A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Spring may be our favorite time of year here in Erie, especially at the Erie Art Museum. The 101st Annual Spring Show opens on March 15th and highlights the creativity of artists in the region. The diverse range of work features installations, watercolor and oil paintings, ceramics, found art, sculptures, wood carvings, charcoal drawings, etchings, and more. This show will be on display in our Main Gallery until August and is one you won’t want to miss.

We were thrilled to host a vibrant crowd in January for the opening of Joseph Plavcan: the Making of an Artist in our Nicholas Gallery. One of the most widely renowned artists in Erie’s rich artistic history, Plavcan was a prolific painter, and created from the 1920s until his death in 1981. This is the first installment of a multi-year exhibition and focuses on his youth and early adulthood. You’ll see a lot of familiar sights, particularly of Erie’s bayfront and its development throughout the years.

In April, we’ll present the opening of Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh: Members Exhibition. Rich in color, texture, and process, you will be amazed by the craftsmanship of these artists. EAM’s Program Manager, Jamie Keim-Pomorski and I juried this show, which was quite a task given the diversity and complexity of the designs.

As we move towards warmer weather, come in and revisit two of our most popular shows: Entre Plantas y Mujeres (Between Plants and Women) and Painterly Polaroids. Ana Balcazar’s wildly successful show is on display until May and she will be in town later this Spring for some closing activities. If you have not had the opportunity to meet her, please consider attending her talk on Thursday, May 9th. You’ll be surrounded by the botanical influences of her native country of Peru, and will be inspired by the beauty of the jungle. Nicole Martin’s Painterly Polaroids exhibition provides a nostalgic trip through many of Erie’s iconic scenes, particularly summer ones. Be transported to the beaches of Presque Isle, Sara’s Restaurant, or Perry’s Monument, enjoy scenes from a local farmer’s market, and view downtown Erie as it looked several decades ago.

Speaking of warmth, I’d like to give a very warm welcome to our newest team member, Alex Anthes. Alex has joined us as our new Education Manager and she brings her experience as a practicing artist and accomplished educator to this position. View page 7 for a listing of our upcoming course offerings.

We hope your Spring plans involve visiting the Erie Art Museum. I’ve only highlighted some of what we have to offer and there’s so much more to see and do. Read on for more of our events, lectures, classes, and exhibits. See you soon!

Laura Domencic, Executive Director

Joseph Plavcan: the Making of an Artist

*Joseph Plavcan: the Making of an Artist* tells the story of one of Erie’s best known artists and teachers through his prolific body of work, but this story is too big to tell with just one exhibition. The first installment, on view now in the Nicholas Gallery, focuses on his early days as a teenager skipping school to paint impressionist landscapes, to his studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia and travels in Europe, to building a life for himself and his family in Erie.

What’s currently on view encompasses roughly the first half of Plavcan’s career. It features some of the 100 small paintings Plavcan created to fund his first year at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts as well as *The Blue Pitcher* that Plavcan entered into the *Carnegie International Exhibition of Paintings*. A special section is also dedicated to works by Plavcan’s wife, Catharine Burns Plavcan, whom he met while they were both art students in Philadelphia.

The second part of this experience will focus on Plavcan’s connections and inspirations. Opening in September 2024, it will feature his later experimentations with color. The exhibition will also feature Plavcan’s students Richard Anuszkiewicz and Roy Ahlgren, whose Op Art style was also advanced by Edna Andrade, Plavcan’s contemporary, and fellow graduate of the PAFA. Looking back to the past, the work of Pennsylvania Impressionists Daniel Garber and Frances Speight will provide more context to Plavcan’s training at the PAFA.

Joseph Plavcan is, perhaps, the most influential artist to hail from Erie. We hope you’ll visit often and get to know this amazing painter, his vast body of work, and the scope of his influence.
Since the first iteration in early 2023, the EAM has hosted a series of special events we call Up Close with the Collection, offering behind-the-scenes experiences with the Museum’s collection and staff. In January, participants had a rare opportunity to view artworks owned by private collectors in the Erie community and beyond, as well as a first look at our newest exhibition, Joseph Plavcan: the Making of an Artist. Many art lovers graciously lent us some of their prized pieces, and it was a thrill to see so many of Plavcan’s paintings gathered together in one place.

