

NBMAA
2023 Spring Newsletter



GREETINGS,

As we emerge from late winter's unpredictable weather, we begin to prepare for spring and summer celebrations like graduations, weddings, vacation travel, and family parties with greater confidence. The approaching season of gathering has me thinking about treasured moments created when families come together right here in the Museum. I can't wait to share with you all that we have planned in the coming months to help facilitate multi-generational magic.

This spring, the NBMAA is delighted to present *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* The largest survey of Walter Wick's work to date, this exhibition is designed to be shared by all ages. From grandparents who read Walter Wick's *I Spy* series with their (now grown) children, and parents who first encountered Walter Wick as kids, to their young children and grandchildren who are reading Wick's books for the very first time, all ages are primed to enjoy this show. In addition, the family-friendly content of *Hidden Wonders* allowed us to design

extensive programming, including school vacation activities for families, academic talks for adults, Members-only perks, and many opportunities to meet Walter Wick and have a book signed.

We look forward to witnessing another coming-together at our annual Juneteenth Community Day on Saturday, June 17. This year's festivities will sit alongside historic Walnut Hill Park, seamlessly uniting community space with Museum grounds. I invite you to enjoy our newsletter highlight on Adrian Elliott, a vital member of our Community Advisory Committee who is returning as the host for this year's Juneteenth performances. Thank you to Adrian and everyone else who helps make this meaningful event possible.

We are also approaching the time of year when we gather together to thank our most loyal supporters. The Heritage Society Champaign Brunch on April 29 gives us a chance to recognize those individuals who have included the NBMAA in their estate plans, and the John Butler Talcott Society Annual Black-Tie Director's Dinner celebrates the generosity of JBTS Members on June 3. I invite you to mark your calendars and join us for these joyful occasions.

I encourage you to read a thoughtful letter from the Bruemmer family of the JP Bruemmer Charitable Lead Trust to the NBMAA on page 13 of this Newsletter. We are so grateful to Jay Bruemmer for his legacy of giving and his love for this Museum, and to his family for their tireless work to fulfill his vision of support.

I am proud to lead a Museum that builds bridges to connect community and family members through the sharing of art. Thank you all for your continued support of this mission.

Brett Abbott
Director and CEO

IN MEMORIAM

Peter O. Baldwin, former Member
Elizabeth Elia, longtime donor
Mary T. Gould, longtime Member and donor, former volunteer and docent
Donald K. Huber, longtime Member
Marguerite Kelland, former volunteer
Frederick J. Mullen, Jr., longtime Member and donor, former volunteer
Donald Pet, artist, former Member
Louise Boyson Pruyne, longtime Member and donor
Lawrence Rothfield, longtime Member and donor
Margaret Winters, former volunteer

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART

04 | EXHIBITIONS:

Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!

Masterworks of Shaker Design: A Tale of Two Enfields

Ansel Adams and the Legacy of the American Landscape: Photographs from the NBMAA

From the Vault: Contemporary Art at the NBMAA

Berlin Public School's District Art Show

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EXHIBITION SUPPORT

Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders! is made possible by The Saunders Foundation and the Cheryl Chase and Stuart Bear Family Foundation.

Additional exhibition support generously provided by the Bailey Family Fund for Special Exhibitions, Marian and Russell Burke, and Stanley Black & Decker.

Juneteenth is sponsored by Arbella Insurance Foundation and Hartford HealthCare; Vendors Market sponsored by ShopBlackCT.

Art from the New Britain Public and Parochial Schools sponsored by Webster Bank.

Cover: Detail of: Walter Wick, *Glass in the Window from Can You See What I See?: Hidden Wonders*, 2021, Pigmented inkjet photograph. Image size: 57" W x 34 5/8" H, Framed size: 58.5" W x 35 1/8" H, Courtesy of the artist.



Our thanks to the following NBMAA supporters:



StanleyBlack&Decker

Jay and Lorraine
Breuninger Memorial
Fund





Walter Wick, *Space Station Impossible from Hidden Wonders: A Can See What I See? Book*, 2019, Pigmented inkjet photograph, Image size: 50" W x 30" H, Framed size: 58 1/2" W x 39" H, Courtesy of the artist

WALTER WICK

Hidden Wonders!

