



Erie Art Museum

Quarterly

SPRING 2022 Issue 1:4





Alfred Steiglitz, *The Steerage*, 1907, Photogravure, Erie Art Museum Collection

Connecting with the Collection:

The Steerage by Alfred Steiglitz

As a regional art museum, we celebrate the generations of artists before us and their connection to the artists of our time. Our mission is to present ways to engage with these works and their meaning, explore their relevance to our community today, and consider how to shape this resource for the future. In an initiative to explore the Museum's collection, we are inviting artists, curators, and community members to put together exhibitions that involve the works we house, presenting multiple perspectives on collecting art and how it represents our culture.

For the first display of this *Connecting with the Collection* series, I asked a longtime colleague, Brian Cohen, to look at some of the 1,700+ photographs we have in the Museum. A photographer and professor at Chatham University, he is also the founder of *The Documentary Works* and my co-curator for *Out Of Many - Stories of Migration*. While bringing this exhibit to the Museum (see page 6, 8, and 9), it seemed appropriate to complement it with a presentation of photographic works in the collection.

In preparing for the exhibitions, I kept coming back to a work that bridges the two shows. *The Steerage*, by Alfred Steiglitz (1864-1946) is iconic. It is considered to be one of the most important photographs of the 20th century, by one of the most influential photographers.

While Steiglitz is known for his photography, he was also devoted to promoting the works of other artists. A successful member of the Camera Club, he became frustrated and wanted to push the limits of what was considered good photography. He founded Photo-Secession, a group of elite photographers, which led to *Camera Work*, the quarterly publication focused on promoting photography as an art form. He opened a gallery to promote the masterpieces of photographers from Europe and New York. Restlessly looking for the next visionaries, he also showed the work of painters and sculptors including Rodin, Matisse and Picasso.

Steiglitz hardly took any photographs during the first five years of presenting other artists' work. Then, during a family trip to Europe in 1907, he created *The Steerage*. He needed a break from the first-class crowds on the upper deck, and turned his attention to the poorest passengers in the section of the ship known as the steerage. There, he saw a composition that he was compelled to capture on his last unexposed plate. For Steiglitz, it was about the visual experience – the energy of shapes, lines, and movement – rather than the documentation of social issues. The contrast of the human forms and the stark lines of the ship's mast and staircase speak to his ability to utilize the camera beyond a means to record events.

There have been many misinterpretations of the image. These people were leaving, not coming, to America. Some may have been visiting family, but many of them were returning workers with visas due to expire, or were rejected by immigration officials in the United States due to either ill health, "moral disease," old age, or excessive poverty. Over time, the photograph became associated with immigration at the height of the industrial revolution. The *Steerage* shows a glimpse of the physical separation of these classes and their disparate conditions.

Immigration and migration are part of being human. The notion of borders and belonging have shifted in the past century, as have laws regarding who is a citizen and who is not. *The Steerage*, capturing a moment from 115 years ago, relates to today's immigration/migration stories in *Out Of Many* and reminds us that we all come from somewhere.



Laura Domencic, Executive Director

WHAT'S ON

March/April/May

GALLERY NIGHT



Listen to music, shop, eat, and visit your favorite local galleries on **April 29th** from 7-10 pm. *Free for members, \$3 for non-members.*

More information at:
ErieArtMuseum.org/gallery-night

Sponsored by:



SLOW ART DAY



Unknown Artist, Chart-Protective Diagram, 19th c., Gouche on Cotton, Gift of John and Nary Rezk.

In collaboration with Edinboro University, be sure to visit the Museum on Saturday, April 2nd for **Slow Art Day**. Slow Art Day encourages mindfulness at the Museum and careful observation and critical thinking while viewing art. We'll be there with prompts, docents, and meditative hands-on projects to help inspire you.

Saturday, April 2nd. 10 am-5 pm
Free for members, Museum admission for non-members.

NARCISSUS



An interactive project of Erie Art Company and Noodlefish.

Ovid told the story of Narcissus, the youth who fell in love with his own reflection. This immersive installation will allow us to observe our reflections and those often-perceived distortions.

