

DuMA

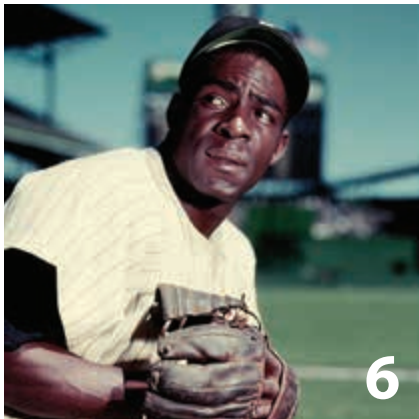
SUMMER 2024





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Exhibitions

@HOME: CSEI PHOTOVOICE

In this first collaboration between DuMA and Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa, area photographers explore the idea of home.

DuMA CRAFT INVITATIONAL 2024

The art of craft is alive and well in the Midwest. The fourth biennial Craft Invitational features twenty-one artists who are propelling traditional materials, processes, and techniques forward into the future.



2024 Support Provided by:



Support is provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

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This project paid for in part by the Iowa Tourism Office.

Cover: Betsy Youngquist and R. Scott Long, *Rabbit Whole* (detail), 2017, mixed media, 84x72x72 in., courtesy of the artists.

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Dear Members,

The Dubuque Museum of Art is the first cultural institution in Iowa, founded in 1874. Because of this legacy, we are always looking toward the future while keeping an eye respectfully on our past. This history informs everything we do and the questions we ask ourselves—especially now as we move ahead with plans for the new Museum.

In this issue we get to the heart of the matter: our art collection. Built over decades with support from dedicated patrons and donors, the collection remains at the core of our mission and at the center of our building program. Throughout this process, we have asked ourselves—and you—how to build a museum relevant for contemporary times while paying homage to our history and traditions. This combination of advancing the narrative and respecting the past is also, of course, the foundation of great works of art.

The same question underscores the theme of this year's Craft Invitational, in which we feature the work of regional artists and craftspeople who are inventing new approaches to traditional materials, processes, and techniques. The art of craft itself lies in these fresh perspectives and innovations. How can traditional materials find new life? How can a centuries-old process benefit from modern technology? How can the new infuse the historical? And how can ancient ideas inform how we understand our times?

DuMA cultivates such fresh perspectives, another hallmark of our exhibitions and programs for the summer. For the first time, we're partnering with Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa (CSEI) on a Showcase exhibition for our lobby. CSEI is tackling the urgent problem of homelessness and the housing crisis in our area, and for our collaborative exhibition we are presenting photography by area residents that reflects this issue. Some of these photographers will be familiar to DuMA supporters; others, including those affiliated with CSEI, will be featured at DuMA for the first time.

Finally, who better represent fresh perspectives than the elementary and high school students featured in our annual school exhibitions? In this issue you'll find profiles of second grader Kate Cirks and high school sophomore Caleb Peterson. Relatively unburdened by the weight of history, these two students—and their compatriots in the exhibitions—come to creative expression with open eyes and unlimited horizons. We hope to bring this sense of newness to all we are doing here while remaining conscious of the people, momentum, and enthusiasm that has brought us to this point.

Gratefully,



Gary Stoppelman
Executive Director
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Please join us and share your thoughts at the Annual Meeting of the Membership on July 24. See page 14 for details.

All About the Art

In these pages we've introduced you to the architects of DuMA's new building—Schulhof Rashidi Architects—and the landscape architect, Michael Van Valkenburgh. But we don't want to lose sight of one of our primary motivations in taking on a project of this scale: our art collection.

Art collections are growing organisms, and they need room to expand. They also need safe, climate-controlled storage and room for research and study. So while visitors to the new DuMA will see the enhanced communal spaces—including galleries, gardens, and courtyards—less visible but equally important will be the behind-the-scenes areas in which the collection is cultivated and tended. DuMA's new building will allow us to better care for, develop, and feature the permanent collection of the Museum—art of the twentieth and twenty-first century, created in or connected to our region.

In our existing museum, we are limited to displaying only a dozen works from our permanent collection of just over 2,700 works. The new building will give us four times the gallery space for the collection than we currently have, space that will radically change the visitor's experience of the art. We will be able, of course, to show more works of art, but we will also be able to show them in an environment better suited to engaging viewers. For the first time, entire classes and groups will be able to fit into the galleries while giving both art and viewers room to breathe. Instead of herding a few students into a corner to view a handful of works of art, students can instead be surrounded. Imagine introducing students to dozens of the 720 powerful images from Edward S. Curtis's *North American Indian* portfolio alongside voices of contemporary Indigenous artists, or seeing the range of Grant Wood's work rather than just a painting or two. Imagine the work of the author and illustrator Arthur Geisert—three times included on the *New York Times's* list of Best Illustrated Books—not as static works on the wall but coming alive in an interactive gallery where imagination becomes reality.

