

DuMA

WINTER/SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

NEW EXHIBITION

2100 and Counting: Looking at the Collection in the 21st Century



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Exhibitions

2100 AND COUNTING

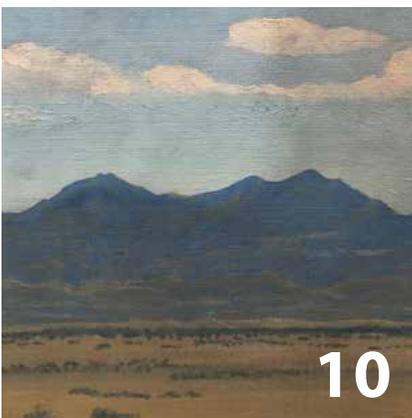
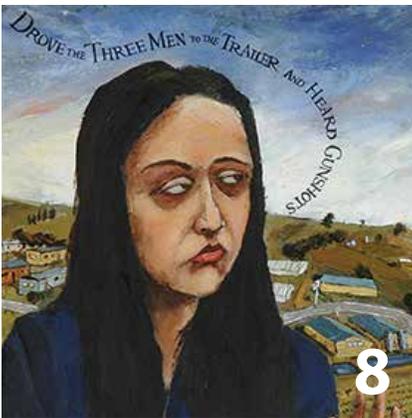
Examining the growth of the Dubuque Museum of Art collection over the last two decades.

OLSON'S ART THROUGH THE AGES

Tim Olson utilizes visual storytelling and irreverent humor to create a dialogue between Midwestern life and historic works of art.

WOMEN OF THE AMERICAS

Janet Checker presents a selection of five paintings featuring the traditional dress of the women of North, Central, and South America.



Washington Park, Downtown Dubuque
February 10 - 13, 2021

Winter Arts

SNOW SCULPTING COMPETITION

Through the week, enjoy socially distanced sculpture viewing, vote for your favorite snow sculpture online, and create along with us from home.

www.cityofdubuque.org/winterarts

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Director of Finance

Cover Credit: Helen Kerrigan, BVM,
Self-Portrait, 1974, oil on canvas,
61¾ x 48¾ in., Gift of the Sisters of
Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
2020.14

Welcome

Dear Friends,

History is being made daily. In my experience, that is not the traditional speed of art museum storytelling. So, we innovate and speed up as circumstances require—as we did with *Portraits of the Pandemic*. However, new stories are not always what is needed. Sometimes, new ways of looking is what's called for.

Our cover image, *Self-Portrait*, by Helen Kerrigan, BVM is an inspired introduction to our 2021 program. This uniquely powerful self-portrait is a Dubuque story full of art historical references that showcases multiple ways of looking and reflecting.

Perspective is a rich word that describes what we see and choose not to see with our eyes, our minds, and in our hearts. It shapes who we are and how we view the world. Two questions animate the 2021 program. How does our perception of the present change our interpretation of the past? How does our understanding of the past change our experience of the present—and the future we imagine?

Dubuque artist Tim Olson begins our journey with a fresh-from-the easel series inspired by Renaissance masterworks. These provocative paintings invite us to ponder what is sacred and what is profane in our daily life. Simultaneously, Olson offers new ways to consider 600-year-old masterpieces.

2100 and Counting explores the seismic changes to the museum, the collection and the world between 2000 and 2020. For the first time, you will see newly acquired works by 20th-century masters like Grant Wood, Edward S. Curtis and Salvador Dali alongside those of contemporary, regional artists like Rose Frantzen, Sr. Helen Kerrigan, Diego Lasansky, and Ellen Wagener.

Concurrently, Stacy and her team will launch a two-year project to put the entire collection online. This effort will deepen our understanding of our cultural heritage and dramatically expand access to our collection. This massive effort is made possible by grants from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and Iowa's Historical Resource Development Program.

We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

Thank you for your generous support.

Gratefully,



Gary Stoppelman
Executive Director
563.557.1851 x112
gstoppelman@dbqart.org

2020 VIRTUAL GALA THANK YOU

Creativity In Times of Change, the Dubuque Museum of Art's first virtual gala, took place on Friday, November 13, 2020. Generous museum patrons helped us raise over \$150,000.

Thank you to all our guests, artists, volunteers, businesses, and sponsors for helping us celebrate and support Dubuque's creative heart and to continue to achieve our mission for another year. We could not do it without you.

Made possible by the generosity of:



HGA



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Board and Staff News



DuMA finance staff, past and present: Diane Sass, Jean Hoeger, and Nick Woltkamp

DuMA welcomed **Nicolas Woltkamp** as its new Director of Finance on October 30.

