come over here a bit," he said. "We have the facility and the interest in Washington. The Corcoran legacy is our legacy, too. It's Washington's legacy."

The National Gallery acquired more than 8,000 pieces in 2015, including significant works by - Albert Bierstadt, Frederic Edwin Church, Cy Twombly and Jenny Holzer, transforming its holdings of contemporary art, photography and American paintings.

In 2016, the Corcoran released a list of the remaining work to Washington institutions and encouraged them to make selections. Three independent curators reviewed the requests and offered recommendations, and the Corcoran board made the final decisions.

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<sup>3</sup> McGlone, P. (2018, May 14). Bulk of Corcoran's remaining collection headed to AU museum at the Katzen. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved from [www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/bulk-of-corcorans-remaining-collection-headed-to-au-museum-at-the-katzen/2018/05/13/1ae68b48-5550-11e8-9c91-7dab596e8252\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.198c6184624c](http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/bulk-of-corcorans-remaining-collection-headed-to-au-museum-at-the-katzen/2018/05/13/1ae68b48-5550-11e8-9c91-7dab596e8252_story.html?utm_term=.198c6184624c)

Hopper said the board was painstaking in its effort to match the works with the institutions and is donating pieces to all the organizations that asked. It is sending works to every corner of the city — from the Anacostia Community Museum in Southeast to the Kreeger Museum in Northwest — and to Georgetown and Howard universities and the University of the District of Columbia.

“The institutions had to have the capability of receiving them and being good custodians, and to not only exhibit them, but to make the works accessible,” Hopper said.

George Washington University was offered about 800 works, second behind American University. Included are works of historical interest, including a portrait of founder William Wilson Corcoran and a trowel that was used to set the cornerstone of the Flagg Building, said Kym Rice, assistant director for academic affairs at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design.

“It’s a very generous and important gift to us,” she said. “It matches a lot of the strengths of GW.”

The Smithsonian American Art Museum has been offered about 320 works, including prints and graphic works by Puerto Rican artists and social documentary photography, which is a focus of its collection.

“It’s exciting for the city,” said SAAM curator Virginia Mecklenburg. “Anyone who does art historical research knows how important the Corcoran was. It’s bittersweet.”

Only 109 items, less than 1 percent of the total, are going to institutions outside Washington, - including 92 pieces of lace to the Smithsonian’s Cooper Hewitt Design museum in New York.

[GWU](#) is renovating the Flagg Building, which includes galleries that will be curated by the National Gallery of Art, according to spokeswoman Anabeth Guthrie. Museum staff will spend a year monitoring the environmental conditions of the galleries before installing exhibitions sometime in 2019.

# The Museum Online

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By the Numbers:

@AUMuseum\_Katzen on social media

Facebook:

Average of 28 new followers per month  
2016-2017 averaged 19 new followers

May 2018: 3,291 followers  
June 2017: 3,018 followers  
June 2016: 2,711 followers

Goal for 2019: 3,700 followers

Instagram:

Average of 34 new followers a month  
2016-2017 averaged 37 new followers a month

May 2018: 1,626 followers  
June 2017: 1,219 followers  
June 2016: 763 followers

Goal for 2019: 2,100 followers

Twitter:

Average 12 new followers per month  
Average 689 visitors to page per month

May 2018: 1,621 followers  
June 2017: 1,468 followers  
June 2016: 1,283 followers

Goal for 2019: 1,900 followers

## Alper Initiative for Washington Art

The Alper Initiative Instagram and Facebook following continues to grow. These accounts are distinctive yet related to the AU Museum's style as dictated by a style guide developed with the intention of creating a unique voice and appearance for the Alper online. Posts aim to be informative and neighborly, directly connecting with local artists and art organizations via social media. This past year, we have increased the number of livestreamed Alper events, promoted new artist-led classes at the Alper, and hosted our first Facebook group for a specific exhibition, *Latitude: The Washington Women's Art Center*. The group brought together 80 + former members of the Center and became a resource for the exhibition.

By the Numbers:

@AlperInitiative on social media:

Followers as of May 2018:

Instagram: 377

Facebook: 588

Twitter: 429

Followers as of June 2017:

Instagram: 296

Facebook: 489

Twitter: 371

Goals for 2019:

Instagram: 600

Facebook: 800

Twitter: 600

Live-streaming:

We have continued live-streaming select events on our Facebook page since the majority of our online audience is on Facebook. While these videos do not receive many live viewers, the streams serve to document the events and are used as resource for our volunteer docents. We were pleased to stream our first concert this year. The Oaxacan ensemble, Alma de Cuerdas, played traditional Mexican music in the museum in honor of *Toledo Múltiple*. On average, streamed videos are viewed 400 times.

