



2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART



Dear FWMoA Community,

These are the words I've heard from out-of-town guests that I've sent to our Museum: "Such a jewel!" "The glass collection is amazing!" "What a fantastic museum—who knew?"

You all knew, of course, what a wonderful asset the Fort Wayne Museum of Art is to our community. From the quality of the exhibits curated by the FWMoA team, to an excellent suite of programming and education, the Museum

is creating experiences in the visual arts that move us all.

The future of the Museum could not be brighter. With significant growth in the collection, especially in glass, the Museum has entered the national stage for excellence in glass sculpture. As our city grows, it is clear that our residents value the arts as an important amenity in choosing where to work and play. In that sense, the Museum plays a critical role: it anchors the presentation of high-quality visual art to our community. Through the continued growth of the collection, and our city, exciting possibilities to amplify the Museum experience are ahead of us.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your support of the Museum. The amazing support we have received this year is a recognition of the importance of the Museum to you, and of the phenomenal leadership team and staff who create the Museum experiences we have come to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Christine Swift
Incoming Board Chair

2023-2024 Board of Directors

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MISSION

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art will collect, preserve, and present American and related art to engage and educate broad and diverse audiences throughout the region to add value to their lives.

WHAT WE VALUE MOST

Believing that art is a meaningful part of our lives, we value: Inclusiveness, Dialogue, Education, and Sound Stewardship.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

To be the best nationally accredited Art Museum of our size, while serving the broadest array of constituencies in northern Indiana.

FWMoA named 'Organization of the Year' by the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass

In Fall 2023, FWMoA was recognized by the AACG as its Organization of the Year for the opening of our Glass Wing in November 2022. This honor was accompanied by an unrestricted \$5,000 grant!

The Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass informs collectors, critics and curators by encouraging and supporting museum exhibitions, university glass departments and specialized teaching programs, regional collector groups, visits to private collections, and public seminars.

The Glass Wing was generously supported by leadership gifts from the Ardelle and Theresa Glaze Foundation, the Edward D. and Lone Auer Foundation, Ann Spear Borne, Bob and Melanie Hall, Betsy and Jeff Kachmar, Jill and Doug Kinder, Pat and Ron Kohart, Jennie and Pat Pasterick, and Dorothy L. and Paul E. Shaffer.

STRATEGIC GOALS 2021-2026

Collections

- Expand public access to the collection.
- Build the strength of the collection.

Community

- Be a vital and welcoming arts institution in the community.

Finance

- Create a Facilities Fund of at least \$250,000 by 2022.
- Add \$4 million to the Endowment by 2023.
- Reach \$2.5 million operating budget by 2026.
- Maintain a Collections Fund of at least \$500,000.

Programs

- Emphasize the collection in public programming.
- Invest in long-term virtual programs.
- Forge stronger relationships with young adults.

Facility

- Consider the feasibility of building expansion.

Financial Snapshot

Our 2023-2024 Operating Revenue and Expenses

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Investment Income | \$431,590 | Exhibitions | \$61,075 |
| Grants | \$582,172 | Education | \$24,284 |
| Government Support | \$259,888 | Marketing | \$56,023 |
| Earned Income | \$319,407 | Community Events | \$155,273 |
| Memberships and Individual Gifts | \$396,420 | Administration | \$230,261 |
| Corporate Sponsorships | \$89,938 | Facility and Utilities | \$309,617 |
| ArtRageous Gala and Auction | \$516,378 | Personnel | \$1,561,783 |
| Total Revenue | \$2,595,793 | Total Expenses | \$2,398,316 |

The ArtRageous Gala & Auction on March 1 was one for the record books! Big thanks go to our generous guests and sponsors who helped us raise a record-breaking \$516,378 at this festive, mission-funding event. Save the date for March 7, 2025!



90

Mentions in local and regional media

53

National and international media mentions

23

Collaborations with regional organizations

What we're most proud of this year:

Collection Acquisitions

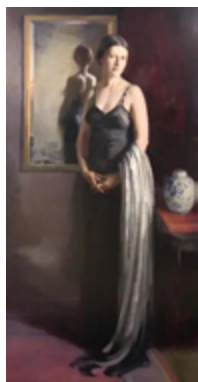
This year, there were 1,081 objects accessioned into the permanent collection. Other purchases or donations from this year are awaiting the formal acquisition process practiced by collecting institutions. Notable acquisitions include:

1. David Bennett, *Amber Mare*, ca. 2000. Blown glass.



2. Gabriela Gonzalez Dellosso, *The Storyteller, Homage to Sophie Gengembre Anderson (Self Portrait)*, 2016. Oil on panel. Purchase with funds provided by the Hamilton Circle.