Nick is a Clarke University alumnus with over five years experience in the accounting field. He enjoys golf, baseball with the Key West Ramblers, and spending time with his family.

Director of Operations, **Jean Hoeger** retired after four years of service. Thank you Jean for your tremendous dedication and enthusiasm that you brought to your position. Enjoy your hard earned second retirement.

The Dubuque Museum of Art wishes to acknowledge and thank following members of the Board of Trustees for their service:

Chris Wand - 17 years of service

Michael Donohue - 1 year of service

Member Profile

Diane and Jim Sass

Diane and Jim Sass have a relationship with the Museum that goes back to 1998 when Diane joined the staff. Retired as Deputy Director since 2016, Diane continues to volunteer for the annual raffle each year. Jim is a retired business owner who worked in the water well industry. They love to travel and spend time with their kids and grandkids. The couple also celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary in December.



HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INVOLVED WITH THE ART MUSEUM?

We attended museum events and developed an appreciation for the arts and meeting local artists.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING A MEMBER?

We enjoy the variety of art exhibitions and especially the Famous Dead Artists Series, which is very entertaining and enlightening.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ART MUSEUM MEMORY?

One of our favorite memories was searching to see if we could find the site where Grant Wood painted in Sorrento, Italy. Armed with some information and photos from the museum's collection we found the Grand Hotel Cocumella. After searching the grounds of the hotel, we identified what we believe was the spot where Grant Wood painted.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO VOLUNTEER WITH THE ANNUAL RAFFLE EVERY YEAR?

I may have retired from my job but a piece of my heart is still a part of the museum after all these years. I want to see it succeed and prosper. Since I was a part of the raffle from its beginning, it was an easy decision to continue working with it. I also enjoy working with the staff, Board and volunteers. It keeps me connected.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE MORE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT DuMA?

We want people to take advantage of the educational opportunities, the permanent collection, the Grant Wood and the Edward Curtis collections. It is a calm and relaxing place to enjoy and be surrounded by art.

An advertisement for Premier Bank. The background is an abstract painting with warm tones of orange, red, and blue. The text "Support the arts with us." is written in white. Below it is the Premier Bank logo, which consists of a stylized tree icon and the words "Premier BANK". To the right of the logo is the tagline "Ready for life." At the bottom, there is a line of text: "Visit premierbanking.bank | 563.588.1000 | Artist: Keary Kautzer | Member FDIC".

Support the arts with us.

 Premier BANK | Ready for life.

Visit premierbanking.bank | 563.588.1000 | Artist: Keary Kautzer | Member FDIC

2100 and Counting: Looking at the Collection in the 21st Century

FEBRUARY 20 – JUNE 13, 2021

FALB FAMILY GALLERY

What is your favorite work in the museum's collection? With this exhibition, you may find a new one or, if you don't have a favorite, this is your chance to discover one, or more. As we say good-bye to another decade of the 21st century, we are taking a much-needed moment to slow down and look at the museum's collection. With a focus on 20th century American regional art, how has the collection remained relevant in the 21st century while staying true to its roots? And, as we look ahead, what direction will the collection take in the future?

Beginning in February, the Dubuque Museum of Art will feature an exhibition that examines the growth and accessibility of the collection over the last two decades. The Dubuque Museum of Art's founding goes back to 1874 but it wasn't until 1914 that the first work came into the collection. In 1999, when the museum moved to its current home on Locust Street, the collection consisted of 500 works. Since then, the collection has grown to over 2600 works.

Below, left to right: Stanislas Lépine, Notre Dame, A View From the Bridge (Quays of Paris), ca. 1870s, oil on canvas, 16¾x21¼ in., Gift of Walter and Barbara Peterson, 2015.11

Thomas Hart Benton, Huck Finn, 1936, lithograph on paper, 17½x21¾ in., Gift of Marian Powers-Needles and Belverd E. Needles, Jr., 2019.20



“What I’m most excited about with this exhibit is that it will offer an exciting and rare opportunity for our visitors to view more works from the collection at one time than ever before and many of the works are on view for the first time in the museum.”

– Stacy Gage Peterson, DuMA Curator and Registrar



Collecting and preserving the region’s cultural heritage is central to the museum’s mission and an important resource for our community. Visitors to the Dubuque Museum of Art may not realize that the museum is home to an ever-growing collection and that most of the museum’s collection was acquired through the generosity of numerous collectors and artists, namely among them Arthur Geisert, Dr. Randy Lengeling, Jack and Mantea Schmid, Bob and Barbara Woodward, and the Dubuque Cultural Preservation Committee.