Collections such as those mentioned above, and more, have been assembled over the decades with generous help from patrons and supporters. The Museum is grateful to those who have helped grow the collection, including the Ahmanson, Conlon, Falb, Geisert, Lengeling, Mozena, Moody, Peterson, Schmid, and Woodward families. We look forward to highlighting the stories of these and other donors in future issues. And we still continue to grow. In the past five years alone, DuMA has added 250 works to its collection, including David Zahn's *Symmetry* (2021), acquired from the 2023 DuMA Biennial; Nikolaus Miesing's *Round Face Series: 2012* (2014); Bruce Howdle's *Cycle of Life* (1991); and Ellen Wagener's *October, Dubuque County, Soy Bean Fields and Grasses* (1999).

In future issues we'll feature these aspects of the Museum's work, including profiles of those who have helped us build the collection and the efforts we make to maintain and exhibit it at the highest level. "A permanent collection is the core of nearly all art museums, and many museum goes visit chiefly to view the permanent collection galleries," said Dr. Randall Lengeling, emeritus Trustee of the Museum. The new DuMA will serve both—the collection and the visitor.

Today, less than 1% of DuMA's art collection is on display. But it can always be seen at dbqart.org/collection.



Top left: Grant Wood, *Sketch for Approaching Storm*, 1940, Conté crayon and white chalk on paper, 22.4x19.6 in., Gift of Dr. Randall W. Lengeling and Bob Woodward, 2002.12.001. © Figge Art Museum, successors to the Estate of Nan Wood Graham/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

Bottom left: Arthur Geisert, *Pumpkin Island*, p. 20 (detail), 2018, copper plate etching on Rives BFK paper, 11.75x15.125 in., Gift of Arthur and Bonnie Geisert, made possible by Jack and Mantea Schmid, 2019.10.12. © Arthur Geisert

Above: Edward S. Curtis, *Jicarilla Matron*, plate 23, 1904, photogravure on Dutch Van Gelder paper, 26x22 in., Gift of the Dubuque Cultural Preservation Committee, an Iowa general partnership consisting of Dr. Darryl K. Mozena, Jeffrey P. Mozena, Mark Falb, Timothy J. Conlon, and Dr. Randall W. Lengeling, 2009.23.

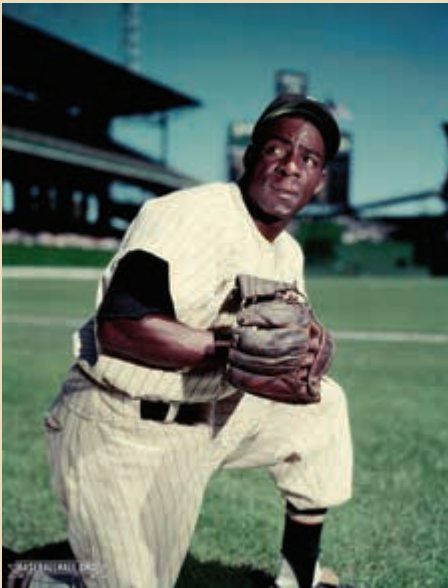
Bottom of the Ninth

The final inning of our exhibition *Picturing America's Pastime* is upon us. Join us as we celebrate summer, honor Juneteenth, and say farewell to the exhibition with a family day in Washington Park and a deep dive into the fascinating history of early baseball leagues.

Saturday, June 15

10 am–12 pm / Washington Park

Popcorn and baseball-themed games for all ages! Test your skills at pitching and catching during a lovely summer morning in the park. DuMA encourages you to put down your phones, get some fresh air, and revel in the sense and spirit of play at the root of American baseball. All outdoor games will take place across the street from the Museum in Washington Park, an important locale in Dubuque's baseball history as the site of some of the first games in the city.



Orestes "Minnie" Miñoso by Bob Lerner, August 29, 1951, courtesy of the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

1:30 pm / DuMA

Behind and Beyond the Bobbleheads, Caps, Movies, and Video Games: The Cultural and Social Significance of Negro League Baseball and the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League

Talk by Dr. Ashley Brown

Juneteenth commemorates the end of slavery and the opportunity for Black people to live in a more equitable and inclusive world. Creating awareness and meaningfully honoring the story of Juneteenth, author and historian Dr. Ashley Brown, Assistant Professor and Allan H. Selig Chair in the History of Sport and Society at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will speak about how athletes broke racial and gender stereotypes at a time when American sports were still deeply segregated.

