



**MILWAUKEE**

**ART**

**MUSEUM**

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**Member Magazine**

Spring 2021

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ON THE COVER Katharina Grosse, *Untitled*, 2019 (detail). Full credit on page 7.  
RIGHT Photo by Front Room Studios.

# Letter from the Director



**Dear Members,**

I'm certain that I am not alone with my wish that this new year could bring a return to something close to what we recognize as normal. Unfortunately, as we have seen with the need for the Museum to close for a second time, we must continue to live with ever-shifting circumstances. And some things will never be the same—and we are better for it. For example, the attention on systemic racism and actions being taken to dismantle that historical “normal” must continue. The Museum is committed to doing its part, as outlined in our Strategic Direction, and the filling of the Curator

of Community Dialogue position is a major step toward creating a better Museum where everyone feels welcome and can see themselves. We are all delighted to have Kantara Souffrant return to the Museum in this new role, and to announce the additional appointment of Robert Stein as Deputy Director and Chief Experience Officer, a position made possible by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support our accessibility initiatives.

Regardless of whether circumstances allow for on-site visitation or solely virtual experiences, it is important to us that you enjoy the “Member treatment.” We were thrilled that we could present first to you, through the release of an interactive 360-degree virtual tour, the *Susan Meiselas: Through a Woman’s Lens* exhibition. In February, we will “open” virtually the annual favorite, the *2021 Scholastic Art Awards: Wisconsin Exhibition*. And you will be the first to know of other openings

and what the Art in Bloom experience will be this year. I, for one, will be ready for any sign of spring—and the warmer days ahead it portends.

Ideally we could start talking about when you will be able to visit additional areas of the Museum, attend a lecture in Lubar Auditorium, and bring family and friends (outside of your own household) for hands-on art-making activities in the Kohl’s Art Studio, but I am reminded of a quote from Winston Churchill: “It is a mistake to try to look too far ahead. The chain of destiny can only be grasped one link at a time.”

May this new year bring healing, renewal, and many more memorable art experiences!



**Marcelle Polednik, PhD**  
Donna and Donald Baumgartner  
Director

# Upcoming Exhibitions

Watch your monthly *Member Insights* email newsletter for dates, details, and updates on how you can experience these exhibitions in the year ahead.

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## **Susan Meiselas: Through a Woman's Lens**

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Through March 2021

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This photography exhibition focuses on Susan Meiselas's ongoing commitment to sharing the stories of women. The exhibition, currently only available online, is complemented by an interactive virtual tour that provides you with the opportunity to hear from the artist and the people she photographed; examine publications and ephemera; and watch historical films and interviews. Available at [mam.org/susan-meiselas](http://mam.org/susan-meiselas).

### **Presenting Sponsor**



### **Contributing Sponsor**

David C. and Sarajeen Ruttenberg  
Arts Foundation

Exhibitions in the Herzfeld Center  
for Photography and Media Arts  
are sponsored by the Herzfeld Foundation.

The exhibition is presented  
in collaboration with the  
Feminist Art Coalition.

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## **Virtual 2021 Scholastic Art Awards: Wisconsin Exhibition**

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Feb 6–March 21, 2021

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This year marks the 45th (and first virtual!) *Scholastic Art Awards: Wisconsin Exhibition* hosted at the Milwaukee Art Museum. More than two hundred artworks by Wisconsin students in grades 7–12 are featured in this exhibition that celebrates excellence in the visual arts and encourages the artistic endeavors of young people in our state. See their artwork at [mam.org/scholastic-2021](http://mam.org/scholastic-2021).

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



### **Contributing Sponsors**

The Heller Foundation and Mary Ellen Heller  
in memory of Avis Heller  
Peter and Debra Johnson  
An anonymous donor





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### **The Quilts of Pauline Parker**

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Bradley Family Gallery

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### **James Benning and Sharon Lockhart: Over Time, Chapter II**

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Herzfeld Center for Photography and Media Arts

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### **First Impressions: Early Printed Books in Europe**

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European Art Galleries, Level 2,  
Gallery S202

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### **American Memory**

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Contemporary Art Galleries, Level 1,  
Gallery K108

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### **Americans in Spain: Painting and Travel, 1820–1920**

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Baker/Rowland Galleries

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### **2021 Museum Visionaries**

Donna and Donald Baumgartner  
John and Murph Burke  
Sheldon and Marianne Lubar  
Joel and Caran Quadracci  
Sue and Bud Selig  
Jeff Yabuki and the Yabuki Family Foundation

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### **Premier Partner**



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Victoria Fernandez, *We All Hold Hands*, 2020. Acrylic and watercolor. National American Visions Award and Gold Medal in Painting, Grade 12, Pius XI Catholic High, Milwaukee, Cathy Burnett, instructor.