MARCH 31 – SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

William and Bette Batchelor Gallery, Alix W. Stanley Gallery, Mary and George Cheney Gallery

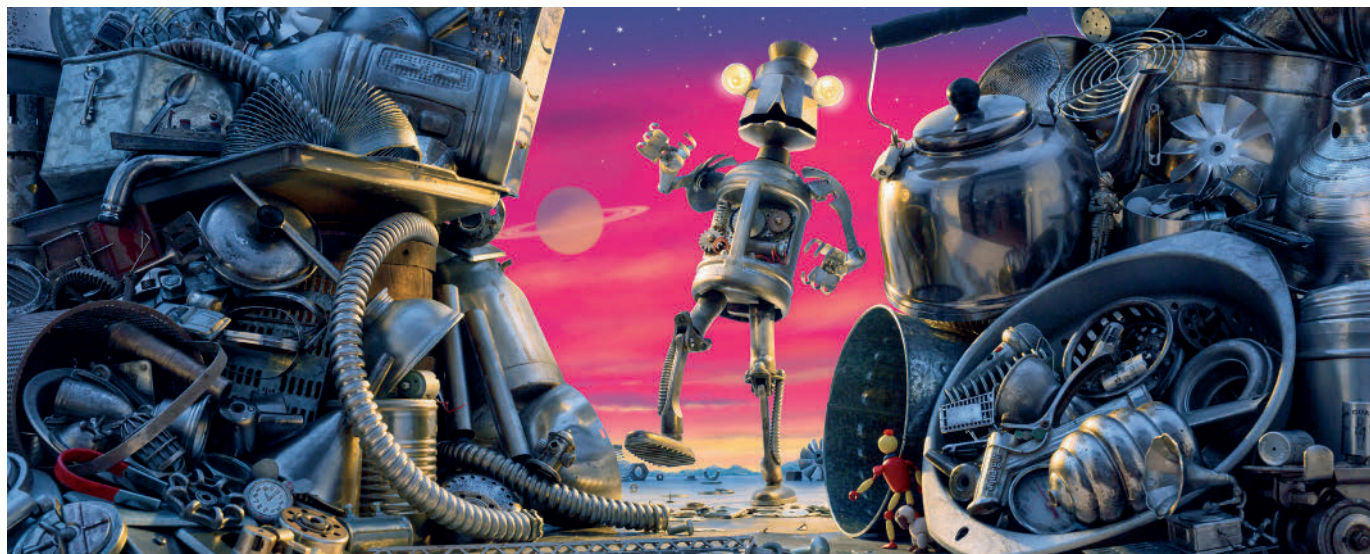
The whimsical world of Walter Wick has fascinated people of all ages since 1991, when his first children's book series *I SPY* found its way onto the bookshelves of millions of American households. The success of Wick's books has established him as one of the most celebrated photographic illustrators of all time. A Hartford native, Wick began his artistic career as a landscape photographer before becoming enamored with the technical aspects of studio photography. Wick aspired to master studio techniques, but also to represent such concepts as the perception of space and time in photographs, and experimented with mirrors, time exposures, photo composites, and other tricks to do so. This manipulation of processes and perception has led to a prolific career that has now, over 30 years after the release of *I SPY: A Book of Picture Riddles*, resulted in the publication of more than 26 children's books.

In the past 16 years, the New Britain Museum of American Art has celebrated Wick's delightful imagery in several installations, including the highly acclaimed 2006 exhibition *Walter Wick: Games, Gizmos, and Toys in the Attic*, which traveled to 15 additional museums across the United States. In 2015, through the generosity of Walter Wick and Linda Cheverton Wick, the NBMAA was gifted a collection of 84 of Wick's masterful photographs. The appeal of Wick's photographs, books, and installations has continued to draw admirers of all ages, from across Connecticut and around the world.

In March of 2023, the NBMAA launched the largest survey of Wick's work to date. Titled after his recent book, *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* will span 50 years of innovation, wonder, and imagination. Tracing the span of Wick's career, the exhibition is organized by themes that have long fascinated Wick, including Miniature Worlds; Floor Games; Craft-Built Worlds;

Optical Illusions; I Spy Games; Puzzle Challenges, Wonders of Science; Connecticut Woods; and Curiosity Shop. The exhibition pairs beloved images, including over 15 never-before-seen works, with numerous three-dimensional models upon which his photographs are based. Celebrating five decades of creativity, as well as

Wick's indelible role in the development of photographic illustration, this exhibition is a must-see for art lovers of any age.



Walter Wick, *Junk Robot from Hey, Seymour!*, 2015, Pigmented inkjet photograph, 50" W x 30" H, Courtesy of the artist

APRIL VACATION WEEK | CRAFT BUILT

Tuesday, April 11, 1-3 p.m. - Members Only

(Museum is open from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on April 11 for Members Only Day.)

