

MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

AMERICANS IN SPAIN
PAGE 4

AMERICAN MEMORY
PAGE 6

MEMBER MONTH
PAGE 8



Member Magazine

Summer 2021

Contents

3	Letter from the Director
4	Americans in Spain
6	American Memory
7	Collection Feature
8	Member Extras
10	Staff Profile
12	Museum Store
13	My Museum
14	Save the Dates

ON THE COVER Childe Hassam, *Church Procession, Spain*, ca. 1883 (detail). Private collection.
RIGHT Photo by Front Room Studios.

Admission

Admission tickets are timed. Please reserve your tickets in advance at mam.org/visit; as Members, you receive priority access.

Hours

Fri–Sun, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Membership Office

414-224-3284

Mon–Fri, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thank you 2020 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

Premier Partner



Letter from the Director



Dear Members,

Spring, even amid a pandemic, still holds the promise of new beginnings—and more vitamin D. Having longer daylight hours to get outside makes this time of year especially enjoyable. And I am so happy to see many more of you venturing out, with the Museum as your destination. The response to our reopening was inspiring, and we look forward to the months ahead with measured excitement.

In June, we open the highly anticipated *Americans in Spain* exhibition in the Baker/Rowland Galleries. By July, you can expect visits more like those you enjoyed before the pandemic: relaxing outdoors with refreshments from the café, shopping for gifts in

the Museum Store, and exploring the art in the second-floor galleries.

While we continue to take it slow, deciding, for example, not to hold Art in Bloom and Lakefront Festival of Art on-site for one more year, there are an increasing number of ways for you to engage with each other and art both at the Museum and online. Included among our many online experiences for the months ahead are Kohl's Family Sundays, summer art camps, and virtual lectures and discussions.

I hope you are as excited as I am to see exhibitions opening again, and I look forward to enjoying with you not only the exhibitions on-site but also the many discussions and activities online!

Warmly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcelle Polednik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Marcelle Polednik, PhD
Donna and Donald Baumgartner
Director

Americans in Spain: Painting and Travel, 1820–1920

June 11–Oct 3, 2021 | Baker/Rowland Galleries

Americans in Spain: Painting and Travel, 1820–1920 is the first major exhibition to focus on the influence of Spanish art and culture on American painting. It explores a pivotal moment when artists flocked to the Iberian Peninsula to capture its scenic charms and seemingly exotic architecture and customs. While many artists from the United States sought training in the art capitals of London or Paris, by the late nineteenth century, they increasingly added Spain to their European tours to study the masterworks in the Prado Museum and engage with the country's people and traditions.

The exhibition's more than one hundred paintings, photographs, and prints are presented chronologically and organized to emphasize migration, tourism, and travel in nineteenth-century Spain. Additional themes include the romance and the reality of Spain; Spanish old masters and American copyists at the Prado Museum; Spanish architecture,

gardens, and landscapes; Spain's Islamic history; and the critical and popular responses to American artists' work. Among the exhibition's highlights are John Singer Sargent's famous *Carmencita* (1890) from the Musée d'Orsay; a newly discovered painting by Mary Cassatt from a Madrid private collection never before shown in the United States; and Spanish old masters on loan from the Prado Museum that American painters copied.

An app created for the exhibition includes bilingual audio commentaries and additional information on thirty-six of the featured works on paper. The interactive Artist-Travelers Project website allows you to see passages from the guidebooks the artists used, letters they wrote, works they created, routes they took, and more. You can find these on the Museum's website at mam.org/americans-in-spain.



William Merritt Chase, *Carmencita*, 1890. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, gift of Sir William Van Horne, 1906 (06.969). © The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Image source: Art Resource, NY

Made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor.



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Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this exhibition, do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

National Presenting Sponsor:



Supported by an indemnity from the Federal Council on the Arts and the Humanities.

Supporting Sponsors:



Wyeth Foundation for American Art
Milwaukee Art Museum's
American Arts Society
Tourist Office of Spain in Chicago

Contributing Sponsors:

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A generous gift from the Terra Foundation for American Art helped support curatorial staff at the Milwaukee Art Museum and *Americans in Spain* during the COVID-19 pandemic.



American Memory: Commemoration, Nostalgia, and Revision

Chapter 1: People and Identity | Mid-July

Chapter 2: Activism and Terrorism | Mid-July

Chapter 3: Responses and Revisions | Late September

The narratives about the history of our young nation are often told from a single perspective. The experiences of women, people of color, and LGBTQI+ individuals (to use the current term) were rarely considered in the course of documenting historical events, and the incidents that impacted them most were frequently ignored, skewed, or outright erased. *American Memory: Commemoration, Nostalgia, and Revision* exposes this selective editing of history as it seeks to relate the true price of pursuing the American dream.

The exhibition is divided into three chapters, across three galleries: “People and Identity” explores the nature of portraiture; “Activism and Terrorism” studies the normalization of racist, violent imagery; and “Responses and Revisions” shows how a single image can shape our perception of history. The more than



twenty prints, drawings, paintings, and photographs in *American Memory* are from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and contemporary times and reveal a more complicated view of past events. The works are drawn from the Museum’s collection, directing a lens on the history of how certain works came to be at the Museum.