# Collection Feature: New Acquisition

Margaret Andera, Interim Chief Curator and  
Curator of Contemporary Art

The Museum is committed to collecting work that was made by or tells the narratives of historically underrepresented individuals and communities. *Untitled*, from 2019, by the German artist Katharina Grosse was recently acquired for the Museum's collection, with support from the Contemporary Art Society. The painting is not only the first work by the artist to enter the collection but also the first by a female artist in the Museum's collection of contemporary German paintings. George Baselitz, Anselm Kiefer, Sigmar Polke, Gerhard Richter, and David Schnell are among the other artists represented in this strong collection.

Grosse is known for her brightly colored acrylic paintings and installations, explorations of color density and temperature and the interplay between color and light. She studied in the 1980s at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf, where the faculty included Richter and Nam June Paik. The late 1990s

was a seminal moment in the artist's career, when Grosse first experimented with a spray gun as a painting tool and began painting architectural interiors and exteriors. *Untitled* shows her continued use of the spray gun and bears the physicality of her installation work, placing it among the Museum's holdings of larger-scale contemporary paintings by female artists such as Helen Frankenthaler, Susan Rothenberg, and Amy Sillman. She further used stencils to build up the composition, resulting in dynamic clusters of color that both advance and retreat.

Grosse has exhibited internationally, and her work is in major museum collections, including at the Museum of Modern Art, in New York. *Untitled*, at the time the Museum closed in November, was installed along the route through the first-floor galleries.

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Katharina Grosse, *Untitled*, 2019. Acrylic on canvas. Purchase, with funds from the Contemporary Art Society, M2020.1. Photo courtesy Gagosian Gallery, © 2021 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn

# Member Extras

Though we are not able to gather for in-person events right now, we are committed to providing you, our Members, with the in-depth art experiences you love.

Check out our new virtual program offerings here, watch your email for invitations, and visit [mam.org/member-resources](http://mam.org/member-resources) anytime to learn more.



If do not receive emails from the Museum, please visit [mam.org/go-digital](http://mam.org/go-digital) today. Email is how we keep you connected and informed.

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## Member Art Break

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Open to all Members

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**Select Fridays, noon:** Take a lunch break and enjoy an art-filled presentation from a member of the Museum's team via Zoom, followed by a Q&A and discussion.

**Jan 15:** Milwaukee Public Library exhibition, with aryn kresol, Curatorial Assistant

**Feb 19:** *American Memory* with Phoenix Brown, Abert Family Curatorial Fellow

**March 19:** Female artists in the Museum's collection with Amy Kirschke, Director of Adult, Docent, and School Programs

**April 23:** Modern Mexican prints with Amanda Brown, Collections Manager for Works on Paper





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### **Curated Conversations**

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Donor (\$400) level and above

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**Select Thursdays, 6 p.m.:** Go behind the scenes and hear from curatorial leadership about some of their latest projects in virtual conversations led by Margaret Andera, interim chief curator and curator of contemporary art.

**Jan 21:** Tanya Paul, Isabel and Alfred Bader Curator of European Art

**March 18:** Nikki Otten, Associate Curator of Prints and Drawings

**TBD:** Kantara Souffrant, Curator of Community Dialogue

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### **Coffee with the Director**

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Benefactor (\$2,500) and above

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**Monthly, the second Tuesday, 3 p.m.:** Marcelle Polednik, PhD, Donna and Donald Baumgartner Director, welcomes Members to a monthly virtual conversation during which she shares updates on the current state of the Museum and answers Member questions.

**Members receive different benefits based on their level of membership. Upgrade your membership any time to enjoy more exclusive benefits, while making an even greater impact. To upgrade, contact the membership team at 414-224-3284.**

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Kantara Souffrant, Curator of Community Dialogue.  
Photo by Rosen-Jones Photography.

# Donor Profile: MKE Mitchell International Airport: Premier Partner

Elisabeth Gasparka, Development Officer for Membership

Many visitors to the Museum are travelers first coming to Milwaukee through Mitchell International Airport, which has supported the Museum as a Premier Partner since 2019. The Airport's support was integral to the Museum being able to transition its programming to online and to reopen this summer. Together, we were able to offer visitors access to virtual art experiences, as well as the opportunity to be transported in the galleries, at a time when art could provide moments of peace and perspective.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with Christie Green, the MKE Airport marketing coordinator, about this invaluable partnership between the Airport and the Museum.

## **Why was it important for the Airport to support the Museum with this sponsorship?**

Milwaukee County and the Airport have a long history of partnering with the Museum. The partnership with the Museum helps the Airport expose travelers to our rich cultural institutions and showcase our city as not only a thriving destination but also an amazing place to live, work, and play. The Airport knows the power of choosing to support local organizations. Results from a 2019 economic impact study by the Airport shows that if Milwaukeeans chose to fly locally out of MKE versus a Chicago airport, dozens of new flights, hundreds of new jobs, and more than \$200 million could be added annually to Wisconsin's economy.