Thursday, April 13, 1-3 p.m.

Enjoy an afternoon of storytelling, hands-on art activities, scavenger hunts, and floor games—all related to special exhibition *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* For ages 6-12.

HIDDEN WONDERS SUMMER CAMP

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Explore the hidden wonders of the Museum with half-day summer camps for ages 6-9. Campers will create their own Walter Wick-inspired artwork during weekly three-day sessions and play games outdoors on the Museum's beautiful grounds.

Members: \$50/day or
\$135/week

Non-Members: \$65/day or
\$180/week

Families can register for single days or for full weeks. *Get \$5 off per day when you register for a full-week package of summer camp classes.*

REGISTER HERE



WEEK 1 | Out of this World

July 11-13

Create your own UFOs, rockets, and paper-mache planets, and discover connections between art and science.

WEEK 2 | Fairytale Fun

July 18-20

Let your imagination run wild as you build robots, toy trains, and castles inspired by toy story narratives.

WEEK 3 | Puzzle Challenge

July 25-27

Explore science, art, and technology by designing your own Rube Goldberg machine to complete a simple task in a complex way.

WEEK 4 | Found Objects

August 1-3

Build an I Spy box, treehouses, and pirate ships—all from recycled and natural materials!

Go to page 10 to see additional adult and family-friendly programs scheduled for this spring and summer.



MASTERWORKS OF SHAKER DESIGN: A TALE OF TWO ENFIELDS

NOW THROUGH AUGUST 6, 2023

M. Stephen and Miriam R. Miller Gallery

This is the first of a planned series of exhibitions designed to highlight examples of the finest Shaker craftsmanship from the past 175 years. Each exhibition will focus on objects from a single or pair of Shaker communities or from loans from particular collections. In most instances, collaborations between the New Britain Museum of American Art and individual collectors or institutions will be the rule. This is the case with *Masterworks of Shaker Design: A Tale of Two Enfields*.

In August 1774, a small band of eight “Shaking Quakers” arrived in New York from England. They were led by a charismatic woman named Ann Lee. That was an inauspicious start for a sect that would eventually have an influence far disproportionate to its tiny size. Once their Testimony was opened to the World in May 1780, hundreds were attracted to “The United Society of

Believers in Christ’s First and Second Appearing,” and the Believers quickly spread from New York State into New England. In 1787, their first fully formed community was gathered into Gospel Order at New Lebanon, New York. Over the next several decades, seventeen more long-lasting Shaker villages were established, extending from Maine to Kentucky. Two of these communities happened to be close to towns sharing the same name: Enfield, Connecticut (1792-1917) and Enfield, New Hampshire (1793-1923). By the mid-1800s, their numbers had swelled to well over 4,000 members in eighteen communities.

There are certain characteristics of Shaker craftsmanship that were common to objects made at each of their communities: meticulous fabrication techniques; use of the finest available materials; a paring down of forms that were omnipresent in the non-Shaker World (often

referred to as simplification); and the priority given to utility or function. What is still unclear after many years of diligent scholarship—searching through voluminous records that recorded even the smallest details of their daily life—is why furniture from widely separated Shaker villages has the look. That is, why do they have the distinctive appearance that distinguishes them from objects in the world around them? This certainly seems to be part of their present-day appeal—“the Shaker look”! Most of the objects displayed here have also survived in exceptional condition for nearly two hundred years, a mute testament to their high level of construction and subsequent level of care.

Shakers began fabricating their own furnishings almost as soon as they were “gathered into community.” Their

basic tenets, often referred to as “the three C’s”—Communal ownership of all goods (beds, tools, clothing, etc.), regular Confession (in private), and Celibacy, along with pacifism—set them apart from the World. Living in villages physically separated from their neighbors and becoming relatively self-sufficient from others confirmed their differences. With minimal experience, it is usually quite easy to distinguish Shaker-made from Worldly-made goods.