### **Email Marketing:**

The museum uses MailChimp for its email marketing campaigns.

Subscriber Growth & Data under MailChimp:

Alper Initiative for Washington Art:

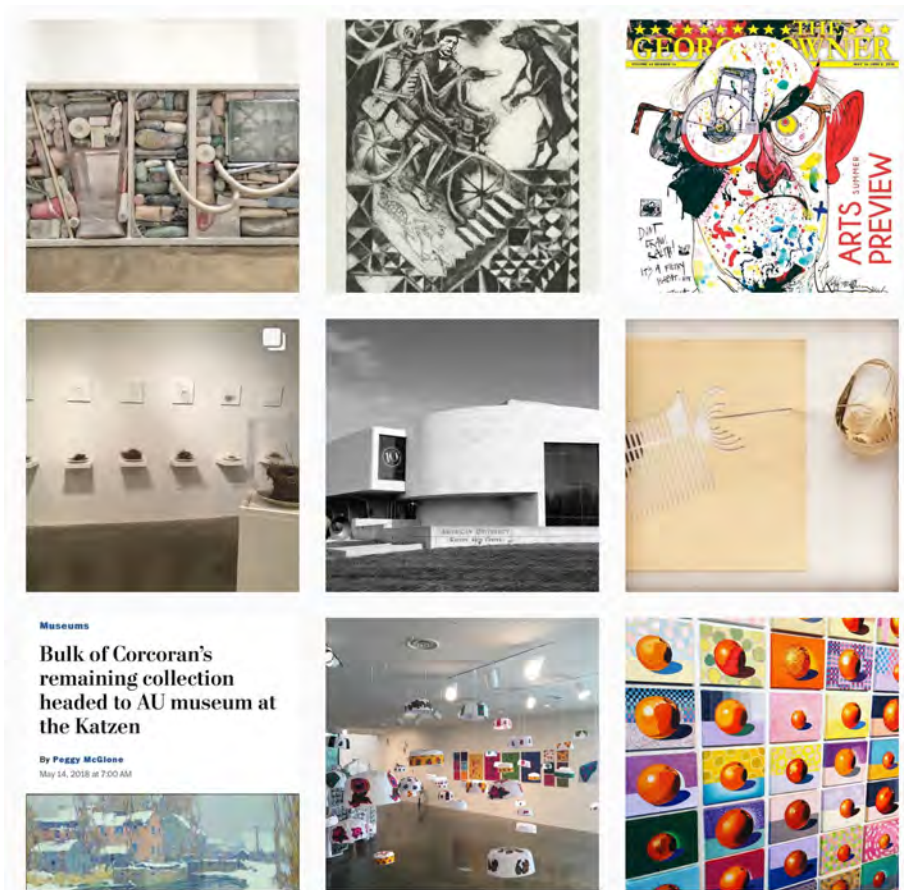
May 2018: 614

June 2017: 467  
June 2016: 286  
Average Open rate: 42.4%

Museum (General Patrons):  
May 2018: 3,009  
June 2017: 2,702  
June 2016: 2,666  
Average Open rate: 25.4%

Museum Members (all levels):  
May 2018: 222  
June 2017: 285  
June 2016: 274  
Average Open rate: 44.9%

\*Industry Average open rate for "Arts and Artists": 27.23%



# Museum Store

*The American University Museum Store offers a selection of books including the American University Museum's exhibition catalogues, original artworks, and a variety of merchandise, much of which is derived from the museum's collection and special exhibitions. All items are carefully chosen for their educational and aesthetic qualities, in keeping with the museum's mission of enhancing visitor appreciation of the visual arts, both locally and internationally.*

## Top Items by Quantity Sold

Merchandise:

Blue Q Socks: 216

Nusantara Jewelry: 135

Batucada Jewelry: 118

Pink House Jewelry: 96

Blue Q Totes: 73

Exhibition Catalogues:

Val Lewton—From Hollywood to

Breezewood: 132

Frank DiPerna Retrospective (Alper Initiative): 111

Michael Clark: Washington Artist (Alper Initiative): 99

Fred Kellogg—Works in Oil and Watercolor: 96

William Woodward—Seven Deadly Sins: 81



Photo by Greg Staley

## Store Sales Associates

Chamira Brooks, *B.A. Accounting*

Hannah Fitch, *M.A. Art History*

Andrew Gelwick, *B.A. Entertainment Management*

Elise Pertusati, *M.A. Arts Management*

Zixin Zhou, *M.A. Arts Management*

## New Additions to our Vendors:

Batucada Jewelry

Blue Q

Dundry Hill

Erica Zap Jewelry

Middle Kingdom Porcelain

Orange Twist Jewelry

Pantone

Pink House Jewelry

Third Door Down

# Giving and Membership

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## **Corporate and Foundation Donors**

The Alper Family Foundation  
The Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust  
The Dr. Cyrus Katzen Foundation Inc.

