

Dear Friends,



For many, the new year is a time for reflection. Rather than dwell on the tumultuous events of 2020, however, I am inspired to celebrate a bright future made possible by the unwavering determination of this institution and its people to overcome the unprecedented challenges we have faced. There is no doubt in my mind that the groundwork we have laid out over this past year will pave the way to a more equitable and inclusive Museum than ever before.

Exactly 100 years after women gained the right to vote, the 2020/20+ Women @ NBMAA initiative presented six standout exhibitions in 2020 featuring groundbreaking, visionary artists, the majority of whom have never been shown at the NBMAA. Although 2020 has ended, the initiative continues with two more vibrant exhibitions. Opening this February, *Helen*

Frankenthaler: Late Works, 1990-2003 will be the first museum presentation dedicated to the late works of Helen Frankenthaler, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. In May, we open the forthcoming *NEW/NOW* exhibition, *Jennifer Wen Ma: An Inward Sea*, an immersive installation that will reflect upon the events of the last year through the stories of New Britain residents.

As part of our commitment to supporting women artists of diverse backgrounds, and thanks to the generosity of donors to our acquisitions endowment, the NBMAA is thrilled to announce recent acquisitions by acclaimed artists Anni Albers, Shantell Martin, Faith Ringgold, Betye Saar, Carrie Mae Weems, and others, that we look forward to bringing to our galleries for the benefit and enjoyment of generations to come.

Beyond the incredible shows we were able to bring to our gallery walls in 2020, perhaps even more significant was the impact of our Museum on the community as a whole. It is no coincidence that in the year of 2020/20+ Women @ NBMAA we were able to forge some of our strongest and most diverse community partnerships thus far. Most recently, we dedicated not just one day, but an entire week of programming and activities celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I would be remiss not to mention our incredible team here, who truly represent all that we stand for as an institution. It is only through their tireless hard work and dedication that what started as a vision for 2020 came together in such a tangible, successful reality. I look forward to yet another year with the NBMAA as we continue reflect and amplify all perspectives, through American art and through all we do.

I wish you all the happiest and healthiest new year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Min Jung Kim'.

Min Jung Kim
Director & CEO