Held on January 27th, guests enjoyed this spectacular view of Plavcan’s early works. Several collectors who loaned us pieces for the exhibition were in attendance, and guests had the opportunity to visit our 3rd floor space where some of the items that were not selected for the exhibition were on view. Martin Farrell, whose rediscovery of a large number of Plavcan’s student works was the impetus for this show, spoke to the audience, as well as local art collector and historian Steve Wood. Current Museum intern, Lauren Stroupe, also spoke about her involvement and learning through this process. She has been a valuable asset to our staff!

Some pieces that have been loaned to us by Joseph Plavcan’s only surviving daughter, Lisa Plavcan Drumm, are for sale. Information can be found by calling the Museum or inquiring at the front desk.

The Erie Art Museum hosts two Up Close with the Collection events each year, giving visitors a chance to look at Museum spaces and operations that are not open to the public.
UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

March/April/May

RECEPTIONS, TALKS, LIVE MUSIC

ART AFTER DARK
Plan to join us on the first Thursday of each month, through May 2024, for live entertainment, snacks, and an opportunity to visit our galleries from 5 - 8 pm. Included with Museum admission, free for members. Sponsored by Erie Insurance.

Upcoming entertainment:
March 7th: PianoPunk!
April 4th: Barry King Blues Band
May 2nd: This American Song

101ST ANNUAL SPRING SHOW
MEET THE JUROR: Visit the William P. Alexander Music Center on the PennWest - Edinboro campus on Wednesday, March 13th from 6:30 - 8 pm to listen to the 101st Annual Spring Show Juror, Tanya Aguiñiga, speak. More information on Tanya and her experiences can be found on page 13.

OPENING RECEPTION: Come celebrate at the Museum on Friday, March 15th from 6 - 9 pm to commemorate the artists in the Spring Show. Awards and special programming at 7 pm, plus light refreshments, a cash bar, and more.

EXPLORING WOMEN AND PLANTS:
A CONVERSATION WITH ANA BALCAZAR
Thursday, May 9th, 6 - 8 pm: Join artist Ana Balcazar and Paula Burleigh, Professor of Art at Allegheny College and member of EAM's Collections Committee, for an engaging discussion about the Museum's collection and women's representation within it. More information on Ana and her time with the Museum can be found on page 10. Included with Museum admission, free for members.

LUNCH & LEARN LECTURE SERIES
Join us on the third Wednesday of each month for special presentations in our Holstein Gallery. Mark your calendars and bring your lunch. No registration required. Included with Museum admission, free for members.

Upcoming L&L speakers:
March 20th: Mabel Howard: The Power of Words
April 17th: Lauren Stroupe: Plavcan's Influence
May 15th: Laura Domencic: Collaborative Projects
FIBERARTS GUILD OF PITTSBURGH: OPENING RECEPTION

Thursday, April 4th from 5 - 8 pm: Stop by the Museum to celebrate the opening of Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh: Members Exhibition with a brief awards ceremony and enjoy entertainment at Art After Dark (see page 4.) Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available. Learn more about this upcoming exhibition on page 11. Included with Museum admission, free for EAM members.

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION: FROM CANVAS TO CONCERT

Tuesday, March 19th, 6 pm: Join the Erie Art Museum and the Erie Philharmonic for From Canvas to Concert. This lecture/performance will be in the Museum's Holstein Gallery, hosted by Patricia A. Holstein. Featuring a must-see live performance of selections from Mussorgsky's original piano composition, Pictures at an Exhibition, and a multimedia presentation from Dr. Matthew Levy, this event is a perfect combination of music, art, and history. RSVP is required for this complimentary event. Please contact Maya Richards to secure your spot: maya@eriephil.org or 814.455.1375 ext. 111.

ACCESS FOR ALL

First Thursdays from 11 am - 3 pm, third Saturdays from 10 am - 2 pm: The Erie Art Museum was one of 64 museums nationwide to receive "Access for All" funding from the Art Bridges Foundation. The initiative is to increase access to museums to ensure more people experience the creativity and joy that comes with seeing art. Access for All days include make-and-take art activities, and docents are available to answer questions and provide tours. Admission is free during posted times.