3. Laura Donefer, *My Beautiful Blue Amulet Basket*, 2022. Blown and flameworked glass. Purchase with funds provided by donors to the 100th Anniversary Fund.



4. Marie Goth, *Geraldine*, 1936. Oil on canvas. Purchase with funds provided by the Bobbie Steck Acquisitions Fund.



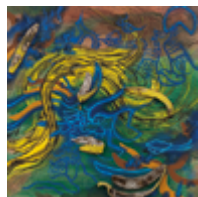
5. Jon Kuhn, *Mountain Haze*, 1998. Blown and flameworked glass. Gift of Alex Wilson.



6. Louis Comfort Tiffany Studio, *Jack in the Pulpit Vase*, ca. 1906. Hand blown Favrile glass.

7. Delita Martin, *Keepsakes: Delita*, 2021. Lithograph, photo lithograph, intaglio, relief-printed collagraph on paper with hand-stitched embroidery. Purchase with funds provided by the McMurray Family Endowment.

8. Jiha Moon, *Haetae (nocturnal)*, 2022. Purchase with funds provided by the June E. Enoch Collection Fund.



9. Seth Randal, *Torchere de le Mer*, 1991. Pâte-de-Cristal, bronze, steel, aluminum.



10. Maria Tomasula, *Mothership*, 2017. Oil on panel. Purchase with funds provided by the Hamilton Circle.

7,243

Objects in the permanent collection

1,081

Accessions into the permanent collection

21

Exhibitions

What we're most proud of this year: Exhibitions

FWMoA recognized with a 2024 Arts United Award: 'Outstanding Artistic Endeavor'

In 2024, FWMoA was bestowed the honor of an Arts United Award for its collaboration with the local Jewish community for a Fall 2023 exhibition *Jewish History and Art Illuminated: 175 Years of Congregation Achduth Vesholom*, curated by Sharon Eisbart and Professor Wendy Soltz, Director of the Public History Program at Ball State University. The curators used works by Jewish artists from the FWMoA collection to tell the history of Judaism over the last 175 years both locally and nationally.



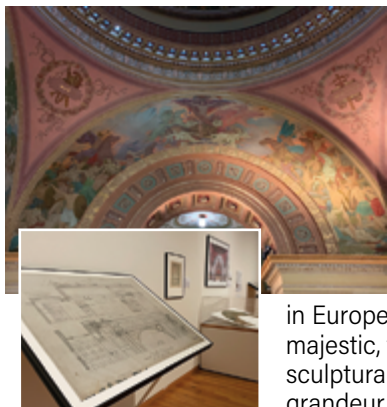
Left: A stained glass window in the exhibition. Above, left to right: Colleen Huddleson, Sharon Eisbart, Wendy Soltz, and Charles Shepard, with the award.



Unveiling the Dorothy L. and Paul E. Shaffer Collection of Paul Stankard Paperweights

Thanks to the vision and generosity of FWMoA donor Dorothy L. Shaffer and the late Paul E. Shaffer, we celebrated the addition of 24 masterfully flameworked paperweights by Paul Stankard to our Glass Wing. Paul Stankard is a pioneering glass artist who follows in the tradition of centuries-old European lampworking, elevating the practice of flamework to the highest art form in his botanical paperweights.





An American Renaissance in Fort Wayne: Muralists from the Allen County Courthouse

July 15 - September 10, 2023

Beaux-Arts architecture was the dominant style used for civic buildings and private mansions during the period known as the American Renaissance, from 1876 to 1917 in the U.S. Architects strongly identified with classical Greek and Roman structures and the Italian Renaissance, all perceived as high points

in European culture. They envisioned unifying all the arts in majestic, formal buildings with interiors adorned with murals, sculptural reliefs, and ornamental decoration that evoked grandeur while communicating the role and the function of

the building. The Allen County Courthouse was built during this era and its crown jewel is the mural collection. This exhibition focused on the lives of courthouse painters Charles Holloway and Carl Guthertz, their allegorical representations of law and order, and the mural making process.

