Some say that a decade ago, Collar Works was founded on a shoestring budget. It’s more accurate to say we were born out of passion and grit.

In our first home, a third floor walk-up loft space in an old factory overlooking the Hudson River, clamp lights heated the already sizzling air, and a single space heater mocked us in winter as we shivered between drafty walls. Exhibition openings consisted of ambitious artworks, dynamic artists and art-goers and potluck eats. Our greatest assets consisted of community, resourcefulness, dedication and what spare change we could pull together.

Despite the raw setting, word spread about Collar Works’ exciting programming, drawing support from the region’s best curators and attracting artists from across the nation to exhibit. Our community was growing, solidifying our reputation as one of the preeminent contemporary arts spaces in the region.

If one thing rings true over the years, it is that Collar Works sees potential, seizes the moment to create opportunities and makes important work happen on modest resources.

In 2015, Collar Works became a 501(c)3 arts organization and partnered with Hudson Arthaus to relocate to a newly renovated, contemporary space in a former collar factory.

In 2017, we were invited by the family of the late visionary artist Elizabeth Murray to develop a summer artist residency program in her namesake on the Murray-Holman farm. Collar Works invested significant resources, time and energy to transform the property. Studios were built in the barn where Elizabeth worked and residents communed in the farmhouse where Elizabeth and her husband Bob Holman raised their children. In 2018, Collar Works completed our first pilot season of the residency program, housing 20 artists over five weeks.

Collar Works is a growing organization firmly rooted in our region. We’ve expanded our programs and reach, increased our support of artists, sparked important dialogue and become a positive stakeholder in our underserved neighborhood of North Central Troy and in upstate New York.

As Collar Works enters its tenth year, our future and ability to achieve our mission has never been more clear. We remain dedicated to our mission. We pride ourselves in our spirited ingenuity.

Now more than ever we need to build our capacity to sustain and move forward. We invite you — our community — to join us in cementing our collective legacy of shaping the arts in upstate New York and beyond.

Elizabeth Dubben
Executive Director, Collar Works
Collar Works is a nonprofit contemporary art space located in Troy, New York. Our mission is to support emerging, underrepresented artists and curators working in any media, creating provocative and culturally-relevant artworks as a way of enriching the cultural life of the region. Collar Works provides a venue for community dialogue focused on serious and spirited artworks, educating the public through exhibitions, gallery talks, lectures, workshops and community outreach activities.

“Collar Works has contributed remarkably to its region. Their programming is a shining example of how contemporary art can inspire and ignite, providing opportunities that shape our communities and foster understanding. I’ve seen firsthand the dedication and fresh spirit Collar Works brings to all it undertakes — and I’m excited to be a part of what it achieves in its next decade!”

— Cara Manes
Collection Specialist, Department of Painting and Sculpture, MOMA


Completing our 10th year of programming

4,000 square feet of exhibition space

94 exhibitions, installations, events and performances representing regional, national and international artists, performers, writers and musicians

5 new programs created (2016 – 2018)

Collard Greens Dinner + Dialogue series
The Lab
BYO Crit Series
The Art Factory
The Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency

16+ dedicated Board Members, staff, committee members and volunteers

100+ artists supported each year

3,000+ visitors each year
Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency

MISSION + VISION

The Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency by Collar Works provides emerging to established artists a supportive, productive and communal atmosphere for making their work on a bucolic 77-acre property in Washington County, New York. The residency program creates opportunities for artists to take risks and develop new contemporary works across many art forms, primarily visual, literary and performing arts, while engaging in meaningful dialogue with fellow residents and arts professionals.

The farm was the summer home and studio of the late visionary artist Elizabeth Murray, together with her husband Bob Holman and their family, for over two decades. The family continues to spend significant time at the farm and is committed to seeing her spirit thrive through inspiration and creative use of the property and its natural surroundings.

