Sections

4 Visit Yosemite in Dubuque
5 Student Exhibition: A Reason for Hope
6 For the Love of Snow
7 A Call for Artists
8 The New Museum
10 Winter/Spring Exhibitions
18 Events and Programs
19 Groundbreaker Randy Lengeling

Exhibitions

K–8 STUDENT ART
Annual installation of work by young artists from Dubuque Community and Holy Family Schools.

PICTURING AMERICA’S PASTIME
Extraordinary photographs from the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

PICTURING DUBUQUE BASEBALL
Reveals the story of the Dubuquers who helped shaped the Major Leagues.

DRIFT: NEW WORKS BY E. E. KONO
Dubuque artist returns to DuMA for a solo exhibition inspired by history and legend.

2024 Support Provided by:

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Cover: Red Ruffing’s fastball grip (detail) by William C. Greene, c. 1938, courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.
Dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying a healthy and happy start to 2024—our 150th anniversary. I am excited to share our plans with you.

2024’s exhibitions explore a history 150 years in the making. This spring, we delve into the social history of America and Dubuque’s historic role in the creation of the Major Leagues through the lens of the photographers who captured baseball’s history. E. E. Kono returns to DuMA with an exhibition of beautiful new work inspired by tradition, geology, and the history of those who came before us. This summer, the Craft 2024 curatorial team showcases exceptional works by regional artists who build upon traditional techniques in innovative ways and connect the issues of our time to ideas of the past. In the fall, Dubuque by Design surveys 150 years of designs made by and for Dubuquers. We’ll highlight vehicles built in Dubuque like the Adams Farwell car and Klauer Manufacturing’s SnoGo. We’ll explore designs for the Lock and Dam, Eagle Point Park, and Julien Dubuque Bridge that transformed our city, but are sometimes taken for granted. We’ll reveal designs being developed today that will catalyze change for our region. Advancing our series of exhibitions that center the work of BIPOC artists, Hieyler Pimpton debuts her collages that transform mass-produced images into powerfully personal works.

Today’s dynamism is the result of a proud tradition of evolution and experimentation. For much of that history, we worked out of temporary homes, in different neighborhoods. In 1998, a visionary group of leaders built our first permanent home on Washington Park. Now, 25 years of rapid growth culminates with a plan to transform the block with gardens and galleries that, in effect, double the size of Washington Park and extend its footprint from 6th to 8th Streets.

The entire staff and Board look forward to celebrating with you.

Gratefully,

Gary Stoppelman
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A breathtaking view is waiting for you in the Lengeling Gallery. This new addition, on long-term loan, is *Thunderstorm, Yosemite Valley, CA*, a stunning black and white photograph made in 1945 and printed in 1970 by American photographer Ansel Adams.

Ansel Adams (1902–1984) was an artist and activist. His photographs capture the sublime beauty of the American wilderness and remind us to be mindful stewards of the environment.

Born in California, Adams was a shy, socially awkward child, who found solace in nature. He initially trained as a pianist, which instilled discipline and an attention to detail that would inform his photographic practice.

As a young adult, Adams joined the Sierra Club, an organization founded by conservationist John Muir. The club fostered Adam's environmental awareness and was instrumental to his early success as an exhibiting photographer.

Adams worked almost exclusively in gelatin silver, a medium that results in sharp black and white prints known for their tonal richness and archival stability.

He used sharp focus to draw attention to objects and their relationships to each other. Continuing the romantic tradition of nineteenth-century landscape painting, Adam's photographs inspire awe and invite the viewer to consider the spiritual and emotional characteristics of the landscape.

Adams enjoyed a lifelong love affair with the Yosemite Sierra. For most of his life, it was his chief source of inspiration. Adams saw the magnificent rock formations as “expressing qualities of timelessness, yet intimate grandeur… they are the very heart of the earth speaking to us.”
Student Exhibition: A Reason for Hope

Brightening the gray winter days with youthful creativity, the citywide K–8 exhibition features two and three-dimensional artwork by elementary and middle school students, chosen by their teachers. Installed by art students from Dubuque Senior High School, the annual exhibition opens to the public on February 10, as a special installation during the Winter Arts Festival.

DuMA enjoys a longstanding partnership with area schools. “The annual K–8 exhibition curated by students from Senior High is a symbol of hope each year,” remarks Director of Creative Learning, Margi Buhr. “It reminds me of the importance of lifting up every voice because the power, creativity, and sensitivity of the work of these young artists and curators so impresses me each year.”