In recent decades, Hollywood, the video game industry, and product manufacturers have all embraced the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League and Negro League Baseball. Consumers have enthusiastically purchased tickets and bought merchandise, engaging in nostalgia and demonstrating their interest in these trailblazing athletes. In her talk, Professor Brown addresses the origins, daily realities, complexities, and legacies of the leagues, asserting that the impact and meaning of both businesses were alternately priceless and mixed with the problems of the past.



Photo credit: Dave Giroux Photography

Dr. Brown is a historian of twentieth- and twenty-first-century United States. Her research and teaching focus on the history of sport, African American history, and women's history. She received her PhD from George Washington University and is currently Assistant Professor and Allan H. Selig Chair in the History of Sport and Society at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Registration is required for Dr. Brown's talk.



@HOME: CSEI Photovoice



JUNE 7–JULY 21
LOBBY

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday, June 7 / 5–8 pm

Part of First Fridays

Experience the creative spirit of our community by attending this event in the First Friday series hosted by cultural venues in the city.

See page 14 for details.

Above, left to right:

Stephanie Ottavi, *Mom* (detail)

Natalia Blaskovich, *Sanctuary* (detail)

Will Pearsall, *Untitled* (detail)



Addressing homelessness & housing instability

What does home mean to you?

That's the question posed—and answered—in a first-time collaborative exhibition between DuMA and Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa (CSEI), a regional nonprofit organization that offers resources and opportunities to those challenged by homelessness or housing crises. *@HOME: CSEI Photovoice*, opening Friday, June 7, features photography on the topic of home from artists of all skill levels and backgrounds, with particular emphasis on amateur photographers and those who are part of CSEI's programs and mission.

@HOME presents 53 photographs from 21 artists across Dubuque and Delaware counties that offer poignant, gripping, and trenchant commentaries on the meaning of home. *@HOME* is also more than a photography exhibition; it examines the housing crisis more generally and the individuals affected by it. Thus the exhibition also includes a featured documentary on the artists and a stipend for those participating under the CSEI umbrella.

"CSEI does ground-level work with homeless individuals," said Miles Turner, Visitor Services Coordinator at DuMA and organizer of the exhibition. "We believe that *@HOME* gives visibility to all their efforts in our community and gives our visitors a deeper understanding of those affected by homelessness. We come to know these artists through their photographs and the documentary. And by presenting *@HOME*, we hope to add a personal dimension to this difficult issue, to recognize here our fellow community members and neighbors."

The photographs in this exhibition were selected anonymously by a committee comprised of DuMA Board members, DuMA staff, a professional videographer, and a CSEI Board member. The resulting presentation represents a unique collaboration between DuMA and a social services organization, a partnership that demonstrates that art and action are equally at home together.

CRAFT INVITATIONAL

JUNE 29–OCTOBER 13
FALB FAMILY GALLERY

OPENING CELEBRATION

Saturday, June 29

See page 14 for details.

DIY

Get up close and personal with the materials and techniques in the Craft Invitational engagement space, where DuMA offers visitors of all ages the opportunity for hands-on exploration and inspiration.

This summer DuMA will be hosting its fourth biennial Craft Invitational, a wide-ranging and inspiring exhibition that showcases the strong craft traditions of the Midwest. A celebration of making and makers, the Craft Invitational features more than 50 works by 21 different regional artists, all of whom are pushing the boundaries of forms, processes, and materials while respecting the long lineage of craftsmanship.

In this exhibition viewers will find familiar materials—wood, glass, metal, paper—fashioned and interpreted in radically new ways. “These are artists who are stirring it up,” said DuMA curatorial director Stacy Peterson, who coordinated the curatorial team of five artists featured in the Museum’s 2022 Craft Invitational: paper artist Jocelyn Châteauvert of Mount Vernon, Iowa; ceramicist Paul Eshelman from Elizabeth, Illinois; glass artist Joseph Ivacic of Chicago, Illinois; wood artist Tom Loeser of Madison, Wisconsin; and jewelry maker and gallerist Alicia Velasquez from Iowa City, Iowa. Working with Peterson, the team established the themes of the exhibition—which include an emphasis on longevity and sustainability, and an incorporation of current events—and submitted artists for consideration, looking for exceptional works made in the area.

Right: Narciso Meneses Elizalde, Nine Wind is the Sacred Name of the Day When the New Sacred Sprout was Born, it Happened at Flower Mountain and it was Overseen by the Lady of the Moon (detail), 2018-2022, polymer clay, jade, obsidian, conch shell, and quartz, 25x19x2.5 in., courtesy of the artist.