The NBMAA is most grateful to the following lenders for making *A Tale of Two Enfields* possible: Charles Cybulski, Dr. Don G. Wartella, Enfield Shaker Museum, Enfield, NH, and the Miller Collection

- M. STEPHEN MILLER, GUEST CURATOR

Enfield, CT Shakers, Keepsake Box, 1870-1890, Mohogany, ivory, metal, 6 3/4 x 8 3/4 x 12 in.
(17.1 x 22.2 x 30.5 cm), Collection of M. Stephen Miller, L.2023.12.11T





Ansel Adams, *Half Dome, Thunder Cloud*, ca. 1956, Silver gelatin print, Collection of Andrea Barton, L.2016.8.16LTL

Ansel Adams and the Legacy of the American Landscape: Photographs from the NBMAA considers Adams' immeasurable contributions to photography, art, and environmental advocacy over the past century. The exhibition places iconic images by Adams in dialogue with works by photographers who practiced during and after his life, to provide deeper perspectives on themes central to his practice, demonstrate the power of his legacy, and inspire consideration about the state of the American landscape in the 21st century.

Featured in the exhibition is Adams' *Portfolio III: Yosemite Valley*, comprising 16 silver gelatin prints depicting the beauty of Yosemite National Park in California. Born in San Francisco, Adams visited Yosemite National Park in 1916 with his family and was given his first camera. Photography and Yosemite would remain subjects of fascination for the remainder of Adams' life. In 1960, *Portfolio III* was published by the Sierra Club, a renowned conservation organization of which Adams was a dedicated member for 32 years. Dating from 1927 to 1960, the portfolio images capture nature in its most grand and minute details. These and other works by Adams had profound success in awakening many Americans to the beauty of the nation's natural regions and the importance of preserving them.

Among the 20th- and 21st-century artists featured in conversation with Adams are pioneering photographers Dorothea Lange and Marilyn Bridges, who offered new social, cultural, and visual perspectives on the American landscape, as well as contemporary photographers Michael A. Smith, Stephen Petegorsky, and Marion Belanger, who capture views of the landscape in both its pristine and cultivated spaces. Collectively, these works consider the role photography has played, and continues to play, in our changing perceptions of photography and the American landscape.

ANSEL ADAMS

AND THE LEGACY OF THE AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

NOW THROUGH JUNE 4, 2023

The Helen T. and Philip B. Stanley Gallery

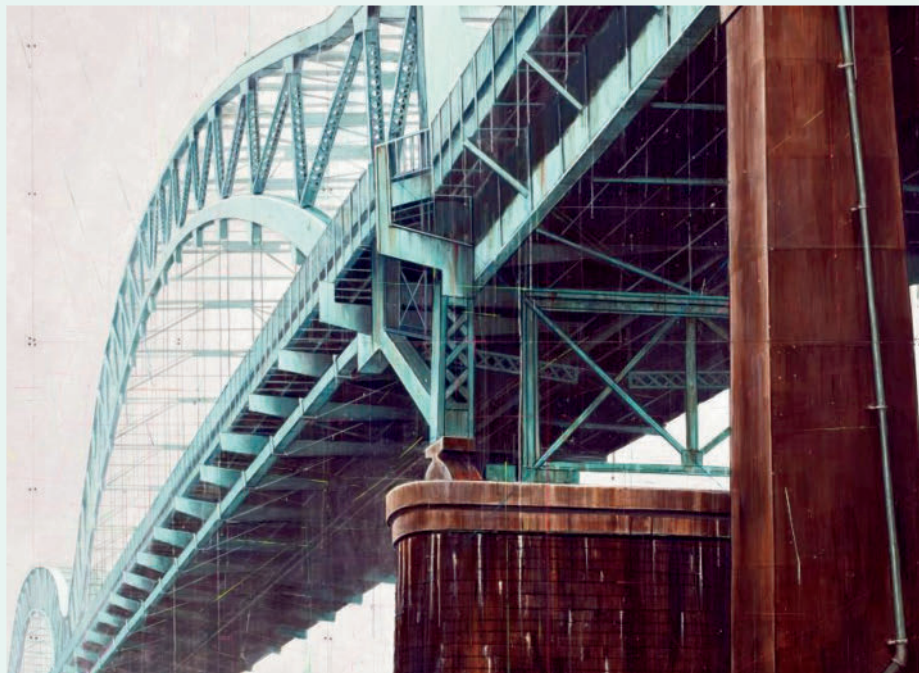
Among the most revered photographers of the 20th century, Ansel Adams is celebrated for his majestic black-and-white images of the American West. For nearly 60 years, Adams explored and recorded the grandeur of nature, initiating a lyrical way of viewing the world in photographs that convey beauty, awe, and emotional drama. Advocating "pure" photography favoring sharp focus, Adams placed great value on technical mastery and elevated photography as an art form throughout the 20th century.