Brad Manternach, District Mentor and Visual Art Instructional Support Lead, Dubuque Community Schools acknowledges the valuable opportunities the exhibition provides.

Lori Lahey, art teacher at Resurrection and St. Columbkille Elementary speaks to the enthusiasm expressed by the student and art teachers, “The students get very excited to learn that they will have a piece of their art displayed in a real art museum. They are very proud and enjoy sharing their art with their family and friends. As a teacher, I also get excited to see our students sharing their artwork with the community and also seeing them enjoy the artwork of all the other artists in our schools throughout all of Dubuque. It is a great experience for all.”

The public is invited to a celebratory reception on Thursday, March 7 from 4–6 pm.

“This exhibit not only celebrates the artistic achievements of our students but also highlights the importance of fostering a love for the arts in our community,” says Manternach. “Join us in applauding the vibrant colors, imaginative expressions, and unique perspectives that these young minds bring to the forefront.”
For the Love of Snow

Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival
February 15–18
Washington Park

Winter Arts is a partnership between the Dubuque Museum of Art and City of Dubuque’s Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs. We are grateful to the following community partners: Sundown Mountain Resort, Conlon Construction, KWWL, Weber Concrete Services, Kemp Trucking, Dubuque Community Schools, Holy Family Catholic Schools, Forget-Me-Not Landscaping, Black Hills Energy, Selco Traffic Control, YAPPERS, and the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra.

Photo: City of Dubuque

It’s been a winter and many of us have hunkered down inside for too long. Are you ready to take a handsaw to a pile of snow and create your own masterpiece? Sunday, February 18, gather in Washington Park for a free community-wide celebration. Artists of all ages can even try their hand under the guidance of our teaching artists. Due to popular demand, we will open our doors early this year at 10:00 am.

The Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival & Competition returns for its seventh year Thursday, February 15 through Sunday, February 18 in Washington Park’s frozen gridiron. This annual celebration and smack down brings together artists and audiences of all ages to revel in our region’s resilient passion for the arts. Winter Arts is produced in partnership with the City of Dubuque’s Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs.

This year’s festival has expanded indoors and out. Inspired by the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra’s performance that weekend, families, friends, and first-time sculptors are invited to sculpt their own masterpiece on the theme of love. For the first time, we are launching a division for artists aged 12 to 17 who will sculpt from smaller blocks on Saturday and Sunday. (All teen teams are required to have an adult chaperone.) To register for the teen division, or for more information, please email Caitlin Short, one of our partners at the city, at cshort@cityofdubuque.org.
The rest of us can stroll, accompanied by music from the DSO, among giant snow creatures carved by teams competing for a slot at the U.S. National Championships. Warm up with fried chicken from Birds and hot cocoa served by the Community Foundation’s youth philanthropy program, the YAPPERS. Inside the Museum, Senior High School curators invite you to the opening of the annual K-8 Student Art exhibition featuring work by over 200 students from neighborhood and school in town.

Throughout the week, teams of professional, amateur, and collegiate sculptors will compete by carving giant snow creations from 6x6x8 foot blocks of solid snow. Iowa-based teams will compete for the official state title, a $1000 prize, and the opportunity to represent the state at the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Championship during the 2025 Winterfest in Lake Geneva. All teams will have the chance to be crowned the People’s Choice Award-winner which comes with a $300 cash prize. Watch the competing teams sculpt from dawn until dusk Thursday–Saturday. Sunday at noon, the sculptors will put down their tools and the voting begins.

Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa (CSEI) and DuMA have put out a call for photographers of all ages, experiences, and backgrounds for a special installation this spring. @Home will run from May 30–July 21 and will introduce us to photovoice, a participatory method of exploring a community’s perspectives on a common issue. Inspired by CSEI’s mission to address homelessness and housing instability, we seek a diverse range of individuals and families willing to share photographs that respond to the prompt, “What does it mean to be @home?” It might be an image that says something about your favorite place to be or a place you wish you didn’t have to be. It might be an image of a person, a pet, a space, or a state of mind. Whatever @home means to you.

Photographers of all ages and abilities are invited to submit at tinyurl.com/cseihome through February 14.
The New Museum: Breaking Through Walls by Design

Dear Friends,

In each issue of the newsletter we will share updates about the design and construction of the new DuMA.

In the fall, we introduced the community-focused practice of Paul Schulhof and Az Rashidi, the architects designing the new Dubuque Museum of Art. I hope you visited with them at the gala or during October’s Community Day. If so, then you know that they are active listeners, passionate about addressing our community’s needs, and devoted to designing a campus that maximizes DuMA’s mission.