Residency Pilot Year: By the Numbers

- 20 artists in-residence over five weeks
- Two artist’s families were hosted during residency
- Six studios built overlooking Elizabeth Murray’s personal studio in cathedral-like barn
- Five guest curator visits to artists in-residence open studios
- One exhibition at Collar Works, Made in Granville with work by residence artists
- Supplied food and provisions for 756 meals, including 30 prepared dinners
- Furnished private and communal living spaces
- Established an art book library from Elizabeth Murray’s personal collection

The Future of the Residency

Collar Works is committed to providing ongoing property assistance in support of the residency program while administering the residency and programming overall.

A call for submissions will be issued in early 2019, with plans to host up to 14 artists with two-week-plus residency stays over the course of six weeks in summer of 2019.

Phases after 2019 will include:

- Residency expansion, including family residency services
- Accommodations and studio expansions
- Sustainable food program utilizing the farm property
It's no question the impact our beloved Elizabeth made in her life and career. To some, she was the artist who challenged the zeitgeist of the New York art scene in the 70s through the 00s and whose work inspired a generation of artists. To artists who are parents, she was a beacon of hope, inspiring them to pursue their craft in the face of competing priorities and challenging circumstances. When she died over a decade ago, it was hard to imagine a world without her. Yet in her absence a new dream has emerged that not only honors who she was, but also her influence on the arts: a residency program on our family farm.

When we met the Collar Works team, we knew we had found the right people to spearhead the residency. Their dedication to the arts and their creative lives, their gumption and entrepreneurial spirit, and their willingness to take on ambitious projects with notable passion and ingenuity showed us that our dream and the farm where we raised our children were in good hands. That their Executive Board and Executive Director at the time were all women — including many mothers — was another sign we had made the right choice, that they would understand the unique challenges of being a parent and an artist. When Collar Works shared their intention to make it a family-friendly residency, it was a done deal.

Dakota, Sophie, Daisy and I are thrilled with the first year of the Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency, and are confident in its future. We ask that you join us in solidifying the legacy of Elizabeth and her work in this critically important and meaningful endeavor.
Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency by Collar Works

Transformational experience. Lasting impact. The inaugural residency fellow experience.

Living in artist Elizabeth Murray’s house this week. It’s honestly a spiritual experience and I am still taking it in. I looked up to her artwork while studying as a painter, and today I set up my studio within hers. I touched her paint and dipped my water dish into her well and I may as well be painting with holy water. I feel reborn.

— Kathryn Bilharz Gabriel

There is a strong creative energy and sense of home at EMAR. I was inspired walking past Elizabeth Murray’s studio walls and ladder on the way to my space, and to stay in her family home was incredible. Even now, almost a month later, I am still processing this gift.

— Melinda McDaniel

The farm house, barns, landscape were a perfect, calming environment to work in. The fact of it being part of Elizabeth Murray’s experience as an artist was also a constant inspiration.

— Michael Van Winkle

Get up in the morning grab a cup of coffee and toast and go to the studio. Take a lunch break and eat leftovers from the night before and then go back to the studio. Hear the dinner bell, eat an amazing dinner with wonderful people and conversation and then go back to the studio. The fact that my only responsibility was to paint is something I have never experienced, even in grad school. It was a huge deal that dinner and food was not something I had to concern myself with! And I would like to add, the food was excellent!

— Brian Cirmo

I personally feel it is a huge privilege as an early career artist to have the chance to show alongside more established artists that also attended the EMAR.

— Rachel Baxter

Given my history with Elizabeth Murray’s work, there was so many beneficial experiences. The library became a place of interest along with just walking around the farm. I felt a lot of validation of how I processed my work in relation to reading her books (there were a lot of books or subjects of books that we have in common) which ultimately shifted and directed some of the work I had planned to make at the residency.

— Fabian Lopez

I would like to thank the Board of Collar Works for their dedication to this project. It was obvious how much time and effort each one of you has committed to making this happen. All of your efforts, from the founding of your own organization, to the quality and breadth of the exhibitions you present, is greatly appreciated and will impact our community in ways that are still yet to be measured.

— Sharon Bates
Invest in Collar Works.
Invest in Artists.

Collar Works began with no budget, no frills — and a lot of determination to create a venue to exhibit artists as accessibly as possible, while generating innovative and thought-provoking programming. This earnest spirit and the collective strength of its exhibiting artists have solidified Collar Works as one of the most powerful contemporary arts spaces in the region.