Poetry in Painting: Scenes from Fort Wayne's Sister City Taizhou, China | July 22 - September 17, 2023

Landscape painting is a traditional form of Chinese art with a 1,500 year history. It reflects the deepest deposition of human emotions and displays the cultural heritage, classical charm, and temperament of the Chinese nation. Taizhou Jiufeng Landscape Painting Academy is a nonprofit public culture and art group, named after the local Jiufeng Mountain in Taizhou, China. Six members from the group—Chen Rongjun, Chen Tianye, Tao Ji, Chen Jiali, Xin Yunying, and Dai Xuezhao—presented a collection of stunning landscapes in their debut show in the United States. The exhibition's iteration in Fort Wayne, held by Taizhou Jiufeng Landscape Painting Academy and created in partnership with Fort Wayne Sister Cities International, boosted mutual understanding and cultural communication between Chinese and Western cultures through art.



Left: Chinese landscape painting demonstration at the Taste of the Arts. Right: Curator Jenna Gilley (center) with four of the artists.

Landfall Press: Five Decades of Printmaking | August 19 - November 12, 2023

Landfall Press: Five Decades of Printmaking celebrated 50 years of work from one of the country's most renowned printer-publishers. Founded in 1970 by Jack Lemon, Landfall Press played a key role in expanding the geography of the American postwar print renaissance. In the late 1950s and 1960s, new printmaking workshops opened on the East and West Coasts. Lemon helped bring this printmaking revival to the Midwest.

He opened Landfall Press in Chicago, effectively creating a new hub for printmaking that attracted artists from around the country. Landfall Press is known for its outstanding innovation and exacting technical standards. The artists, in turn, contributed to the collaborative process with new ideas and expressive possibilities from other media that have helped reshape and invigorate printmaking. Landfall Press operated out of Chicago for 35 years and, in 2004, relocated to Santa Fe, New Mexico. After Lemon's retirement the studio has continued to serve new generations as Black Rock Editions.



Indiana Artists Club 2023 Annual Members Exhibition

September 16 - November 26, 2023

The Fort Wayne Museum of Art was proud to host the 2023 Indiana Artists Club Annual Members Exhibition, comprised of over 50 diverse works by Indiana artists.

The Indiana Artists Club, Inc. (IN/A), was founded in 1917 by a group of 46 artists, including such notables as T.C. Steele, William Forsyth, Otto Stark, and Marie Goth. The purpose of IN/A is to hold statewide exhibitions, workshops, and demonstrations, and to provide social interaction among its members.

51st Annual International Glass Invitational

December 2, 2023 - February 18, 2024

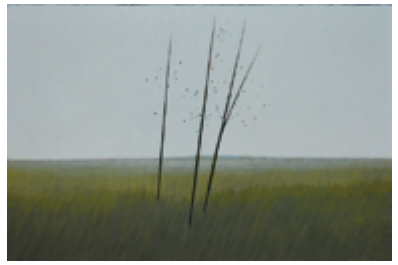
Organized by Habatat Galleries, this exhibition is the oldest and largest annual contemporary glass show in the country. Selected from an array of glass masters, this exhibition features the best studio glass artists in the world. Welcoming back the International for its 51st year, FWMoA presented a selection of contemporary glass sculpture in the greater context of international influence with unconventional forms and processes. This exhibition complemented the work shown in our Glass Wing with artists exploring new processes, ideas, and the infinite possibilities in glass.



Solemn Spaces: Works by Robert Kipniss

December 2, 2023 - February 25, 2024

Before he pursued painting seriously, renowned Brooklyn born artist Robert Kipniss wrote with conviction that he would spend his life as a poet and fiction writer. When he took a break from writing in the early 1960s, his paintings took on similar characteristics: moody tension, a dark monochromatic palette, and slightly surreal themes.



This exhibition from the FWMoA's archives dives into the shared stylistic characteristics between Kipniss' writings and art, which hints of human presence but displays no actual figure. His distinct minimal style of muted tones and unadorned, almost geometric forms—often featuring a lone cup, house, or chair—call to mind the often solitary and sometimes lonely journey of the human soul.



Tara Will: Wild Beauty | February 24 - May 5, 2024

Amidst the chaos and stresses of daily life, Tara Will finds solace in the landscape. Working primarily in pastel, she approaches the age-old subject with a modern flair: unpredictable colors and bold marks reflect nature's untamed power and healing beauty.