The Wolpoff Family Foundation  
Toyota of Southern Maryland

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Richard Alper  
Mr. Henry Goldberg and Mrs. Carol Brown  
Goldberg  
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Ms. Sharon Wolpoff

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Douglas Arnold  
Mr. Philip Barlow & Mrs. Lisa Gilotty  
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Ms. Ellen Berlow

Ms. Adah Rose Bitterbaum  
Diane Charnon  
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Antonia Fondaras  
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Jay Guerber & Sally Klusaritz  
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sheridan  
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Ms. Marilyn Stone & Mr. Hugh Robinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Symington  
Ms. Ellyn Weiss  
William Woodward & Katherine Neville  
Marjorie Zapruder

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Ms. Antoinette Alaimo  
Miss Shahla Arbabi  
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Ms. Sandra Baker  
Ms. Robin Berrington  
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Ms. Herta Borniger  
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Ms. Sharon Simon  
Dr. Bruce Sklarew

Ms. Rachel Sotsky  
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Mary Welch Higgins  
Richard White  
Mrs. Pamela Williams  
Ms. Suzanne Ziska  
Gwen Zuares  
Ms. Sandra Zuckerman

# RECENT ACCESSIONS (2017-2018)

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Joe Cameron, *Untitled*, digital pigment print, 2017.1.1

Joe Cameron, *Untitled*, digital pigment print, 2017.1.2

Joe Cameron, *Untitled*, digital pigment print, 2017.1.3

Yaroslav Koporulin, *Godly II*, lithograph and watercolor on paper, 2017.2.1

Yaroslav Koporulin, *Godly I*, lithograph and watercolor on paper, 2017.2.2

Yaroslav Koporulin, *Godly III*, lithograph and watercolor on paper, 2017.2.3

Unidentified, *Untitled*, 2017.3.1

Unidentified, *Unknown*, 2017.3.2

Unidentified, *Unknown*, 2017.3.3

Unidentified, *Unknown*, 2017.3.4

Sherry Zvares Sanabria, *Bunks with Open Doors (Auschwitz)*, acrylic on arches paper, 2017.4.1

Sherry Zvares Sanabria, *Guard Tower (Sachsenhausen)*, acrylic on museum board, 2017.4.2

Sherry Zvares Sanabria, *Bunks Dachau*, acrylic on museum board, 2017.4.3

Robert Stackhouse, *Untitled*, aquatint, 2017.5.1

Robert Stackhouse, *Niagra Dance Summer Arts Park*, aquatint, 2017.5.2

Edgar H. Sorrells-Adewale, *The Laying of Hands Is a Time Honored Ritual*, color offset lithograph, 2017.6.1

Robert Devers, *Moving Targets*, maiolica glazed tiles on a spinning cube, on a tiled pedestal base, 2017.7.1

Richard Dempsey, *Untitled*, oil on canvas, 2017.8.1

Richard Dempsey, *Jamaica*, watercolor, 2017.8.2

Richard Dempsey, *Bogota SA*, watercolor, 2017.8.3

Jack Perlmutter, *Trees*, 2017.8.4

Jack Perlmutter, *From Every Direction*, lithograph, 2017.8.5

Rebecca Davenport, *Rebecca Cooper*, oil on canvas, 2017.9.1

Carl De Keyzer, *Havana, Cube (from the series "Cuba, la luches")*, archival pigment print on fine art paper, 2017.10.1

Carl De Keyzer, *Nampo (from the series "DPR Korea Grand Tour")*, archival pigment print on fine art paper, 2017.10.2

Harmony Hammond, *Cry*, screen print, 2017.11.1

Ron Haynie, *Untitled*, oil pastels, 2017.11.2

Max K. Elias, *Jonah and the Whale*, steel and wood, 2017.12.1

Hilda Shapiro Thorpe, *Untitled (Color Black Abstraction)*, oil on canvas, 2017.13.1

Richard Joseph Anuszkiewicz, *Inward Eye*, ten serigraphs with text by William Blake, 2017.14.1

Ross M. Merrill, *Ice on the Tidal Pond, Fenwick Islands*, oil on canvas, 2017.15.1

Belisario Contreras, *Mother*, oil on canvas, 2017.16