FROM THE VAULT: CONTEMPORARY ART AT THE NBMAA

MAY 4 — OCTOBER 29, 2023

Richard and Virginia McKernan Gallery, Stitzer Family Gallery, and Robert and Dorothy Vance Gallery

This presentation of permanent collection works celebrates contemporary innovation and creativity by showcasing American art from the past three decades, including paintings, photographs, sculpture, and installation from the NBMAA's "vaults."



Peter Waite, *Bridge*, 2006, Acrylic on panels, 96 x 120 in., Berkshire Taconic Foundation and Stephen B. Lawrence Fund, 2006.127



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOL'S DISTRICT ART SHOW

APRIL 26-30, 2023

The Museum is thrilled to welcome students and families back into the Museum for the upcoming exhibition of Art from the Berlin Public Schools. Celebrate the artwork of K-12 students, their growth as young artists, and their bright futures.

ART FROM THE NEW BRITAIN PUBLIC AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

MAY 17-21, 2023

Each year, the NBMAA receives, selects, and installs over 200 works by outstanding K-12 New Britain students, representing the creative spirit of New Britain.



Left: Maria R., Grade K, Lincoln Elementary, from 2022

EDUCATION AND
COMMUNITY

Children, Families, & Community

This spring, we look forward to seeing you and your family creating and learning in our studios and galleries! Join us for an Artist Talk or children's workshop related to special exhibition *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!*, ignite your creativity in one of our studio classes, and learn more about our permanent collection in our Docent-led weekend tours.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

FOR THE TWEENS:

STUDIO@4

Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m.
Ages 9-12

APRIL | Furniture Design

MAY | I SPY Classics

JUNE | En Plein Air!

HIDDEN WONDERS WORKSHOPS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Pre-registration is required

Miniature Worlds Workshop with Jasmine Ahern

Sunday, April 2, 12 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m.

Children's Book Reading and Illustration Workshop with Aspenne's Library

Sunday, May 21, 12-2 p.m.

Children's book author and founder of Aspenne's Library, Patricia Bellamy-Mathis, will share her newest book, *Aspenne Colors the Neighborhood*, in a read-aloud followed by an inspired art activity and book signing! Aspenne's Library exposes children to literature that features Black and brown characters and gives power to Black and brown stories. Come with your imagination to this special author-led workshop!

I Spy Classics: Can You See More? Workshop with Jasmine Ahern

Sunday, June 4, 12 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m.

FREE COMMUNITY DAY | JUNETEENTH

Saturday, June 17, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mark your calendars for the NBMAA's annual Juneteenth celebration! Join us on this day-long event, featuring artistic performances, music, vendors, food trucks, in-gallery experiences, and of course art-making. If you would like to be a vendor or donate to support this historic day at the Museum, scan the QR code



SCAN HERE
TO DONATE



BECOME A MUSEUM DOCENT

The NBMAA is recruiting a diverse group of individuals to join our new docent class, which begins in September 2023! Join the NBMAA's amazing group of talented docents who provide inquiry-oriented tours for over 8,000 children each year as well as informative tours for adults. New docent preparation occurs from September through May with digital and in-person classes. You will learn about the Museum's permanent collection and our school tour program, apprentice with experienced docents, and practice touring on your own. If you love art and enjoy engaging with children and teens, consider volunteering as an NBMAA docent. Find all the details you need to know on our website at [NBMAA.ORG/DOCENTS](https://www.nbmaa.org/docents)

LECTURES, SYMPOSIA, GALLERY TALKS, AND FILMS

ARTIST TALK | WALTER WICK

Thursday, April 6, 6 p.m.

Book signing to follow for those registered for the talk.

FIRST FRIDAY | MEET AND MINGLE WITH WALTER WICK

Friday, April 7, 6 p.m.

Book signing during First Friday event.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: CATHARINE M. ROGERS LECTURE SERIES FUND | Stephanie Plunkett

Sunday, April 16, 2 p.m.

ARTIST TALK | Marion Belanger

Wednesday, April 19, 1 p.m.

ARTIST TALK | Stephen Petegorsky

Wednesday, May 3, 1 p.m.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: ROBERT LEHMAN FUND Stephen J. Paterwic

Saturday, May 13, 1 p.m.

ADULT STUDIO

WATERCOLOR WITH MARY SMEALLIE

Wednesdays, April 5, 12, 19, 26, 2-4 p.m.

Wednesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 31, 2-4 p.m.

Wednesdays, June 7, 14, 21, 2-4 p.m.

POUR PAINT WITH SUE BYARS

Thursdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 5-7 p.m.