SLOW ART DAY

Saturday, April 13th: Slow Art Day is an annual international event held in art museums, inviting individuals to pause and adopt a deliberate approach to viewing selected artworks. Each piece is accompanied by prompts to encourage observation, contemplation, and reflection. Fundamentally, Slow Art Day aims to disrupt the rapid pace of contemporary life by promoting thoughtful engagement with visual art. This event is held in collaboration with PennWest Edinboro's Art Therapy Department, who will be facilitating an online reflection session. Learn more at erieartmuseum.org/slowartday.
KIDS NIGHT OUT
Let your children (ages 4-10) embark on a creative journey of their own at the expERIEnce Children’s Museum while you enjoy Gallery Night on March 29th at the EAM! $25 per child, 10% off for ECM Museum members. Register online at eriechildrensmuseum.org/kids-night-out.

SECOND SUNDAYS
March 10th, April 14th, & May 12th from 2 - 4 pm: Different art making activities for families and loved ones, every Second Sunday of the month. Pay what you wish. More information can be found at erieartmuseum.org/second-sundays.

Upcoming activities:
- March: Transform recycled materials into art with Sarah Howard
- April: Craft charming cardboard vases with Alex Anthes
- May: Create botanical drawings with Ana Balcazar (Mother’s Day)

DRAWING AT THE MUSEUM
Every second Saturday of the month from 2 - 4 pm: Gain a deeper connection and appreciation of art in a calm, safe environment. Work independently, or ask for guidance from an instructor. All ages are welcome, children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Included with Museum admission, free for members.

CALLING ALL GANNON STUDENTS!
The Erie Art Museum and Gannon University have entered into the 2nd year of a partnership that allows all Gannon students, faculty, and staff (who have current IDs) to receive free admission to the Museum!

SAVE THE DATE: MASQUERADE AT THE MUSEUM!
You made our inaugural Masquerade event a great success, and we’re looking forward to the next one! Mark your calendars for October 26th, 2024, for a fun night of entertainment, food, dancing, and more.
CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

OIL PAINTING WITH ANA BALCAZAR

Learn to oil paint with Ana Balcazar, artist and curator of Entre Plantas y Mujeres, on view at the EAM through May 12th, 2024. No prior experience with oil painting necessary, as all levels are welcome. $80 for members, $100 for nonmembers. Materials included for an additional fee. Thursdays, May 9th through May 30th from 4 - 6 PM. Members $80, Nonmembers $100. Materials included for an additional $40 fee.

ADAPTIVE ART

Adaptive Art is a monthly visual arts and creativity class designed for adults (18+) with disabilities. In this class, participants will explore various adaptive mediums such as movement, drawing, painting, and poetry to find new ways of self-expression and play, alongside teacher Sara Fisher. Second Friday of each month: March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, 10 am - 12 pm. 18+. Free! Registration is required for participants & caregivers for each session. Sign up for one or many.

ASIAN WATERCOLOR

This class will introduce you to the art of Asian watercolor painting with Esther Hong. Beginning students will learn techniques to paint the four basic paragons: the Orchid, the Bamboo, the Plum Blossoms and the Chrysanthemum. Intermediate students will learn how to draw flowers, fruits and vegetables, baskets, and other objects. Advanced students will learn to draw elements of traditional landscape paintings. Small class size allows for personalized instruction. Thursdays, March 21st through April 25th from 4-6 PM. Members $120, nonmembers $135.

ECO PRINTING WORKSHOP

Delve into the world of eco printing with artist and instructor Debbie Sementelli during this 2-hour workshop. Explore the foundational concepts and techniques utilized in the eco printing process. Participants will learn how to capture the intricate imprints of botanicals onto fabric. Saturday, May 18th from 10 am - 12 pm. $30 for members, $50 for nonmembers.

JEWELRY MAKING

Learn basic and advanced jewelry making techniques with Jan & Dan Niebauer. Create your own project plan from start to finish. This is a multi-week course, with the first session (April 17th) held at the Erie Art Museum. The remaining sessions will be held at the artists' studio every Wednesday evening. April 17th from 7 - 9pm, through June 5th. $100 for members, $130 for nonmembers. Jewelry making materials not included, but will be available for purchase; tools provided.

March/April/May
Register online for all classes & workshops at erieartmuseum.org/classes. All classes listed are for adults, 18+, unless otherwise noted.
We are excited to welcome Aaron Kramer, a renowned artist and educator out of Santa Monica, CA, to the Erie Art Museum for his upcoming exhibition, Sense of Wonder. For over 30 years, Aaron Kramer has made things move by mechanical means. What started as an obsession when he was young has become a profession. Utilizing primarily reclaimed materials, he builds contraptions that are at times one-liners, lessons in mechanics, or interactive stories. Kramer’s unique vision is summed up in his motto, “Trash is the Failure of Imagination,” which is to say that the materials he uses to express his ideas have a hidden story to tell, a secret life of objects. It is his hope that people come away from this exhibition with a Sense of Wonder that compels them to look deeper and stay curious.