TOP Kerry James Marshall, *Memento*, 1996–97. Gift in memory of Robert D. and Eleanore A. Hesselbrock by their children, M2000.5. Photo by John R. Glembin. © Kerry James Marshall
RIGHT Max Pietschmann, *Study of a Model*, 1885. Purchase, with funds from Avis Martin Heller in honor of the Fine Arts Society, M2020.39. Photo courtesy Jack Kilgore & Co.

Collection Feature: New Acquisition

Tanya Paul, Isabel and Alfred Bader Curator of European Art

The Museum acquired this portrait study by the Dresden painter Max Pietschmann (1865–1952) this past fall. Although we do not as yet know the model's identity, we believe that he may have been an African performer from a circus that passed through Dresden around the time Pietschmann completed the painting. The portrait is dated 1885, which coincides with the year that Germany established formal

colonies in Africa—an event that caused a significant influx of visitors to Germany from Africa.

Study of a Model is a particularly significant acquisition because individuals of color are almost entirely unrepresented within the Museum's European collection, or their presence is implied only through association; this is despite a long European history of colonialism, global exploration, and trade. The purchase of this painting is one step toward correcting that omission and provides us with opportunities to discuss the complexities of Germany's broader history. Moreover, Pietschmann painted a portrait of a Black man that foregrounds his dignity and self-possession at a time when such portrayals were not necessarily the norm in German art.

You will be able to see *Study of a Model* when the second-floor galleries open to the public. Learn more about this painting in a video of Tanya Paul's Curated Conversation, in the Member Programs playlist on our YouTube channel.



Member Extras

May Is Member Month

This year, Member Month has special significance: your support is helping the Museum community and organization weather the challenges of the pandemic. We are grateful for your support and that we can again welcome you inside.

Member Month Offerings

Free Guest Admission:

Bring an extra guest to the Museum for free (beyond your usual allotment) all month long. Reserve your tickets at mam.org/visit.



Member Scavenger Hunt: Reengage with Museum hallmarks and the art in the galleries. Pick up a copy when you visit during the month of May.

Free Gift with On-site Renewal: Renew your membership on-site and receive a Member exclusive tote bag featuring a playful “wings”-inspired design of the Burke Brise Soleil.

Member Double Discount at the Museum Store: Though the Museum Store is closed for in-person shopping in May, you receive double your discount (20%) when you shop online.

Phone ordering and curbside pickup (by appointment) are also available. Leave a message at 414-224-4210, and a store associate will call you by the next business day.

Free Gift!



TOP Photo by Matt Haas.
RIGHT Photo by Adam Ryan Morris.



Virtual Member Events

Watch for event details in the *Member Insights* email newsletter, and visit mam.org/member-resources anytime to learn more.

Member Orientation

Open to all Members
Wed, May 12, noon

Whether you are a new Member or a longtime supporter, discover how to make the most of your membership.

An-My Lê, *November 5, Sugar Cane Field, Houma, Louisiana*, from the series *The Silent General*, 2016, printed 2019. Purchase, Herzfeld Foundation Acquisition Fund M2019.111. Photo courtesy of Marian Goodman Gallery, New York, USA.
© An-My Lê

Member Art Break

Open to all Members

Select Wednesdays, 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.

May 26: *Untitled* by Robert Gober with conservators Terri White and Richard Knight

June 30: *First Impressions: Early Printed Books in Europe* with Catherine Sawinski, Assistant Curator of European Art

July 28: Behind the scenes with Museum preparators

Aug 25: Robert Henri's *El Matador (Felix Asiego)* with Amy Kirschke, Director of Adult, Docent, and School Programs

Curated Conversations

Donor (\$400)+ levels

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.

May 20: Check-in with Kantara Souffrant, Curator of Community Dialogue

Aug 31: An-My Lê exhibition with Lisa Sutcliffe, Curator of Photography and Media Arts

Members receive different benefits based on their level of membership. Upgrade your membership to enjoy more benefits, while making an even greater impact. Contact the membership team at 414-224-3284.

Staff Profile: Kantara Souffrant & Robert Stein

Elisabeth Gasparka, Development Officer for Membership

Kantara Souffrant, PhD, returned to the Milwaukee Art Museum this past January to take on a leadership role as the inaugural Curator of Community Dialogue. She is a museum educator, artist-scholar, and curator who has worked across academia and the nonprofit sector in the pursuit of arts-based social justice and public education. Souffrant held the position of Manager of School and Teacher programs at the Museum from 2015 to 2018.

Also new to the Senior Leadership Team, as Deputy Director and Chief Experience Officer, is Robert Stein. Stein is a career museum professional. He has held posts at the Dallas Museum of Art, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and most recently, the Shedd Aquarium, in Chicago, where he helped develop immersive and multisensory in-gallery experiences and new virtual platforms for digital learning.