Selected works from the collection can be seen on a regular basis in the museum, but due to limited gallery space and lack of an online presence, the bulk of the collection is not easily accessible to the public. However, in anticipation of a new era of public accessibility, the museum is devoting expanded gallery space to the collection for this exhibition and plans are currently underway to digitize the collection and make it available online.

“What I’m most excited about with *2100 and Counting*,” stated DuMA Curator and Registrar Stacy Gage Peterson, “is that it will offer an exciting and rare opportunity for our visitors to view more works from the collection at one time than ever before and many of the works are on view for the first time in the museum.” Included in this exhibition will be key acquisitions by local, regional, and international artists like Thomas Hart Benton, Salvador Dali, J.J. Cavanaugh, Mark Chamberlain, Elizabeth Eagle, Rose Frantzen, Arthur Geisert, Ernest Garthwaite, Criss Glasell, the Lasansky family, Stanislas Lepine, Francesco Licciardi, Jessica Teckemeyer, Ellen Wagener, Joseph Walter, Marcia Wegman, Grant Wood, and Zane York.

SPONSORED BY:



Above, left: Rose Frantzen, *White Lilies*, n.d., oil on canvas, 23¾x33½ in., Gift of Dr. Randall Lengeling, 2015.25

Left: Diego Lasansky, *Martin Luther in Red*, 21/50, 2016, copper plate color intaglio, 24x20 in., Gift of the artist in honor of Jim Welu, 2017.2

Olson's Art Through the Ages: A Midwestern Perspective



SPONSORED BY:



FEBRUARY 20 – JUNE 13, 2021

KRIS MOZENA MCNAMER GALLERY

Dubuque artist Tim Olson finds inspiration in the people and places around him and uses it to reimagine historic paintings in his latest series titled, *Olson's Art Through the Ages: A Midwestern Perspective*. With profound awareness for visual storytelling and irreverent humor, Olson creates a direct dialogue between Midwestern life, the art of 19th century America and 15th century Northern Europe. The exhibition features twelve new oil on panel paintings.



From courtly portraits to iconic altarpieces, Olson completely re-imagines these exalted images using everyday people. As he describes, “The paintings in this series combine regional subject matter (crime stories, landscapes, portraits) with paintings from the past. It started, in part, with a recognition of the similarity between contemporary mug shots and portraits by early Netherlandish painters, and continued from there.”

Tim Olson was born in Marathon, Iowa in 1962. He studied photography and painting at Bemidji State University (1980–82), University of Iowa with Peter Feldstein (1982–84), and Loras College with Thomas Jewel-Vitale (2002–03). Prior to moving to Dubuque, Olson worked for many years as a printer and technician in a Chicago photography studio. He has exhibited his work throughout the United States.

Lake View Trailer Home Murder,
2019, oil on panel, 75x21 in.,
collection of the artist

Women of the Americas: Paintings by Janet Checker

FEBRUARY 20 – APRIL 18, 2021

AMUSE-BOUCHE BALCONY GALLERY

Galena artist Janet Checker presents a selection of five paintings from her series *Women of the Americas*. With a long background in fashion illustration, Checker developed a fascination with the traditional dress of the women of North, Central, and South America.

Checker's interest began when she incorporated pre-Columbian symbolism into her own textile weavings and eventually transitioned to painting images of women in full traditional dress, set in surroundings that represent and accentuate each figure.

A California native, Checker was raised in Chicago. She attended the Art Institute of Chicago and the American Academy of Art. She worked in advertising for many years and taught fashion illustration, design, and figure drawing at Ray College of Art (now Illinois Institute of Design). She has taught workshops across the United States and has led student tours to Europe. Her work can be found throughout the United States, South America, and Europe.



Hopi from the *Women of the Americas* Series, ca. 2000-2010, oil on canvas, 48x24 in., collection of the artist.

Collection Digitization Project Underway



Installation shot of a collection exhibition at DuMA in 2015 that was installed salon style.

THE COLLECTION IS COMING TO YOU

Collection staff and volunteers at the Dubuque Museum of Art are preparing to take access to the museum's collection into the 21st century. The museum will be upgrading its current double-entry software system to one that is specifically designed to manage a museum collection. Not only will this allow the collection to be better accounted for, it will also provide much needed access to our staff and art patrons.

HOW DID WE GET TO THIS POINT?

In 2017, a grant-funded conservation assessment identified collections management as a top need. In response, DuMA's Board and leadership identified digitizing the museum's collection and upgrading its collection management software as a strategic priority. With this support in place, DuMA was able to secure two major grants at the state and federal level to help with the expense of the upgrade.

WHAT DOES THIS PROJECT MEAN FOR YOU?