Will recently acquired a printmaking press, motivating her to explore relief printing. Her stark linocuts may seem like a departure from colorful pastels, but both hold a similar fluidity in spontaneous lines and expertly abstracted forms. Each stroke, either in chisel or pastel stick, attempts to capture the energy and emotion of the landscape, emphasizing the longstanding connection between human hand and the muse of the great outdoors.

Lucky Monster: Works by

Jiha Moon | March 9 - May 19, 2024

Growing up in South Korea and now living in the United States, Jiha Moon experienced both Eastern and Western cultures, which she reflects upon and combines harmoniously in her work. Both familiar and foreign, Moon's woven cross-cultural imagery creates abstract scenes which integrate themes of pop culture, racial perceptions, technology, and folklore, traditional and contemporary. Her visual language holds multiple meanings, as calligraphic brushstrokes and blue china patterns interplay with Grumpy Cat and emoticons. In our interconnected global society, Moon investigates what it means to belong and how to determine where someone or something originates.





Fantastic Realms: Myth, Magic, and Folklore

April 13 - July 7, 2024

From fairytales to video games, artists have long been creators of worlds to get lost in. Whether as a distraction from the pressures of daily life or creative ways to teach life lessons, fantasy serves as a key component of art, film, and literature.

Fantastic Realms explored these dreamlands and

their unusual characters through works from the museum's permanent collection, drawing from global stories, folklore, and the surreal to create a magical experience for all ages.

The Paintings of Gabriela Gonzalez Dellosso: A Retrospective

April 20 - July 14, 2024

The narrative realism of Gabriela Gonzalez Dellosso tells fascinating stories through her command of the human figure: female artists whose legacies have been undervalued by the authors of art history, solitary brides bedecked in their finery, and clowns in contemplative moments. In many of these works, the artist is the model, uniting her life, work, and legacy with those she portrays.



In this major retrospective, the first for the artist, 60 works from every stage of Dellosso's 30-year career were featured, including early figure studies, self-portraits, works on paper in the style of illuminated manuscript, and several monumental paintings that exhibited her mastery of complex compositions in oil. Mixing history, self-portraiture, traditional realism, dreamscape imagery, and themes that will resonate with contemporary audiences, Dellosso creates work that is always unfolding with new visual journeys.



Bill Smith: Jewelry's Maverick | May 25 - August 4, 2024

Born and raised in Madison, Indiana, Bill Smith (1933-1991) was one of the most innovative jewelry designers of the 1960s and '70s. His outlandish costume and body jewelry, often made from industrial materials and inspired by Africa and the Middle East, associated body ornamentation with movement and grandeur. His genius was recognized with a Coty Award in 1970 and an appointment to vice president of premier jewelry firm, Richelieu—both unprecedented feats for a Black designer.

However, in the 30 years since his death, Smith's important contributions to fashion and design have been largely forgotten. This exhibition brought over 100 pieces together in the most comprehensive showing of his work to date.

Eyes on Education

Our signature outreach program to schools, **Gallery on Wheels**, brings original art, digital presentations, and artmaking activities to schools across Northeast Indiana. Students at Indian Village YMCA enjoy a hands-on experience while students at Woodlan Elementary offered their artistic insights to FWMoA's Katy Thompson. In the recent program year, Gallery on Wheels served 8,426 students.



Nearly 5,000 students from the region visit FWMoA throughout the school year for **customized tours** that help their teachers meet educational goals. Students from Towles New Tech take the lead on decorating our entryway for the annual Día de los Muertos exhibition, and younger students from Bloomingdale Elementary School enjoy a hands-on experience with glass.



The **Scholastic Art & Writing Awards** remains one of our most meaningful programs for creative teens to earn recognition and enjoy the exhibition of their art and writing at the Museum.

In 2024, 506 teens across Northern Indiana and Northwest Ohio won 796 awards in art and/or writing. Thirty national medals were awarded to local students whose Gold Keys qualified them for competition on the national stage and an awards ceremony in New York City.



Every two weeks, our **volunteer docents** meet for ongoing training with the FWMoA Education team to learn about our current exhibitions to prepare for their assigned school tours.

This year, we introduced more immersive educational experiences for the docents with a field trip to Ball State University to visit the David Owsley Museum of Art and the Marilyn K. Glick Center for Glass.

2nd Thursday at FWMoA was reinvented with more educational energy this year by including guided tours, hands-on experiences, artist demonstrations, lectures, and community collaborations in our lineup of programming. In April, the Education team sponsored a fairy house-making project in conjunction with our exhibition *Fantastic Realms: Myth, Magic, and Folklore*.