Far right: Pearl Dick, Parallel, 2021, glass, 18x18x5 in., courtesy of the artist.



DNAL





Every work selected for the exhibition offers a twist. Fiber artist Catherine Reinhart presents a textile based on the form of a topographic map, fashioned from her children’s laundry. An homage to the Italian fashion designer Elsa Schiaparelli by Erica Spitzer Rasmussen is a pair of shoes made of handmade paper—and human hair. Bracelets by Clayton Salley find their origins in the very twenty-first-century process of 3D printing. While these and other included works may appear to be part of traditional genres or made with conventional materials and processes, all were selected for this exhibition for their innovation in form, technique, and content: woodworkers comment on current events; glass artists exercise masterful skills in their expression of conceptual content; ceramicists stretch the boundaries of their materials from delicate translucency to dense energy; and jewelers return to treasured old ways of making to envision their work in new ways.

Across these disciplines, DuMA’s Invitational brings forward the future of craft. Respectful yet innovative, at turns serious and whimsical, the featured artists inflect centuries of practice with curiosity, experimentation, and decidedly contemporary sensibilities. Craft is indeed not just alive and well but thriving in the heartland.

DuMA heartily congratulates Craft Invitational 2024 artists Yohance Lacour and Clayton Salley on recent major awards. Lacour was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in May for his podcast, *You Didn't See Nothin*, while Salley was the winner of a Fulbright Study/Research Grant to Taiwan, which will underwrite a ten-month trip to learn ancient hollowware techniques.



Top left: Catherine Reinhart, *Inland Surveying*, 2021, fiber with free motion stitching and found quilt border, 39x67 in., courtesy of the artist.

Left: Clayton Salley, *Bracelet 2.3.1.B.1, Print 3*, 2023, bronze, 6x6x2 in., courtesy of the artist.

Above: Yohance Joseph Lacour, *Redemption*, 2024, crocodile embossed leather, flat black leather, and rubber, courtesy of the artist.

FEATURED ARTISTS

Hannah O'Hare Bennett
Madison, Wisconsin

Derek Brabender
Stoughton, Wisconsin

Sandra Byers
Rock Springs, Wisconsin

Liesl Chatman
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jarrold Dahl
Ashland, Wisconsin

Joshua DeWall
Chicago, Illinois

Pearl Dick
Chicago, Illinois

Narciso Meneses Elizalde
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Robert J. Farrell
Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin

Emerald YellowRobe Frommelt
Dubuque, Iowa

Rita Grendze
Geneva, Illinois

Yohance Joseph Lacour
Chicago, Illinois

Carmen Lozar
Normal, Illinois

Erica Spitzer Rasmussen
St. Paul, Minnesota

Catherine Reinhart
Ames, Iowa

Amelia Rosenberg
Iowa City, Iowa

Sylvie Rosenthal
Madison, Wisconsin

Clayton Salley
Iowa City, Iowa

Matthew Urban
Normal, Illinois

Betsy Youngquist and R. Scott Long
Rockford, Illinois

Featured Artists

KATE CIRKS

Half of Her Imagination, Half of Yours

Kate Cirks is a busy girl. The second grader at Hoover Elementary, who turns 8 in June, is enthusiastic about reading, writing, gaga ball, softball, dance, trampoline, and singing. But the multihyphenate Kate holds a special place in her heart for making art. As early as the age of 2, she was enlisting her mother Julie's help making YouTube videos featuring characters she created out of construction paper, puff balls, and pipe cleaners.

These days Kate is interested in collage, an interest stoked by her art teacher, Steve Van Vleck. "We're on outside themes, sunflowers right now," she related. "We use paper and pencils and Sharpies that outline, then different colors of paper that we glue on." Kate was represented by just such a work in DuMA's annual student exhibition this winter, a showcase of the artistic talents of Dubuque's young artists in grades K-8. Her *Rough Seas* is composed of "half a hexagon with a big rectangle and triangle for the boat. There are big waves behind and in front. It's a big stormy night and the boat is trying to sail across the sea."

Kate was inspired by her older sister Isabelle, whose work has also been featured at DuMA. "She got her artwork in the art museum, so that made me want to do art and got me excited to maybe get into the art museum and share my artwork with people," she said. Kate enjoys all kinds of media and processes, including "clay and molding things and stacking things on things."

While Kate admits that making art puts her in a "happy mood," she also recognizes that art is about communication and sharing, and she hopes to open that sort of dialogue with DuMA visitors who see her work. "I think they would feel that it's an actual stormy night and they would feel like 'is the boat going to sink?'"