THE ALTERED STATES OF AMERICA | Valerie Hegarty, Jean Holden Eminent Visiting Artists Workshop Fund

One-Day Workshop on Sunday, April 30, 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

ACRYLIC LANDSCAPE PAINTING WITH EDITH LAMONICA

Saturdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 2-4 p.m.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP | Sketch with the Masters

Sunday, May 7, 2-4 p.m.

Sunday, June 4, 2-4 p.m.

ADULT STUDIO WORKSHOP | Illustration with Tamhja Coe

Sunday, May 21, 2-4 p.m.

PORTRAIT PAINTING WITH ANTONY ZITO

Thursdays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5-7 p.m.

DOCENT-LED TOURS

DOCENT-LED TOURS

Museum Masterpieces Tour

Saturdays at 1 p.m. through June 24, 2023

Special Exhibition Tours

EDWARD BURTYNSKY: EARTH OBSERVED

Sundays at 1 p.m. through April 16, 2023

FROM THE VAULT: CONTEMPORARY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NBMAA COLLECTION

Sundays at 1 p.m., May 7 - June 25, 2023

DOCENT-LED TOUR | Slow Art Day

Saturday, April 15, 1 p.m.

WALTER WICK: HIDDEN WONDERS! SCHOOL VISITS

Bring your students to experience our new special exhibition, *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!* We are offering two different self-guided ways to explore this whimsical, kid-friendly exhibition.

Self-Guided Tour Only

Each group will be provided with an immersive map of the exhibition to allow chaperones and group leaders to better guide their students. These maps include prompts and deeper dives that will lead you and your group through the gallery spaces and engage with the models and photographs.

\$5 per student; all teachers, staff, and chaperones free

Self-Guided Tour with Guided Studio Activity

Following your time in the galleries with your self-guided tour map, the NBMAA's Museum Educator will guide your group in a hands-on studio activity where each student will be able to create their very own miniature worlds inspired by Walter Wick.

\$10 per student; all teachers, staff, and chaperones free



John and Sandra Jezowski with Steve Miller celebrating the opening of *Masterworks of Shaker Design: A Tale of Two Enfields*

DEVELOPMENT

Membership

Our commitment to growing our Membership base is always a priority, but more so this year as we continue to climb out of the dislocation of the pandemic years. And, as you can see from this newsletter, there are so many opportunities for Member engagement at the Museum this spring.

There are several ways you can help: 1) encourage your family, friends, and colleagues to join; 2) consider purchasing a gift Membership for Mother Day's, Father's Day, or whatever the occasion; and 3) renew your Membership before it expires, perhaps consider upgrading. Your support is vital and we want you, our extraordinary group of Members, to keep enjoying all the benefits and not miss a minute of what this Museum has to offer. Go to nbmaa.org/support-us.

NOR'EASTER: THE 53RD ANNUAL JURIED MEMBERS EXHIBITION

September 21-October 8, 2023

This is the NBMAA's opportunity to showcase contemporary visual arts from the region. This prominent show highlights the exceptional work of emerging artists in all media. Submissions will open in the coming months. To ensure you receive information about submissions please contact Jenna Lucas at (860) 229-0257, ext. 231, or lucasj@nbmaa.org.

JOHN BUTLER TALCOTT SOCIETY ANNUAL BLACK TIE DIRECTOR'S DINNER

Save the Date for Saturday, June 3, 2023, for the annual black-tie dinner to celebrate members of the John Butler Talcott Society. Are you interested in joining the JBTS with an annual membership commitment of \$2,500 or more? Members of the Society are invited to special events and exhibition previews throughout the year. Contact Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development, at shumana@nbmaa.org to learn more.

HERITAGE SOCIETY CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

This year's annual Heritage Society Champagne Brunch will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023, for members of the NBMAA's Heritage Society, or those generous individuals who have included the Museum in their estate plans. For more information about leaving your legacy at the NBMAA, contact Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development, at shumana@nbmaa.org to learn more.

SPECIAL MEMBER ACCESS

In celebration of *Walter Wick: Hidden Wonders!*, the NBMAA has partnered with museums across the state to offer reciprocal admission for members. During the following weekends, NBMAA Members will receive free admission to the following family-friendly venues, and we will welcome their Members to see the NBMAA galleries and share in the excitement of *Hidden Wonders!*

FRIDAY, APRIL 14—SUNDAY, APRIL 16:

Visit The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst, MA, and Lutz Children's Museum in Manchester

FRIDAY, APRIL 28—SUNDAY, APRIL 30:

Visit EverWonder Children's Museum in Newtown

FRIDAY, MAY 5—SUNDAY, MAY 7:

Visit Kidcity Children's Museum in Middletown

BRUEMMER FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST: A LEGACY AND A LESSON

My brother Jeff, sister Nancy, and I (Kevin) are co-trustees of the JP Bruemmer Charitable Lead Trust (CLT). This 15-year term CLT was created by the estate of our father, Jay Bruemmer, upon his death at the age of 86 in 2009.

