

Greetings,

As we welcome in the new year, there is so much to celebrate at the NBMAA. I am thrilled to share news that the Museum has recently acquired a major painting: Robert S. Duncanson's *Landscape*, 1870. A master of depicting idyllic pastoral scenes of peaceful rivers and verdant mountains, Duncanson is celebrated for his trailblazing accomplishments. He was successful in garnering international acclaim for his work, despite facing significant adversity as a painter of African American ancestry in the 19th century. You probably recall the NBMAA featured two of the artist's works in recent special exhibition *Poetry of Nature: Hudson River School Landscapes from the New-York Historical Society*. We now have the honor of protecting and presenting *Landscape* for future generations as part of the Museum's permanent collection. We are deeply appreciative of the Robert C. Vance Foundation for making this landmark acquisition possible for our community.



This winter and spring, we look forward to sharing a wealth of great American photography in seven of our galleries, featuring works by Ansel Adams, Edward Burtynsky, and Walter Wick. We also plan to invigorate our Hudson River School installation by including the Duncanson acquisition in the Henry and Sharon Martin Gallery.

We've seen impressive recent activity in giving and Memberships thanks in part to successful partnerships and Membership campaigns. Together with peer institutions Wadsworth Atheneum and Hill-Stead Museum, we surpassed Giving Tuesday fundraising goals to unlock a matching gift of \$15,000 from Jim and Martha Fanelli, Dr. and Mrs. Peter D. Byeff, and an anonymous donor. I extend thanks to these generous donors and to all who participated. Furthermore, our Membership base got a boost on Cyber Monday when 116 Memberships were purchased in just 24 hours.

In addition to growing our Membership, the NBMAA is always devising new ways to honor our current Members—adding value to their investment and giving them infinite reasons to visit and engage with our collection and related programs. You may have been among the masses who participated in Member Shopping Day in November. We hope you take advantage of the many Members-only perks related to upcoming special exhibition *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* this spring and summer, including Members early registration for summer camp. We are also cooking up Members-sit-first at select upcoming musical programs—sure to please so many.

Finally, I wish to thank all who supported and attended the Art Party of the Year. Your enthusiastic participation—in the form of ticket sales, sponsorships, donations, and auction bids—helped the NBMAA surpass our \$100K net goal. Thank you, thank you.

With momentum created by the success of our gala, an increase in new Memberships, and the significant Duncanson acquisition, we at the NBMAA are starting off the new year with great optimism. As always, I thank you for your continued support of the Museum, and I wish each of you a Happy New Year.

Brett Abbott
Director and CEO