In conversations with residents, we have consistently heard a desire for a campus where people of all generations, backgrounds, beliefs, and perceptions feel welcome. As one member of our Community Advisory Task Force challenged us, “I want to know my children are loved here.” I take that to mean a place where children experience playing on and exploring art as their own. That is why, in addition to designing immersive galleries, classrooms, and studios inside the museum, Paul and Az developed the notion of an educational courtyard—a free, accessible, not-so-secret garden where families of all ages and abilities play, investigate, make, and learn about art.

Since we first met them, Paul and Az have been committed to the idea that what will differentiate this building is not only its beauty and the way you experience art, but also the activities you see people doing, inside and out. That is why they passionately advocated for—and why I am so excited to tell you about—the hiring of landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh (seen here inside the garden he designed for the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston). Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates (MVVA) has been recognized as the foremost landscape architecture firm in the country for their innovative, joyous, and generous designs. Architecture critic Paul Goldberger says their landscapes “make you see everything, city and nature alike, with a striking intensity.”

I encourage you to explore Maggie Daley Park in Chicago or Brooklyn Bridge Park to experience firsthand how his designs transform formerly underutilized municipal properties into joyful and playful destinations for community gatherings and tourism attractions. In Houston, his plans for the Menil Collection create what that museum describes as a “neighborhood of art.” In Boston, explore the dreamlike woodland of The Monk’s Garden at the Isabel Stewart Gardner Museum and discover how visiting an intimately scaled urban garden can feel like a transformative journey.

In the next issue of the newsletter, I’m excited to share fully realized drawings of the architects’ concepts. In the meantime, to keep up-to-date on how the designs evolve, please visit future.dbqart.org or drop me a note at gstoppelman@dbqart.org.

Gratefully,

[Signature]

A young architect shares her model for the new DuMA with Paul Schulhof and Azadeh Rashidi during Community Day October 2023.

Proposed Education Courtyard looking south through the entry pavilion at Washington Park, Schulhof Rashidi Architects and Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates.
While it may be cliché to say that a picture is worth a thousand words, it is also an understatement. They are really worth much more. Images tell stories that go well beyond words. And the honesty and immediacy of a very special type of image—the photograph—makes for a unique relationship between the picture and the history it records.

Baseball and photography grew up together, each becoming more refined and gaining in popularity during the mid-19th century. As the repository of our national pastime’s long history, it is only fitting that the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum should tour an exhibit highlighting its expansive photographic archives.

When preparations for the exhibit began in 2012, the Hall of Fame’s curatorial team faced the daunting task of choosing around 50 photographs from a collection of over 350,000 images. The team embraced the challenge, worked diligently for a number of months, and culled down the vast possibilities to a selection of a few hundred pictures. Further cuts proved grueling, as each photo seemed to beg for inclusion. The difficult process reinforced just how impressive the Hall’s photo archive is and ultimately resulted in a great exhibit, both on the wall and on “the cutting room floor.”

At the same time that selections were being made, curators also rigorously researched each photograph. Many of the images had never been thoroughly examined, and the work revealed undiscovered and interesting details that made for intriguing stories. Ultimately, our final choices for the exhibit were those photos of exceptional quality that told rich stories and helped show off the breadth and depth of the Hall of Fame’s unparalleled collection.

In 1924, American photographer Alfred Stieglitz wrote to novelist Sherwood Anderson:

“Yesterday afternoon as I went for the mail, the drugstore was filled with villagers listening to the radio. Baseball.... I was wondering, would a crowd of Americans ever stand before a picture of real value with a fraction of the enthusiasm spent on baseball?”

Perhaps they would, if the pictures were of baseball.

Tom Shieber, Senior Curator  
National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
“The greatest of all, the game which seems to breathe the restless spirit of American life, that calls for quick action and quicker thinking, that seems characteristic of a great nation itself, is baseball.”

–Photographer Charles M. Conlon, 1913
SELECTED EVENTS

FAMILY CELEBRATION
Saturday, February 24

DUBUQUE BASEBALL SYMPOSIUM
Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14

See page 18 for details
SNAPSHOT OF THE EXHIBITION

Since the 19th century, baseball and photography have grown up together. From the grandeur of the early game to the vibrancy of today’s sport, every facet of our national pastime has been captured in sepia, color, and black-and-white.

The Hall of Fame’s collection of approximately 350,000 unique images is the world’s premiere repository of baseball photographs, spanning well over 150 years of the sport’s history. The 51 photographs in this exhibition cover a period from 1866 to 2012 and reflect some of the most memorable moments not only in baseball but in American history.