My father was born and raised in New Britain and worked in town his entire life. He and his wife, Lorraine, focused most of their philanthropic efforts on the Museum as longtime Members, donors, and participants. He and then Director Douglas Hyland were great friends and often lunched together in town talking over Museum business.

In planning his estate, it was our father's desire to extend his support of the NBMAA by providing a fixed amount of money annually from the income of the CLT for a period of 15 years. For our CLT, one-third of the distributions goes to the NBMAA, and the remaining goes to other non-profits chosen by the three of us.

Unlike the more common Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) in which the donor receives an income stream during their lifetime with the remainder going to the benefitting organization on their death, with a CLT, the "lead" interests (NBMAA among others) get a distribution every year for 15 years, with the "remainder" going to all of us.

In both cases there are tax advantages for the donor. Notably, a CLT provides the charity with a dependable income stream for a specified term rather than having to wait for an unknown period of time in the case of a CRT.

In the beginning, managing such a trust was unfamiliar territory for us. CLTs only comprise about five percent of all charitable trusts and the legal expertise on CLTs is very hard to find. Eventually, we identified Heather Rhoades of Cummings & Lockwood (in West Hartford) who has been a great resource, ultimately guiding us in what has been a successful trusteeship and execution of our father's wishes.

We schooled ourselves on how to be responsible trustees, investors, and philanthropists. We devised our own bylaws to make sure that we avoided explicit or implicit self-dealing, not only by ourselves but all of our immediate families. Back in 2011 when our CLT was finally funded from the estate, we made a presentation to Douglas Hyland and his senior staff to explain how this rare split interest trust works and how the Museum would receive support. We became quite skilled at



Left to Right: Nancy Peck, Jeff Bruemmer, and Kevin Bruemmer, Co-Trustees of the JP Bruemmer Charitable Lead Trust

vetting charities by examining their tax returns (990s) and their financials. We learned a lot, including how to work well with each other.

Today, as we near the close of the term of our CLT, we have also learned how important, significant, and valuable the NBMAA is to a wide swath of Central Connecticut and beyond, just as our father had seen. Over the past several years, we have attended and enjoyed a number of exhibitions and programs at the Museum. And we have been avid ambassadors, urging our friends to stop by themselves, taking pride in their comments of how impressed they were with what they saw and experienced, knowing the trust was behind it.

Although we all live out of state now, we had the good fortune this summer to visit the Museum and meet the Museum's new Director & CEO, Brett Abbott. Brett was gracious, knowledgeable, and responsive, and we left knowing the Museum is in good hands and that the JP Bruemmer CLT has and is helping position the Museum for a continued bright future.

Inspired by the philanthropy of the Bruemmer family?

To learn more about ways to leave a legacy at the NBMAA, contact Amanda Shuman-Bisson, Associate Director of Development, at shumana@nbmaa.org

| MOVER AND SHAKER SPOTLIGHT



ADRIAN ELLIOTT

When I moved to New Britain from Washington D.C. ten years ago, I never imagined that I would develop such strong bonds and friendships around the city, including with the New Britain Museum of American Art. To me, the NBMAA is a place you can only dream of until you're a part of it. I have roots in the fine arts as a former arts student at Georgetown University. I was immediately drawn to the Museum for that reason. Beyond its beautiful facade and location in the park, the Museum holds an outstanding collection of American art and brings top-notch exhibitions to my neighborhood. The Museum allows me to feed my creative soul. Since joining the Community Advisory Committee three years ago, when it was founded, I am a part of the Museum in more ways than I could have dreamed. I have gotten to help in the planning of Community Days, hosted virtual open mics, and moderated a talk for the presentation of *30 Americans*.

Without a doubt, my favorite memory at the Museum, by far, is Juneteenth. Three years ago, I jumped onto something that had already been moving for 20 years thanks to Paulette Fox and the African American Advisory Committee. Now, I'm onboard and have been co-planning and MCing since 2021. I just hope I can carry on the tradition as impressively as others in this community did before me.

