

Dear Friends,

Just beyond the horizon of a blockbuster summer headlined by *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!*, a new season of dynamic special exhibitions illuminating diverse perspectives awaits. Its spectrum of voices includes trailblazing women artists of the Hudson River School, multimedia Native artists, female pillars of our Black community, and Pakistani-American and Mexican-American artists, among many others.



The first of two major exhibitions, *Women Reframe American Landscape*, will travel from the Thomas Cole National Historic Site later this fall. The exhibition highlights the accomplishments of women who painted in the 19th century and places them into conversation with contemporary artists to redefine how we understand the history and legacy of the Hudson River School and expand how we think about the landscape today. The NBMAA will then present its second major show of the year, *The Land Carries Our Ancestors: Contemporary Art by Native Americans*, in the spring of 2024. In collaboration with the National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C., Jaune Quick-to-See Smith will curate an exhibition at the NBMAA highlighting artworks by some 50 living Native artists that powerfully visualizes Indigenous culture and knowledge of the land.

In harmony with the two larger exhibitions, the NBMAA has orchestrated a vibrant lineup of shows and related programs of varying themes throughout the year. Recently unveiled in historic Landers House, *The Black Matriarchs Series* by Kenneth A. Larson celebrates the legacy of a remarkable community of Black women who worked and lived in New Britain. On public view for the first time in 35 years, it is a tribute to Black and African American women who are pillars in their families and in their community.

This summer we celebrate three decades of work by acclaimed Hartford-based artist Ellen Carey with a two-part exhibition *Ellen Carey: Struck by Light*. In P.B. Stanley, works spanning the early 1990s to 2000s trace the development of her innovative career and showcase gifts and acquisitions from the NBMAA's collection. Hoffman Gallery will feature Carey's newest body of work, comprising a series of large-scale camera-less photograms that demonstrate her experimental approach to image-making.

We are also presenting a planned series of three exhibitions designed to highlight examples of the finest Shaker craftsmanship from the past 175 years. *Masterworks of Shaker Design: A Tale of Two Enfields* is on view through the summer, followed by *Shaker Masterworks: The Central Ministry (Mount Lebanon, NY)* and *Handled with Care: The Function of Form in Shaker Craft*.

The first of two NEW/NOW artists featured this year, Anila Quayyum Agha explores the complexities and contradictions of her experience as a Pakistani immigrant to the United States through her celebrated light sculpture *Intersections* in concert with new works. Then in the spring, contemporary artist Justin Favela draws upon his own Mexican and Guatemalan heritage to reinterpret artwork from the past in exciting installations that bridge past and present and create connections across cultures.

Don't miss your last chance to experience current special exhibitions already on view this summer. Since its opening in the spring, *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* has welcomed hundreds of families each day to

create lasting memories together in the galleries, and attend sold-out talks, book signings, workshops, and classes. Representing the largest exhibition of Walter Wick's wonderful work to date, *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* spans 50 years of innovation and imagination. This show is a must-see for all generations.

From the Vault: Post-War to Contemporary Art celebrates work by impressive artists of our region, recent acquisitions from around the nation, and fan favorites from the NBMAA's "vaults," some on view for the first time ever at the NBMAA.

This exciting lineup of exhibitions and related programming is realized only through the generosity of Museum supporters like you, and tireless efforts of our talented staff. Thank you for continuing to make the Museum a space for people to connect, learn, create, and communicate. Together.

Brett Abbott
Director and CEO