"They might be excited to see it or questioning it. People can just figure it out on their own. I made half of it out of my imagination and then visitors have to finish it with their imagination."



CALEB PETERSON

No Rules



“When it comes to art, I don’t believe in rules. There should be no rules to taking what’s in your mind and putting it out in the world.”

Caleb Peterson was one of the artists featured in DuMA’s 25th Citywide High School Exhibition this spring. A sophomore at Dubuque Senior High School, Caleb not only takes art classes at school but is also a member of the art club there *and* the Dubuque Area Arts Collective—while also enjoying the subjects of American and European history.

Personal history is just as important to Caleb, and his work expresses the experience of trauma and discomfort as well as paths to healing from them. Living the dictum of “no rules,” Caleb uses multiple media to embody his ideas, including everything from ceramics to found objects like fake flowers and puzzle pieces, as seen in his works in the DuMA exhibition. Not wanting to confine himself strictly to the visual arts, he is equally at home in the music room as the art studio, and his skill as a musician on a number of instruments offers him even more avenues of expression.

Caleb already has experience as an exhibited artist. Having moved to Dubuque from Wisconsin, Caleb was featured in several art shows there, including in a local library and in a local business, from which he sold his first work for the tidy sum of \$150. This spring he has had work in not one but two exhibitions in addition to DuMA’s High School show.

Caleb’s formula is deceptively simple: “I just take whatever’s in my head and put it out there in the world.” Believing that “art is an expression of who you are and the world around you,” he is committed to the idea that this expression can take any form and is itself a process of discovery that is often mysterious. “Art can represent and put out so many things in a way only so many people understand. Sometimes you’re the only one who understands your art. . . . And sometimes I can’t figure out how the mind of the artist works.” But if it can inspire others, “art is an amazing thing that can change the world if you do it right.”

Events and Programs

CRAFT INVITATIONAL 2024 OPENING CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

10 am–12 pm

Free with Museum admission

Family activity of “make and take” projects inspired by the exhibition

4 pm

Free with Museum admission

Panel discussion with featured artists moderated by exhibition juror and glass artist Joseph Ivacic

5–8 pm

Summer Garden Party

\$15 for members of DuMA

\$20 for guests

\$10 for guests under 21

Free for 1874 Society

Meet the Craft Invitational artists, visit the galleries, enjoy some music, and relish food prepared in the spirit of the exhibition: tradition with a twist.

Use the QR code below to get your tickets now.



OPENING RECEPTION @HOME: CSEI PHOTOVOICE

Friday, June 7 / 5–8 pm

6 pm Photographer introductions



Meet the participating photographers and get a first look at this moving exhibition during @HOME’s opening reception, part of Dubuque’s First Friday series.

Catered by Convivium

CLOSING CELEBRATION PICTURING AMERICA’S PASTIME

Saturday, June 15 / 10 am–3 pm

Free with Museum admission

Family-friendly outdoor games and a lecture on the fascinating history of early baseball leagues help us honor Juneteenth and mark the closing of this popular exhibition.

See page 6 for details.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Wednesday, July 24 / 6:30 pm

DuMA invites all its members to hear an update on the building project, preview next year’s exhibitions, and welcome new Trustees to the Board. Please RSVP to dbqart.org to attend.

GETTING PAID FOR YOUR CREATIVITY

Join Dubuque Forward on Thursday, June 27, from 5 to 7 pm at Voices Gallery for a panel discussion among creative entrepreneurs. Explore artistic entrepreneurship with Gail Chavenelle from Chavenelle Metal Works, Ali Levasseur of Ali Rags, and Jessica Pfohl from *Amidst* magazine. Gain valuable insights, tips, and strategies for monetizing your creative endeavors and turning your passion into profit.

Visit dubuqueforward.com for more information

Dates to Remember

THE *Collectors* PREVIEW

4TH ANNUAL CRAFT INVITATIONAL 2024

June 28th / 6pm to 8pm
DUBUQUE MUSEUM OF ART

AN INTIMATE EVENING FOR A LIMITED
NUMBER OF COLLECTORS AND ARTISTS



SAVE THE DATE

Dubuque Museum of Art

GALA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

ROSHEK BUILDING



AN AFFILIATE OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Dubuque Museum of Art
701 Locust Street
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

dbqart.org

**CRAFT
INVITATIONAL
2024
OPENING
CELEBRATION
SATURDAY,
JUNE 29**

See page 14 for details.



Joshua DeWall, *Invisible Man* (detail), 2022, glass, 42x28x14 in., courtesy of the artist.