I don't think my experience working with the Museum staff is just a one-off. It demonstrates the staff's collaborative nature with its patrons and community. The Museum listens. I've been on committees at other organizations, but the NBMAA holds the best meetings. The Museum is open—open to ideas, open to change. It's not at every place that that happens. I've always been comfortable sharing my ideas around the table, and I hold the Museum's input in high regard as well. I mention my relationship with the NBMAA more than you think because I'm so proud to be a part of the Museum's ideas and future. The Museum is evolutionary; it is growing. It is part of the growth of New Britain. As a resident of New Britain's downtown district, I can see all the developments emerging from my window, and I'm proud to say that the Museum is here in New Britain and is certainly an asset to the city's downtown.

LIVE MUSIC SCHEDULE

Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut

Internationally renowned pianists present the works of Fryderyk Chopin and other musical masters.

3:00 PM | Stanley Works Center

Wojciech Świątoński
April 23

Angelina Gadeliya
May 21

For detailed information, please visit the website of our program partners, the Fryderyk Chopin Society of Connecticut: www.chopinsocietyct.org/new-index

Attending Concerts in Stanley Works Center at the NBMAA

We are excited to announce that "Members Sit First" at Sunday music programs! Members, please have your Membership card handy at the entrance to the performance space. Once Members are seated, the doors will open for the general public, and seating will be first come, first served. Seating capacity is limited to 120.

Concert attendees must register at the Front Desk upon arrival. Museum Members are free, and Museum guests are welcome with purchase of Museum admission ticket.

All shows begin at 3 p.m.; doors to event space will open at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday Music Series

The NBMAA's longstanding monthly concert series, featuring local & regional performances from a variety of musical genres.

3:00 PM | Stanley Works Center

Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra: "We the People: Immigrant Stories Part V"
June 11

Dave Giardina Guitar & Violin Duo
July 9

First Friday

Our signature social event, featuring live music, art, food, spirits, and good friends. New Britain's Best Happy Hour, since 1995!

Members \$8; non-Members \$16 in advance online
Cash bar available; access to Museum galleries is included with your ticket.

The 70's Project, including a Meet & Mingle with Walter Wick
April 7

Grayson Hugh & Polly Messer
June 2

Candy-O Tribute
May 5

Sponsored by The Richard P. Garmany Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

**First Friday is a 21+ event. For the safety of all patrons, the attendance of children at First Friday is prohibited.*



Craft Sippin' in New Britain

Friday, April 21, 6-9 p.m.

The NBMAA will once again assemble some of the best breweries in CT for our ever-popular "Craft Sippin' in New Britain." Enjoy tasting Connecticut's finest craft beers, a walking taco bar, and the MLB game on the big screen!

Members \$30; non-Members \$40; Designated Drivers \$20

Walking Tacos and 5 oz. NBMAA Craft Sippin' Souvenir glass included with admission.

NEW BRITAIN MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART
56 LEXINGTON STREET, NEW BRITAIN, CT
(860) 229-0257 | WWW.NBMAA.ORG



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HIDDEN WONDERS SUMMER CAMP

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays,
9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Explore the hidden wonders of the Museum with half-day summer camps for ages 6-9. Campers will create their own Walter Wick-inspired artwork during weekly three-day sessions and play games outdoors on the Museum's beautiful grounds.



**SECURE A
SPOT FOR
YOUR CHILD**

WEEK 1 | Out of this World

July 11-13

Create your own UFOs, rockets, and paper-mache planets, and discover connections between art and science.

WEEK 2 | Fairytale Fun

July 18-20

Let your imagination run wild as you build robots, toy trains, and castles inspired by toy story narratives.

WEEK 3 | Puzzle Challenge

July 25-27

Explore science, art, and technology by designing your own Rube Goldberg machine to complete a simple task in a complex way.

WEEK 4 | Found Objects

August 1-3

Build an I Spy box, treehouses, and pirate ships—all from recycled and natural materials!



GENERAL ADMISSION

\$15 for Adults
\$12 for Seniors
Children under 18 free
Members FREE

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday: CLOSED
Tuesday: CLOSED
Wednesday-Sunday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

SATURDAY ADMISSION

Free from 10 a.m. to noon
thanks to support from
the American Savings
Foundation.

MUSEUM CAFE

Wednesday-Sunday
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
featuring local New Britain
fare.

ACCESSIBILITY

Please inquire at the Front
Desk for any assistance
you may require. We are
wheelchair accessible
and have two wheelchairs
available free of charge.

DIGITAL

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