The Airport has a unique relationship between travel and our local art museum. Curators and other Museum staff have made countless trips around the country and the world that started at MKE Airport. Plus,

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Photos courtesy of MKE Mitchell International Airport.



the Airport welcomes visitors with its signage for the Recombobulation Area after TSA security checkpoints, and its Meditation Room, Children's Play Areas, Mother Nursing Rooms, and friendly staff; travelers then make their way and see advertisements, displays, and large mosaic tiles featuring the Museum's Santiago Calatrava-designed building, an iconic symbol for Milwaukee throughout the world.

**What is something many people may not know about the Airport?**

The world's largest cargo jet, Antonov An-225, flew sections of the Burke Brise Soleil wings to the Airport during the construction of the Museum's Quadracci Pavilion. Also, the large-scale mobile *Red, Black, Blue* by Alexander Calder that greets visitors in the Museum's Windhover Hall is originally from the Airport's collection.

At the Airport today, stretching throughout Concourse C's floor, are fourteen mosaics titled *Aerial*

*Wisconsin* by Carlos Alves and JC Carroll from Miami, Florida. The mosaics took four years to complete and give passengers the impression that they are flying over pieces of Wisconsin. One of the mosaic tiles showcases the Museum.

**In what other ways has the Airport's partnership supported the Museum and the Milwaukee community?**

Milwaukee County strives for racial equity, and the Museum's Strategic Direction aligns with this. The Airport had the honor of sponsoring MAM After Dark: Miami Nights at the Museum in January. We were proud to showcase our many nonstop destinations (including to Miami!) while supporting local Latino businesses and artists showcased at the event. For example, Panadanza Dance Company and Cache Milwaukee performed, and LUNA - Latinas Unidas En Las Artes hosted an artist market.



# Museum Store: Summoning Spring

Shop the online store at [mam.org/store](http://mam.org/store).

## Water Lilies Jewelry

Make a simple statement or an ensemble gesture in celebration of spring, with these cast bronze adornments featuring freshwater pearls.

Necklace

\$80.00/\$72.00 Member

Post earrings

\$64.00/\$57.60 Member

Brooch

\$108.00/\$97.20 Member

## Water Lilies Glass Paperweight

Task these lilies with keeping your papers from floating away.

\$18.00/\$16.20 Member

## Ombre Scarf

Wrap up any outfit with a soft statement-making finish in satin.

\$48.00/\$43.20 Member  
(blue or lime)



# Save the Dates

Find details on the virtual events listed here and how you can participate on our website at [mam.org/events](https://mam.org/events).

## Art in Bloom

Keep a look out for details on this annual celebration of spring—when the city’s finest florists interpret your favorite works of art in stunning florals.

## Susan Meiselas: Through a Woman’s Lens

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### Virtual Panel Discussion Collaboration: A Potential History of Photography

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Thurs, Jan 28, 6 p.m.

Explore within photography the role of collaboration in feminist practice with guest speakers in the field.

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### Virtual Panel Discussion Photography and Awareness: Sharing Survivors’ Stories

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Thurs, Feb 18, 6 p.m.

Examine the use of personal narrative and photography in domestic violence awareness campaigns in this program presented with the Sojourner Family Peace Center and Lotus Legal.

## Youth and Family Programs

Visit each program page online to find videos of past activities.

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### Story Time in the Galleries: At Home

[mam.org/story-time](https://mam.org/story-time)

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Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.  
Feb 6, March 6, April 3

We’re bringing the storytelling to you, at home, and will start each session with a look at a Museum artwork.

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### Play Date with Art: At Home

[mam.org/play-date](https://mam.org/play-date)

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**Ages 5 and under, with a caregiver**  
Fridays, 10–10:30 a.m.

Share a half hour together looking at art, making your own projects, and listening to music by local performers.

**Feb 12:** Wonderful Weaving  
**March 12:** Music Mania  
**April 9:** Lovely Landscapes

Play Date with Art and Story Time in the Galleries are sponsored by Four-Four Foundation and an anonymous donor.



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**Kohl's Art Studio**  
[mam.org/art-studio](http://mam.org/art-studio)

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Create something all your own in a new hands-on art project—twice each month! In January, we turn the cold of winter into works of art. Gather your supplies, and we'll see you online!

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A Ko Thi Dance Company dancer performs in the Kohl's Haitian Gallery lakou. Photo by Kat Schleicher.

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**Kohl's Haitian Gallery:  
Virtual Performances**

[mam.org/haitian-gallery](http://mam.org/haitian-gallery)

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Saturdays, 1 p.m.  
Feb 6, 13, 20, 27

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Celebrate Haitian art and culture every Saturday in February with special music and dance performances.

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**Kohl's Family Sundays**

[mam.org/family-sundays](http://mam.org/family-sundays)

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Sun, March 14, 10 a.m.–March 29:  
Needle and Thread

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Try your hand at fiber arts: make a miniature quilt, learn to embroider, and more. Meet local artists, and enjoy a performance by a storyteller.

Art Studio, Haitian Gallery, and Family Sundays are supported by

**KOHL'S**

All times are Central Time.