This project will increase public access to DuMA's collection through enhanced technology. As a direct outcome of digitizing the collection and adopting a new software system, students, faculty, and the public will have greater access to the ideas and information embedded in the artworks and be able to draw upon them at any time, for any purpose, including research, teaching, and curriculum development.

Education Highlights

UPDATE

CONSERVATION CORNER

A work from the collection was recently conserved by Faye Wrubel, a professional paintings conservator who is retired from the Art Institute of Chicago.

The 1917 painting *Mojave Desert* by Wallace L. DeWolf was cleaned and repaired revealing a clearer surface and more unified palette. The treatment has also improved the stability of the painting, which is critical for it to be able to be exhibited. Funds raised through the museum's Conservation Corner made possible this treatment. Currently funds for the Conservation Corner are raised through donations from visitors to the museum and by contributors to the museum's Friend of the Collection fund.

Special thanks to Friend of the Collection Mike and Karen Chase. If you would like to support the Conservation Corner, please contribute at dbqart.org/donation-form with a note that you are becoming a Friend of the Collection or contact bbarton@dbqart.org.

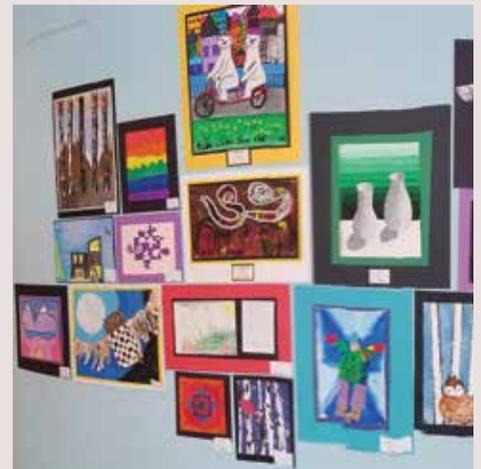
Learn more about this work and other works in the Conservation Corner, at dbqart.org/conservation-corner.



Detail of the painting during treatment, showing left side cleaned. Wallace L. DeWolf, *Mojave Desert*, 1917, oil on canvas, 33x38 in., Gift of Ross Crane and the artist, ND.30 (1987.01.73)

Partners in Art

This spring, DuMA continues our Dubuque Community and Holy Family school's partnership by producing two annual projects with them in a new way. The K-12 student exhibition, a fixture of spring programming at the museum, will be presented as virtual exhibition. The virtual format is a response to the pandemic and will go live on the Museum website on April 9.



All types of art methods, processes, and levels of expertise are welcome. Artwork submitted must be original and copyrighted images are prohibited. The deadline to submit artwork is March 26, 2021. No work will be accepted after that date.

DuMA will also be offering our popular Arts Trek tours to City second grade students online. Students will learn about the role of an art museum and "tour" selected works in the DuMA spring exhibitions.

For more information about the K-12 student exhibition and Arts Trek tours contact Director of Education, Margaret Buhr at 563.557.1851 x115 or email mbuhr@dbqart.org.

A Closer Look

More Than Meets the Eye - The Story Behind the Work is a video series of conversations about art hosted by Margaret Buhr, Director of Education and Christine Schiesl, Visitors Services Associate and Docent.

more THAN
MEETS THE **eye:**
The Story Behind the Work

The idea was conceived last summer as an engagement opportunity that would help make looking at art easier. Christine and Margi hope the series will provide answers to questions the listeners might have about an artist, their inspiration, technique, or process. "I believe that art speaks where words sometimes fail. I am intrigued and curious to learn about the artist and the tools they used to visually tell me the story that appears on the canvas hanging in front of me." Christine shared. Margi smiles and says, "Working with Christine on the project was a joy, as I knew it would be. When we received compliments from artists Louise Kames and Nichole Gronvold Roller, we knew we were doing something right".

***More Than Meets the Eye* videos are available to view on the Museum [YouTube channel](#).**



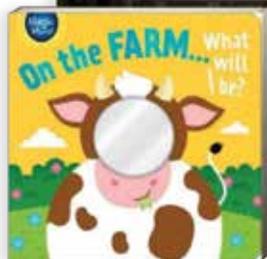
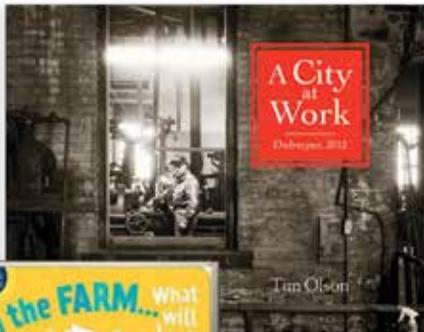
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museum
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for readers of all ages, your favorite cook,
 and your sweetheart.



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 ADULTS \$7
 SENIORS \$6
 COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY \$4

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