Narcissus opens on Gallery Night - April 29th. Be sure to tag [@theerieartmuseum](https://twitter.com/theerieartmuseum) and [@noodlefishproductions](https://twitter.com/noodlefishproductions) in your selfies!

2022 SPRING SHOW: MEET THE ARTISTS

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 14th** - we're planning on facilitating some conversations with selected artists from the 99th Annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show. Check our website and social media for more details.

ErieArtMuseum.org | [@theerieartmuseum](https://twitter.com/theerieartmuseum)

ART AFTER DARK



The Museum hosts a series of small concerts on the first Thursday of each month. Take a tour of the galleries and enjoy drinks at 5 pm. Stay for live music from 6-8 pm.

March 3rd - Shoefly Soul | April 7th - TBD
5-8 pm. *Free for members, Museum admission for non-members.*

Sponsored by:



Dahlkemper Landscape Architects & Contractors,
ATHENA ERIE/ATHENA POWERLINK, Accudyn,
Beer & Pop Discount Warehouse.

BE MOOOVED



Paula Garrick Klein, *Conversation*, Oil on Canvas

Join us for an artist talk with Paula Garrick Klein, the artist behind *The Secret Life Of Cows*. Find more information about Paula and her muses on page 6.

Thursday, June 23rd, 6 pm
Free for members, Museum admission for non-members.

SECOND SUNDAYS



Explore creativity, new mediums, and artistic process with your family each Second Sunday of the month! Admission is pay-what-you-wish.

More information at:
[ErieArtMuseum.org/second-sundays](https://erieartmuseum.org/second-sundays)

Join us for the following dates:

March 13th, 2-4 pm

April 10th, 2-4 pm

May 8th, 2-4 pm

Sponsored by: 
The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School

UPMC HEALTH PLAN

ARTIST INTERVIEWS



EAM continues to build our interviews of exhibiting artists, as well as local and regional artists. The staff-led, online interviews are posted on our website.

Tune in! [ErieArtMuseum.org](https://erieartmuseum.org)

Support provided by:

Art Bridges

STUDENT TOURS



We are excited to announce that the Museum is resuming school tours as of January 2022. School tours can be either virtual or in-person.

Tours build on youth's natural curiosity and Pennsylvania state education standards. The Museum staff uses a mixture of storytelling, games, interpretation, and art-making to offer students opportunities to view and interact with art, increasing observational and critical thinking skills.

To plan a school tour for your group, please contact Jamie Keim, Program Manager and Designer, at jamie@erieartmuseum.org or call the Museum at 814-459-5477.

FOREVER PLAID



Corella Productions Theatre Academy is a community theatre for all ages - and we're happy that they are utilizing the Museum for an upcoming production! With a warm and clever book by Stuart Ross, *Forever Plaid* is a delightful and mischievous homage to the sweet and innocent sounds of the '50s and the '60s.

This is a family event hosted by Corella Productions from March 31st to April 2nd. Tickets can be found at corellaproductions.com.

TALK WITH BRIAN COHEN

Mark your calendars for **Thursday, May 19th** - Brian Cohen, Ph.D., curator of *Out Of Many* (p. 6, 8 & 9,) will talk more about his experiences and processes while curating the upcoming *Connecting With the Collection* (p.7.)

Check our website and social media for more details.

ErieArtMuseum.org | [@theerieartmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/theerieartmuseum)

JEWELRY MAKING

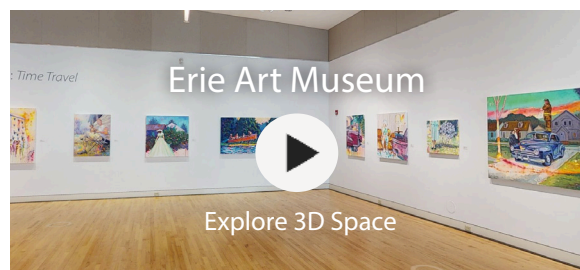
Precious Metal Jewelry Making with Jan & Dan Niebauer

In this class, you'll learn basic and advanced jewelry making techniques. Create your own project plan from start to finish.