Images of Jackie Robinson, Dorothy Kovalchick, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Shoeless Joe Jackson, Roberto Clemente, and Orestes “Minnie” Minoso, to name a few, tell stories of thrilling achievement and devastating heartbreak. Accompanied by the words of those who were there, the Hall of Fame presents a selection of timeless photographs, each picturing America’s pastime.
Dubuque-artist E. E. Kono returns to DuMA for a solo exhibition of paintings that explore history, myth, and legend using traditional techniques in egg tempera and silverpoint. Kono is inspired by the Driftless Area. For her, the region is defined by a river that links the land to the sea and the complex past to a shifting present. Ancient limestone bluffs are scattered with fossils from a prehistoric sea and dotted with effigy mounds shaped like bears and birds and serpents by Eastern Woodland Natives. Growing up in such a place taught Kono to perceive the world as full of connections and layered meanings that drift between cultures and time.

The creation of each painting begins with a detailed metal point drawing, a tribute to the significant role precious metals have played in shaping Western culture. The artist employs ground pigments sourced from various parts of the world, blending them with egg yolk and applying them in layers. The resulting technique is characterized by its linear qualities and purity of color.

Kono studied art history at the University of Iowa in Iowa City and the University of Hull in Kingston Upon Hull, England. Kono’s work has been exhibited in notable venues, including La Luz de Jesus in Los Angeles; Modern Eden in San Francisco; Riverside Art Museum in Riverside, California; and Beinart Gallery in Melbourne, Australia. Additionally, she is an award-winning author and illustrator with over a dozen books published by major trade houses. Her book illustrations are in the collection of the Mazza Museum in Findley, Ohio.
“To DRIFT is to move slowly, especially as a result of outside forces, with no control over direction. It means to be carried by a current of air or water, or sometimes circumstances. And it is, I think, an apt description of how the past decade—with its political, cultural, and environmental turmoil—has felt.”

—E. E. Kono
Did you know that one of the first-ever baseball tournaments in history was played in Dubuque in 1865? Or that the second-ever professional baseball league, the Northwestern League, was co-founded by a Dubuquer in 1879.

Picturing Dubuque Baseball, guest curated by John Pregler, presents over 150 years of professional baseball in Dubuque. More than 100 images, newspaper clippings, and artifacts tell the story of Dubuquers role in our national pastime’s 175-plus-year history.

Explore images of the 1879 Dubuque Reds, the first Northwestern League Champions, a team that included two future baseball Hall of Famers. Learn about the meetings at the Hotel Julien that led up to the creation of the American League. Explore the career of Clarence “Pants” Rowland, World Series-winning manager of the 1917 Chicago White Sox. See Hall of Famer Urban “Red” Faber shaking hands with New York Yankee Babe Ruth on “Red” Faber Day at Comiskey Park in Chicago. Follow the growth of twentieth-century minor league baseball in Dubuque from the 1903 Dubuque Shamrocks of the Three-I League to the 1976 Dubuque Packers of the Midwest League, including “Dubuque’s Ambassador of Baseball” Johnny Petrakis and four-time World Series Champion Bruce Bochy.

In 1981, singer-songwriter Terry Cashman wrote his baseball anthem reminding the baseball world that once upon a time “they knew ‘em all from Boston to Dubuque.” Dubuque’s baseball history is American baseball history and it led early twentieth-century sports writers to refer to Dubuque as an early cradle of baseball—ultimately giving rise to the ghosts of baseball’s past at the Field of Dreams in a sea of corn 25 miles west of Dubuque.
“We’re talkin’ baseball!
Kluszewski, Campanella.
Talkin’ baseball!
The Man and Bobby Feller.
The Scooter, the Barber, and the Newc,
They knew ‘em all from Boston to Dubuque.
Especially Willie, Mickey, and the Duke.”

–Refrain from *Talkin’ Baseball* by Terry Cashman (1981)
FAMILY CELEBRATION: PICTURING AMERICA’S PASTIME

Saturday, February 24
10 am–1 pm

Free with Museum admission

Spring arrives early in Dubuque this year. Families and fans of all ages are invited to celebrate the opening of Picturing America’s Pastime: A Snapshot of the Photograph Collection at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum with hot dogs and refreshments, family art making, and tours of the exhibition.