Kramer started a “tinkering” program through the reDiscover Center, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit, that puts real tools into children’s hands while building with reclaimed materials. Tinkering School LA has operated day camps for children ages 7-12 since 2011 and Masters camp since 2016. Based on Gever Tulley’s original Tinkering School and his philosophy of Dangerous Things You Should Let Your Children Do, Tinkering School LA gives children and teens power tools, a warehouse full of recycled and reclaimed materials, and supervision by facilitators who are themselves makers and tinkerers. Together, staff and campers create increasingly large and intricate sculptures, machines, and inventions, developing understanding of the engineering design process, team building, and character traits along the way.

The Erie Art Museum is excited to host our own version of this engaging camp for children ages 7-12. We’re calling this camp “The Secret Life of Objects” to hone in on the possibilities that recycled and found materials can hold. We will provide heaps of reclaimed materials, real tools and a guided imagination quest to safely find the secret lives of the most mundane objects. Join Aaron Kramer, local artist and tinkerer Sarah Howard, and the EAM team to find the sense of wonder that building with recycled materials holds. This camp will start with tool and safety training and lead to an imaginative place where kids are empowered to think creatively and build as large as their imaginations.

To learn more about this summer camp and to sign up, visit erieartmuseum.org/camp

The Sense of Wonder exhibition opens June 7th, 2024.

The Secret Life of Objects kids summer camp will take place on July 22nd to 26th and again from July 29th to August 2nd.

Sponsored in part by National Fuel
CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

March, April, May


JOSEPH PLAVCAN: THE MAKING OF AN ARTIST

On view through 2026

This exhibition offers a unique insight into Joseph Plavcan's early work as a student, and highlights the development of his different styles throughout his youth. Plavcan's oil paintings are displayed with works by his teachers, students and contemporaries, to tell the stories of the people and culture that shaped him as an artist. The extended run allows for more in-depth research as we digitize the collection to make it accessible online. To encourage a deeper understanding of the artist, we will also change out a small number of the works to be on view for shorter time frames.

NPAA BIENNIAL

On view through March 17th, 2024

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association (NPAA) is proud to present their 8th juried biennial exhibition at the Museum. The NPAA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization for professional artists, whose mission is to create opportunities for established, emerging and student artists through exhibitions, education, and scholarships. This group exhibition is the third biennial to be held in the Museum’s historic Customs House.

ENTRE PLANTAS Y MUJERES

On view through May 12th, 2024

For this second display of the Connecting with the Collection series, the Museum invited Peruvian artist Ana Balcazar to explore the collection of over 8,000 objects and create work in response. During the course of the past year, she studied the works and winnowed her selection to 33 pieces from the permanent collection. After meeting with artists whose work is in the collection and with past and present Museum staff, Ana finalized her selection and created works while in residence at the Museum from late April through July 2023. Sponsored in part by Gannon University.

PAINTERLY POLAROIDS

On view through August of 2024

This series of ethereal photographs from artist Nicole Reinhold Martin was created by manipulating the pliable Polaroid emulsion with a stylus. It also highlights the Museum’s efforts to preserve and digitize the original art objects in the permanent collection. In collaboration with the 1020 Collective.

SELECTIONS FROM A CENTURY:
SPRING SHOW ACQUISITIONS 1924-2023

On view through September of 2024

In celebration of the Spring Show’s 100th year, Selections from a Century features art that was acquired from the Spring Show’s past, celebrating the history and culture generated by this storied, regional event.
101st Annual Spring Show
Opening March 15th, 2024

In collaboration with the PennWest Edinboro’s Visiting Artist Speakers Endowment, we’re excited to bring the 101st Spring Show to the Museum. Find out more on page 13.

Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh: Members Exhibition
Opening April 4th 2024, through January 19th, 2025

We are thrilled to host the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh’s juried member exhibition at the Erie Art Museum in the Customs House. The Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes the appreciation of fiber arts and fosters its development and continuation through member support and outreach.