This is a multi-week course, beginning **April 20th** at the Erie Art Museum. The remaining sessions are at the artist's studio.

Check back for more details - ErieArtMuseum.org

VIRTUAL TOURS



Not able to get in to see us in person?! There's no reason not to enjoy the Erie Art Museum. Take a "walk" through the Museum from your phone, tablet, or computer.

Access the tour at ErieArtMuseum.org/virtualtour

Sponsored by: **ErieMultimedia**

Staff Spotlight: Laura Flockerzi, Event Coordinator



How long have you been at the Museum?

I've worked at the Museum since June of 2021.

Did you ever see yourself working in an Art Museum?

Absolutely! I went to Penn State Behrend for arts administration, so working for an arts nonprofit was certainly a goal of mine. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work at such an important institution in a city that I am passionate about.

What's the most difficult part?

The most difficult part has been trying to respectfully and successfully navigate what "used to be" versus what the current staff and administration are trying to accomplish and achieve at the Museum.

What are you looking forward to the most at the Museum?

I am looking forward to seeing how our current group of staff and volunteers can grow and rebuild the Museum after a few difficult years. We have a fantastic team with wonderful ideas, and it's so exciting to be a part of it.

What is your favorite part of your job?

There are so many things I love about my job here at EAM. One of my favorite things is working with clients from the very early planning stages of their events to seeing the way they come together in the end. Their excitement and happiness is incredibly rewarding for me.

In the past few months, the Erie Art Museum received around \$40,000 in grant funding from state agencies and foundations such as Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, PA Humanities and Art Bridges. These funds will be spent on programming initiatives to support the Museum's mission.



Thank you to the following foundations, corporations, and organizations.

The following foundations, corporations, and organizations have pledged to support the Museum through a sponsorship of either programming or support of the Museum's School Tours through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program.

PA Cyber Charter School
MacDonald Illig Jones & Britton LLP
Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C

PNC
Dahlkemper Landscape Architects & Contractors
UPMC Health Plan
Splash Lagoon

Special thanks to Erie Insurance for their continued commitment to the Museum.



2021-2022 ANNUAL FUND SUPPORT

List reflects Annual Fund donations gifted to the Museum from July 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022

Thank you to those who have generously supported the Erie Art Museum with a financial contribution!

Your donation allows us to promote and advance the visual arts by developing and maintaining a quality art collection, encouraging art in all its forms, fostering lifelong art learning, and building community among artists, students, and the public.

\$10,000+

Nancy Baldwin Sturtevant
Pete and Dana Zaphiris
Kevin O'Connell

\$5,000-9,999

Roger & Laurel Taft

\$2,500-4,999

Patty Baldwin & Brian Pardini
Roger & Nedra Richards

\$1,500-2,499

Robert Shephard
David Bennett & Donna Douglass

\$1,000-1,499

Jay & Brittany Shaffer
Atty. and Mrs. W. Patrick Delaney
Richard Dreyfus
Darby Scalise
James McBrier
Ted & Georgiana Ely
Thomas Hagen

\$500-999

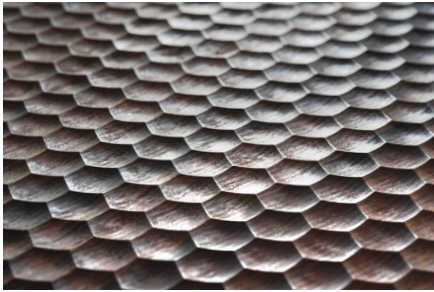
Jacqueline "Robin" Scheppner
Anshelm Sundberg
Brian Junker
Bruce Kern, Jr.
Carol Geiger
Diana Denniston
Dr. Peter & Mrs. Ellie Scibetta
Herman Weber
James A. Baldauf
James Steadman
Dr. and Mrs. Tavares
Karen Burton-Horstman
Anonymous
Neala Eastman
Patricia Loubeau
Paul Wojcik

Questions about the Annual Fund, sponsorship, or to donate to the Museum?
Contact Averie Shaughnessy-Comfort at 814-459-5477 ext. 111
or at averie@erieartmuseum.org

EXHIBITIONS

March/April/May

MADE BY THE LAKE: WOODWORKING BY REGIONAL ARTISTS



Bryan Geary, *Kikko Trestle Table*

Karen Ernst, Fredy Huaman Mallqui, Bryan Geary, Brian Millspaw, Todd Steffy, Brad Triana, and Ryan Zimmerman.