There are numerous ways to invest in our programming and our exhibiting and resident artists.

**Artists**
- Residency fellowship funding
- Need-based partial residency scholarships
- Need-based artist stipends

**Programming**
- Residency guest curators and exhibition opportunities
- Parent/family support and youth programming
- Residency fellow art collection

**Residency Operations**
- Staffing
- Administration

**Residency Expansion**
- Site improvements
- Housing, particularly for families
- Additional studios
- Facility expansion, including fabrication shops

**Limited Naming Opportunities**
**Available on a Yearly Basis**
- Residency fellowship scholarship
- Staff positions
- Internship positions
- Barn studios and facilities, such as a wood shop
- Farm house rooms
- Library sponsorship
- Flat file program
- Residency art purchase award

**Ways to Give**
- Monetary gifts
- Foundation support
- Corporate match programs
- Planned giving

**In-Kind**
- Gifts of technology
- Consulting services
- Marketing, advertising, design and print services
- Volunteer support

Supporters of Collar Works are recognized on our website and printed material. Contact Elizabeth Dubben, Executive Director, at edubben@collarworks.org or (518) 285-0765 to discuss your specific needs in contributing to Collar Works.
Building (on) a Legacy.

Every dollar contributed to Collar Works is wisely and economically used to support programming, staff and services.

Budget (Fiscal Year)

FY16-17 (Actual)
- Operations $32,480.01
- Programming $7,249.98
- Residency $0 (n/a)

FY17-18 (Actual)
- Operations $35,073.15
- Programming $7,301.39
- Residency $8,066.95
  26.96% growth over previous fiscal year

FY18-19 (Projected)
- Operations $33,810.00
- Programming $10,400.00
- Residency $11,200.00
  9.85% projected growth over previous fiscal year

Budget Growth FY16-18
- FY16 / Actual $39,729.99
- FY17 / Actual $50,441.49
- FY18 / Projected $55,410.00

Total funds sought for next phase of growth: $42,000
Ingenuity.
Passion.
Grit.
Dedication.

2009
- Founded as a transitory gallery operating in Troy, New York open storefronts

2010
- Transformed 2,700 decaying and disheveled square feet of the former textile manufacturing building located at 444 River Street into a gallery space

2011 – 2014
- Expansion of exhibition cycle with guest curators and artists, with a groundswell of regional support from the arts community and regular coverage in local media
- Established a Board of Directors

2015
- Relocated to current space in the Hudson Arthaus, a renovated warehouse in North Troy

2015 – 2017
- Hired an Executive Director
- Addition of community-centric programming, including the popular Collard Greens Dinner + Dialogue series and The LAB project space

2018
- Pilot launch of the Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency by Collar Works
- Launch of the Art Factory after school program
Since its inception, Collar Works has partnered with our community to produce programming of the highest artistic standards, providing a local venue for some of the most relevant, provocative and contemporary artwork exhibited in the region. With a consistent and unified vision, thorough execution and a determined enterprise, we give exposure to those artists whose work demands and deserves such a voice.

There’s no question that our community has been integral to Collar Works. Indeed, community has shaped the world throughout its history. In recent years, the definition of community has been challenged as communications become instantaneous and global, as politics and policy shape our day-to-day realities, and as divisiveness and derision erode our openness and generosity.

Yet, the spirits of communities stay ignited through movements large and small: a march in D.C., a viral campaign around goodness, a generation of youth focused on social justice and inclusivity. We see it in our cities, with the renaissance of local, small business and the reincarnation of the “downtown” — just look at Troy as an example.

It is in times like these that showing our value of the arts in our communities is both critical and affirming.

A healthy, thriving society must have a diverse and spirited cultural engine. One that drives discourse, promotes connection and questions established notions.

The power of connection and inclusivity is the foundation of our voice and our strength. Contributing to the richness of our community is at the heart of Collar Works and in the essence of our founding. It is the apparatus that directs our decision making and the ethos that charts our course.

Please join us in forging this path to enrich our community, together.

Ken Ragsdale
Chair, Collar Works Board of Directors