Register in advance at dbqart.org/picturing-americas-pastime

ARTIST TALK AND OPENING RECEPTION
DRIFT: RECENT WORKS BY E. E. KONO

Saturday, February 24 / 4 pm

Free with Museum admission

Dubuque artist E. E. Kono discusses the work in her solo exhibition, Drift: Recent Works by E. E. Kono, with a reception to follow. Kono shares how landscape, history, and myth inform her approach to creating new work using traditional techniques like egg tempera and silverpoint. Reception to follow in the lobby.

CELEBRATORY RECEPTION: K–8 EXHIBITION

Thursday, March 7 / 4–6 pm

Celebrate the creativity of young artists from every neighborhood in our community.

SAVE THE DATE: PICTURING DUBUQUE BASEBALL SYMPOSIUM

Saturday, April 13 and Sunday, April 14

A two-day symposium inspired by Picturing Dubuque Baseball. The symposium will be hosted at the Julien Dubuque hotel, the historic site of the start of the American League. Session topics include the history of baseball in Dubuque and Iowa, the Negro Leagues, umpiring in the Major Leagues, memorabilia, and more. We’ll tour the historic baseball sites in Dubuque, DuMA’s exhibition, and visit the Field of Dreams.

For more information, visit dbqart.org/picturing-americas-pastime

Guests traveling from out of town?
The Hotel Julien is offering a special package that includes two Museum tickets and breakfast.

Reserve via: dbqart.org/picturing-americas-pastime

Left: Pages at the Washington Monument (detail) by unidentified photographer, March 25, 1922, courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.
Throughout our 150th year, we will share stories from and about community members who have made this historic moment possible. We call them our Groundbreakers. To begin this series, we asked Dr. Randall Lengeling to share what DuMA means to him. Enjoy the story about Randy’s open-minded curiosity, vision, and perseverance. The part of the story he doesn’t share is that while his passion for art may have developed “somewhat by chance,” the fact that DuMA’s collection has grown exponentially is not. Randy and his wife Kelly have become passionate advocates of emerging artists and, because of their generosity, DuMA now owns the entire collection of Grant Wood lithographs. If you are interested in sharing a story, please reach out to Julie Steffen, Advancement Activation at jsteffen@dbqart.org.

What DuMA means to me! My interest in visual arts and art museums developed somewhat by chance during my third year of medical school at the University of Iowa.

The pursuit of my medical degree and subsequent residency and fellowship in Iowa City was a somewhat long journey spanning eleven years from my college freshman year until starting at the then named Dubuque Internal Medicine, PC, now the Grand River Medical Group. Art and art history was not on my scholastic agenda.

However, in my junior year of medical school, I resided in an apartment with other medical students, one being a longtime friend from grade and high school from Carroll, Iowa, Mark Singsank. We had the opportunity to tour Europe by rail with the help of my brother who was serving in the US Army in Germany. As it turns out, my first art museum experience was likely the Louvre in Paris. While the Mona Lisa was the major draw, I was quite impressed by many of the other French artists and particularly their landscapes. We subsequently sought out art museums at all our European stops. Since then, I eagerly seek out the art museums in every city that I visit.

Not long after I moved to Dubuque, I began visiting the closest major museum, the Art Institute of Chicago and became a fan of Impressionism. On one occasion, I coincidentally found that the Art Institute was organizing a show by Grant Wood, a fellow lifelong Iowan. To my surprise, two of his major works were from Dubuque! I learned that he was somewhat of an impressionist painter before creating his now worldwide recognized American Gothic in his more hard-edged mature style and lived in eastern Iowa his entire life!

I came home and asked one of my medical partners, Dr. Darryl Mozena, where Iowa’s oldest city’s art museum was located. To my surprise, he said there was none! However, he related that there was the Dubuque Art Association (DAA) and likely the only significant area art works were at the Carnegie Stout Public Library including two by Grant Wood. These were acquired in the 1930s by the DAA that then met at the library when they hosted him there and was financed through a bequest by Mary Lull. My impetus from then on was to research, collect, and lecture on Grant Wood and accepted the offer to be on the DAA board in the early 1980s until the present, now in an emeritus status. I have since given a lecture called Grant Wood: Artistic Rags to Riches-An American Success Story throughout the state.

Indeed, due to its success, the present museum building has successfully outgrown its physical space. The future will bring a larger structure that will protect and exhibit its growing impressive art collection and showcase future significant travelling exhibitions.

Respectfully submitted,
Randall W. Lengeling, MD
FAMILY CELEBRATION: PICTURING AMERICA’S PASTIME

Saturday, February 24
FREE
See page 18 for details