This exhibition of fine wood art objects presents an in-depth exploration into the craftsmanship of woodworking artists from, or currently based in, the Erie area. Their technical execution exemplifies the versatility of a material that is deeply intertwined with society.

Last chance! On view through March 13th, 2022.

Meet the Artists on March 3rd from 5-8 pm at Art After Dark.

THE SECRET LIFE OF COWS

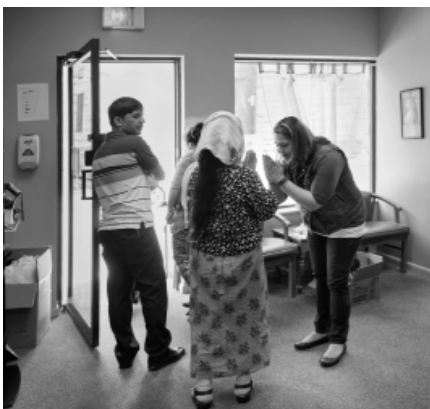


Paula Garrick Klein, *Daycare*, Oil on Canvas

Paula Garrick Klein, an observational portrait painter, focuses her artwork on the last small beef cattle farm operating in her suburban Pittsburgh neighborhood. In *The Secret Life of Cows*, she paints each cow portrait with the same intent that she brings to all portraits: to capture and record the physical likeness as well as the unique personality of each subject. Mesmerized by the herd's behavior and interaction, Paula feels that, "each animal is as recognizable as an individual, soulful and spirited, symbolizing a network and culture we can only imagine."

On view March 11th through August 7th, 2022.

OUT OF MANY – STORIES OF MIGRATION



Scott Goldsmith

The Documentary Works

Brian Cohen, Scott Goldsmith, Nate Guidry, Lynn Johnson, Annie O'Neill. Curated by Laura Domencic and Brian Cohen.

Out of Many: Stories of Migration is a series of exhibits, events and conversations centering around the work of five photographers working out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This exhibition features the faces and experiences of multiple generations of migrants and immigrants, and their descendants. With original, contemporary photography and essays, *Out of Many* uses Pittsburgh's story as a lens through which to examine the broader American immigration and migration experience.

On view February 25th, 2022.

Funding for *Out of Many* is generously provided by: Opportunity Fund; Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation; The Fisher Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation; Hillman Foundation; and The Heinz Endowments.

Nicole & Harry MARTIN | spring SHOW

Sponsored by Nicole & Harry Martin, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and The Northwest Pennsylvania Artist's Association.

The Erie Art Museum, in partnership with the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Art Department, is excited to have Jessica Hong as the Spring Show 2022 juror. Hong is the new Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Toledo Museum of Art, where she is responsible for broadening art historical narratives and shaping a dynamic collection and exhibition program.

The Spring Show opens April 8th, 2022.

Listen to Hong speak at Edinboro University on **March 31st at 7 pm.**

More details can be found at: ErieArtMuseum.org/springshow

BÉATRICE LEBRETON – LIVING HER TRUTH



Nigredo – Oya is Bringing the Winds of Change, Acrylic, Fabric Paint, Gold Marker, African Fabric on Unstretched Canvas.

Béatrice Lebreton's paintings use the rich vocabulary of her blended cultural heritage, drawing inspiration from traditional African motifs and cosmology. She interprets these symbols with a modern eye to convey the spiritual potential of Africa's cultures to contemporary viewers, forging a visual link between the past and the present.