“The need for evolution is not isolated to how the Museum functions: it’s tied to how our society functions, and to the health of our city.”

—**Kantara Souffrant**, Curator of Community Dialogue



Over Zoom, Souffrant and Stein recently discussed the Museum’s new Strategic Direction and how the institution’s goals go hand-in-hand with promoting well-being for our city. They discussed art as a means for advancing understanding and

Kantara Souffrant photo by Rosen-Jones Photography.

inclusion. Their conversation centered on the role that museums, art, and museum members can play in cultural evolution.

“The need for evolution is not isolated to how the Museum functions: it’s tied to how our society functions, and to the health of our city,” said Souffrant. “We have to understand the Museum as a part of a larger ecosystem, and that means being in conversation with, and in observation of, the policies and practices that inhibit the freedom of other people.”

“Art museums have been an important part of my own understanding, growth, and experience of the world,” said Stein. “I think that the role museums play in creating experiences that help us see life through another’s perspective is potentially formative or life-changing. There’s a lot of promise for our Museum to contribute to that sort of work here in Milwaukee.”

Read more of the discussion on the Museum’s blog at mam.org/blog.



“I think that the role museums play in creating experiences that help us see life through another’s perspective is potentially formative or life-changing.”

—**Robert Stein**, Deputy Director and Chief Experience Officer

Museum Store: Empower + Inspire

Shop the online store at mam.org/store.

The Little Box of Feminist Flair: Pins, Patches, & Magnets

Make a statement with this quirky kit that celebrates Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Michelle Obama, and other fearless females.

\$14.00/\$12.60 Member

Brave & Strong Embroidered Patch

\$12.00/\$10.80 Member

Little Feminist Board Book Set

\$14.99/\$13.50 Member

Pantone Notebook Set

\$19.95/\$17.95 Member

Free the Tipple: Cocktails Inspired by Iconic Women

Toast to all the brilliant, diverse women who continue to inspire.

\$14.95/\$13.45 Member

Frida Dreams Mug

\$16.00/\$14.40 Member



Your community. Your museum.

Share your story at mam.org/voices.

This spring, we partnered with sixteen individuals to kick off an advertising campaign that focuses on you, our Members, and the community. We learned about who they are, what they love about the Museum, and what impact the Museum has had on their lives.

Hear from one of our participants, Marisa, here, and experience the full campaign at mam.org/voices.

“I like being able to connect with an artist from four or five hundred years ago. I like to be able to connect with an artist who’s younger than myself and currently alive and expressing a viewpoint that I don’t have. So it’s a place for expanding my understanding of what it means to be alive as a human.”

—Marisa, 6th Grade Teacher

Photo by Aliza Baran.



Save the Dates

Find details on the virtual events listed here and how you can participate on our website at mam.org/events.

Exhibitions Opening in July

The Quilts of Pauline Parker
Bradley Family Gallery

First Impressions:
Early Printed Books in Europe
European Art Galleries

Byrdcliffe: Creativity and Creation
The Godfrey American Art Wing

Americans in Spain Programs

On-Site Member Preview

Thurs, June 10, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Virtual Member Preview Conversation

Thurs, June 10, 6 p.m.

With Brandon Ruud, the Museum's Abert Family Curator of American Art, and Corey Piper, Brock Curator of American Art at the Chrysler Museum of Art

Virtual President's Circle Cocktail Celebration

Coming in August

Celebrating *Americans in Spain* and the exhibitions opening this summer

Virtual Discussions

Thurs, June 24: Sarah Cash, Associate Curator of American and British paintings, National Gallery of Art, on John Singer Sargent in Spain

Thurs, July 29: Richard L. Kagan, author of *The Spanish Craze*, and scholar Marianna Shreve Simpson

Thurs, Aug 26: Eugenia Afinoguénova, Professor and Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Marquette University, on Islamic Spain

And more at mam.org/americans-in-spain, including a conversation with travel expert Rudy Maxa on September 9.

Youth and Family Programs

Visit each program page to find videos of past activities.

Story Time in the Galleries: At Home

mam.org/story-time

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.,
May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug 7

Play Date with Art: At Home: Set Sail!

mam.org/play-date

Ages 5 and under, with a caregiver
Fri, May 14, 10–10:30 a.m.

Kohl's Family Sundays: At Home: Sculpture

mam.org/family-sundays

Sun, May 23, 10 a.m.–June 6

Explore art in three dimensions,
and get inspired to make your
own creations.

Kohl's Art Studio

mam.org/art-studio

Find new creative art experiences
online each month.

Summer Art Camps—Online

mam.org/learn/classes

Ages 6–10, 10:30 a.m.
Ages 11–15, 1:30 p.m.

June 21–24: Painting

July 19–22: Mixed Media

August 9–12: Clay

Registration required; scholarships
are available.

\$165/\$115 Member (includes art supply kit)

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

Art Studio and Family Sundays are supported by

KOHL'S

All times are Central Time.