Formerly the Embroiderers’ Guild, the Fiberarts Guild has evolved with the contemporary craft movement into an organization committed to the preservation, development and continued evolution of the broad range of fiber art. Fiber arts include, but are not limited to, basketry, beading, book arts, embroidery, crochet, felting, knitting, jewelry, mixed media, quilting, paper art, rug hooking, sculpture, surface design, stitchery, wearables and weaving.

This exhibition was juried by Laura Domencic and Jamie Keim-Pomorski, both members of the EAM staff. An opening reception will take place on Thursday, April 4th from 5 - 8 pm.

Learn more about the Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh at fiberartspgh.org.

Aaron Kramer: Sense of Wonder
Opening June 7th, 2024

Aaron Kramer, renowned artist and educator out of Santa Monica, CA, is bringing his exciting mechanisms to the Erie Art Museum for his upcoming exhibition, Sense of Wonder. Kramer utilizes primarily reclaimed materials and builds contraptions to make jokes, visualize the hidden mechanical, and tell stories. Kramer’s unique vision is to express the secret life of objects and find the stories held within reclaimed materials. More on Aaron and his upcoming time in Erie can be found on page 8.

Learn more about Aaron Kramer at urban-objects.com.
Ashley Cloud, Retrieving What You Left Behind, linocut relief prints, 2022. 101st Annual Spring Show.

Margaret Black, Redbots, fiber, 2023. Fiberarts Guild of Pittsburgh: Members Exhibition.


On view March 15th through August 9th, 2024

The Spring Show has been a major patch in the fabric of the Erie art community since 1923, and we are excited to host its 101st iteration. Every year we invite artists within 250 miles to submit up to 3 works to be juried by a renowned artist or art professional. Award and artist talk opportunities follow for those who are accepted. The Erie Art Museum, in partnership with PennWest Edinboro's Visiting Artist Speakers Endowment, is excited to introduce Tanya Aguiñiga as the Spring Show 2024 juror.

Aguiñiga was born in 1978 in San Diego, California, and raised in Tijuana, Mexico. An artist, designer, and craftsperson, Aguiñiga works with traditional craft materials like natural fibers and collaborates with other artists and activists to create sculptures, installations, performances, and community-based art projects. Drawing on her upbringing as a binational citizen, who daily crossed the border from Tijuana to San Diego for school, Aguiñiga’s work speaks of the artist’s experience of her divided identity and aspires to tell the larger and often invisible stories of the transnational community.

We hope that you join us for the opening and award announcements on March 15th, 2024, and experience this annual showcase of our region’s extraordinary artists. Artist talks will be announced at a later date. Aguiñiga is to speak on March 13th, 6:30 pm at PennWest Edinboro (see page 4.)

Generous support for the Annual Spring Show provided by: Nicole & Harry Martin
Tell us a bit about your background.

I studied Fine Arts at Edinboro/Penn West University majoring in printmaking and have made a career as a multidisciplinary artist. As a medium I specialize in silkscreening, but also enjoy oil painting, digital art, as well as audio and video production. I compose music and play a variety of instruments while moonlighting solo as Kultur Vultur.

Did you ever see yourself working in an Art Museum?

Yeah actually, I've always had a passion for art history and a growing interest in preservation. So I feel pretty comfortable being here.

What does a typical Museum work day look like for you?

A typical day for me starts with opening up the museum exhibits and checking the calendar to prepare for the day. At the front desk I answer a lot of questions about the Museum and also provide general information about the Erie area. I also help out James Pearson with exhibitions doing more hands-on work with installation and teardown of galleries.

Tell us about an exciting or unique project you’ve had the opportunity to work on.

Last year, I did a small run of paper prints to help fundraise for the Nimbus restoration project at the museum. It was a silkscreen print of Dave Seitzenger’s schematic drawing of the flying machine on paper, that was handmade locally by Grounded Printshop. I was pleasantly surprised when a print signed by both John Vahanian and Dave Seitzenger sold at an auction during Masquerade at the Museum, making this a truly unique and rewarding project for me to be a part of.
MUSEUM HOURS

Wednesdays: 11 am - 6 pm
Thursdays: 11 am - 6 pm
Fridays: 11 am - 6 pm
Saturdays: 10 am - 5 pm
Sundays: 1 pm - 6 pm

On the front & back cover:

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View the Quarterly online at erieartmuseum.org/quarterly