

Dear Friends,

The New Britain Museum of American Art is proud to be among the oldest museums dedicated to American art in the country. Following the practices established in the 19th century by institutions including the Metropolitan Museum and the Art Institute of Chicago, the NBMAA, at the beginning of the 20th century, began to assemble a fine collection, which now includes excellent examples of colonial and federal portraiture, the Hudson River School, the American Impressionists, the Ash Can School, and Regionalist Painting.

As extraordinary as the permanent collection has become, however, only 17% of the artists represented in the collection are women. One hundred years after women were granted the right to vote, it remains evident that women artists are underrepresented in most of the nation's art museums, not just the NBMAA. In response, the NBMAA is launching an ambitious exhibitions program for next year—2020/20+ Women @ NBMAA—that addresses that issue squarely.

Clearly, much has changed since 1920. The picture of American art of the 21st century is one of a rich and varied diversity, reflecting a multiplicity of cultures, races, genders and ethnicities. We recognize that the new and emerging national cultural identity is no longer an extension of the 19th century unifying “American” values that have served this nation so well for the last 200 years or so. Nor is the new “American” identity focused on the middle swath of North America. To be truly “American” now means to embrace a hemispheric and perhaps ultimately global diversity.

Accordingly, in 2020, exactly a century after the Women's Suffrage movement celebrated its landmark victory, the New Britain Museum of American Art is proud to recognize the extraordinary achievement of women artists. Learn more about our tremendously rich and dynamic roster of exhibitions and programs within the following pages and on our website, and join us in celebrating this landmark year.

Warmly,

Min Jung Kim  
Director and CEO