

Greetings,

As I watch the changing colors of the season paint Walnut Hill Park in vibrant hues, I am delighted to usher in the Museum's fresh lineup of exciting special exhibitions, engaging educational programs, and strategic partnership initiatives. Our fall public programs are already in full swing and planning is well underway for Halloween festivities, including a free Community Costume Day and the much-anticipated return of Museum After Dark parties. Stanley Works Center will once again be filled with the sounds of our annual Walnut Hill Jazz Series, and visitors will delight in weekend Walk-In Tours, new studio classes, and engaging artist talks.



In the galleries, we recently opened *American Realism Today*, the first survey of American Realism by the current New York scene in over half a century. And while we celebrate the final weeks of blockbuster exhibition *30 Americans*, we prepare to present the first of many local artist exhibitions in Landers House, this one featuring the work of Elizabeth Gourlay.

With great love for and curatorial expertise in American photography, I can hardly wait to present upcoming special exhibition *Edward Burtynsky: Earth Observed*, opening on November 17. Burtynsky's work highlights the impact on the natural world by human industries, such as manufacturing and deforestation, and explores the contemporary topics of climate change and sustainability. *Earth Observed* will harmonize brilliantly on the second floor with an assemblage of American photographers in the NBMAA's permanent collection.

As delighted as we are to see consistent growth of visitation inside our galleries, we are proud of the impact our collection is having beyond NBMAA through artwork loans and digital content. A recent loan of Winslow Homer's *Ship's Boat* to the Metropolitan Museum of Art was experienced by more than 200,000 visitors. Our continuing partnership with Delamar West Hartford has allowed us to extend engagement with vitreographs from the permanent collection beyond our gallery walls with the show *Glass Impressions*. Through these types of loans, we hope to continue to expand the visibility of our collection outside of the NBMAA and strengthen our impact on a wider audience.

I wish to extend my most sincere thanks to American Savings Foundation for their year-round funding of Free Saturday Mornings and tuition assistance for New Britain youth to participate in NBMAA studio art classes and summer camps. Recent Saturday morning visitor, Henry Komelski told the *New Britain Herald*, "There's always something new and it's really what I needed today," he said. "It's calming and I needed to reset everything. I grew up in New Britain. I love coming here. It's very accessible."

I would also like to share my profound appreciation of our Members. This Museum and its objects are here for you and endure because of your steadfast support. In an effort to inspire Membership growth during this year, I invite all of our Members to encourage your friends to purchase a Membership or to gift one. Your involvement is crucial to the life of the Museum, and I thank each and every one of you.

Lastly, I hope to see many of you at the 20th Art Party of the Year on October 22. This year we honor and celebrate Marena Brown-Stitzer and Todd Stitzer, philanthropists, community leaders, and longtime supporters of the New Britain Museum of American Art.

Brett Abbott
Director and CEO