In September, FWMoA hosted artist and educator Steve Garst for a demonstration of making relief prints with LEGO tiles. He is the designer/owner of the Provisional Press project. Participants were able to create a small print to take home with them! This was in celebration of the exhibition *Landfall Press: Five Decades of Printmaking*.

2nd THURSDAY
at the FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

Mastrangelo Lecture Series

Through a legacy gift from the Michael and Grace Mastrangelo Foundation, we were able to bring four high caliber curators and artists to Fort Wayne to deliver public lectures in conjunction with current exhibitions.



Mark D. Mitchell, Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, Yale University



Andrew Page, Editor in Chief of *Glass: The UrbanGlass Quarterly*



Jiha Moon, Artist and Professor of Art, Florida State University



Gabriela Gonzalez Delloso, Artist and Instructor of Art, New York School of the Arts

September 8, 2023:
"Powers that Be: The Expressive Figure in the American Renaissance, 1876-1917"

October 27, 2023:
"The Glass Art of Paul Stankard"

March 15, 2024:
"Lucky Monster"

April 19, 2024:
"A Retrospective"

Looking to the Community



Our favorite event of the summer, the **2024 Chalk Walk**, took place on July 13 and 14! Unfortunately, an outdoor event is always subject to the weather, and our luck ran out this year. Saturday was a very hot and humid day, and a surprise downpour overnight washed away most of the chalkers' work. On Sunday, some chalkers came back to try again, but a storm forced us to end the event early.

Artists showed support for the 2024 Summer Olympics by creating Olympic-themed artworks and were excited by the "Fashion Forward" category.

To the lower left is the People's Choice Winner for 2024 by Cassie Hudson and Sydney Conrad.



The **FWMoA Teen Council** designed and produced two 8'x8' squares at Chalk Walk this year. The Teen Council meets monthly to learn more about art, to develop their skills as artists, and plan programs and collaborative projects at FWMoA throughout the year.



The annual **Día de los Muertos** celebration at FWMoA is a beloved cultural event and this year was no exception. A series of artist and family-made altars filled a FWMoA gallery, often honoring deceased loved ones or groups of individuals who have died for a cause or as a result of persecution or injustice. A celebration hosted in November featured traditional dancing, children's activities, mariachi, folkloric characters, and complimentary baked goods!



In May and June, FWMoA was the host site for two workshops in collaboration with **Art This Way** and the **Public Art Commission** that were designed to increase the professional capacity of our local creative community.

Two, day-long sessions focused on all the things you may not learn in art school, such as developing an artist statement, building a portfolio, photographing artwork, and much more. Guest presenters included photographers Jeff Crane and Rachel Von Stroup, artists Tim Parsley, Kaylan Buteyn and Marlin Graff, gallery directors Clydia Early, Justin Johnson, and Dan Swartz, with special guests Jolee Kirkikis Casares of Grand Rapids' ArtPrize and Zach Parrish, Animation Director at Netflix.

We continued our **accessible programming** this year with educator-led tours open to all that explore current exhibitions with in-depth discussion of selected artworks. On select Second Saturdays, family-friendly tours include interpretation in American Sign Language provided by DeafLink and language interpretation in Spanish.



FWMoA is now affiliated with the **Children's Museum of Indianapolis Access Pass**. Indiana families enrolled in government benefit programs can apply for the Access Pass. Access Pass holders receive discounted admission at a variety of Indiana cultural institutions, including

FWMoA. The Access Pass partnership adds to our admission programs for low-income families, which already include Museums for All, which reduces admission for nationwide visitors receiving government benefits, free admission for military families and veterans, and Free Thursday evenings for everyone.



Our Donors Make It Happen

Gifts received July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Corporate, Foundation, and Government Support

\$65,000 - \$100,000

Ardelle and Theresa Glaze Foundation
Foellinger Foundation
English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation

\$20,000-\$35,000

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\$10,000-\$18,000

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Indiana Arts Commission

\$5,000-\$9,999

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The Hamilton Circle is a dedicated group of individuals who are passionate about growing and preserving the Fort Wayne Museum of Art fine art collections. Established in 1996 and named for the four artistic Hamilton sisters who grew up in 19th century Fort Wayne, the Hamilton Circle has raised thousands of dollars to fund 65 purchases of fine American art by artists such as Alice Neel, Ernest Withers, Jackson Pollock, and Maria Tomasula.

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