Last chance! Closing May 29th, 2022.

Sponsored by: Pineapple Eddie Southern Bistro, Mercyhurst University, Kevin & Susan O'Connell, Hanes Erie, Inc., Greg & Heather Yahn, John V. Schultz Furniture, Theodore & Georgiana Ely, Patricia & Jean-Michel Loubeau, Douglass Bennett, Blue Lily, Erie Federal Credit Union, Jeffrey & Neala Eastman, A to Z Law, TKOErie, Susan Black & Barry Weller, Erie Community Foundation, Michael Butler - SEIU PSSU 668.

UPCOMING

"OLE' SAY CAN WE SEE?" SCULPTURES AND PRINTS BY GARRY R. BIBBS



Garry R. Bibbs, *Linking the Past Towards the Future*

Dr. Bibbs addresses social and political ideas, issues, and occurrences in our past and current American society. As an African American man, born in 1960, he has lived to experience Jim Crow to the January 6th insurrection, and everything in between. Bibbs writes, "are we seeing where we are headed? *What's Going On?*" Considering these factors and his experiences, Bibbs is challenged daily with many various old and new symbols, forms, colors, and images – how they affect his way of thinking and how (and why) he creates. He prefers to use direct metal fabrication, welding various types of metal and forms the parts into sculptures for the wall, pedestal, or floor.

On view June 16th, 2022.

CONNECTING WITH THE COLLECTION: PHOTOGRAPHY



Tony Ray-Jones, *Scarborough*, 1967, Erie Art Museum Collection

Curated by Brian Cohen. Take a dive into the Museum's collection of photographs and you will find yourself lost in space and time. But, you will be in good company, for the collection contains an abundance of beautiful, strange, and compelling images, some from the great photographers, others from photographers unknown. Each tells its own story, reflecting the interests and values of the times in which they were made; together, they help us to see what has changed, and what remains constant, between now and days gone by.

On view May 12th, 2022.

Listen to Cohen speak at the Museum on May 19th (see p.4.)

MORE ON: *OUT OF MANY*

On view through through February 23rd, 2023.

Working with the premise that “we all come from somewhere,” *Out Of Many* explores the central role that migration has played, and continues to play, in the formation of our identity and culture, and in sustaining our economy. In doing so, *The Documentary Works* aims to create a space for civil, constructive conversation about belonging and cultural heritage today. Learn more about each contributing photographer’s unique experience:



Brian Cohen’s photographs highlight the diversity of the region’s migrant and immigrant communities through the buildings they have created and occupied over the past century in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Individually, each building represents in part a community’s effort to assert its adopted American identity, while retaining its particular sense of self, be it racial, religious, ethnic, or otherwise. Within these ethnic social clubs, civic and community centers, groceries, and religious temples, immigrant communities have matured and become – or are becoming – Americans.

Pictured left: Ukraine Home, Southside, Pittsburgh.

Lynn Johnson is documenting the moment at which immigrants become citizens, at naturalization ceremonies. Through her images, Johnson describes a Pittsburgh that considers itself a community, but within which there are those who began life on other shores. Her images, beginning with the documentation of a naturalization ceremony, and continuing with portraits of new citizens, represent an effort to see, and thereby to come to know, our newest citizens.

Pictured right: Naturalization ceremony, 2017, at the Federal Courthouse in Pittsburgh, PA.





Scott Goldsmith's documentary photographs introduce us to the experiences of newly-arrived Bhutanese refugees as they make their home in Pittsburgh. Goldsmith coordinated with the Northern Area Multi-Service Center, "NAMS," to meet a family of 3 refugees from Bhutan, from the moment they entered the U.S. at the Pittsburgh Airport. He looks at the struggles and obstacles they encounter as they navigate through their first days and weeks in a completely new environment.

Pictured left: Kheena Gurung and her mother, Bhai Rupa Rai, ride the bus to their apartment after their first visit to the NAMS office in Sharspsburgh, PA.



Annie O'Neill's large-scale double-portraits pair up long-term immigrants with new arrivals to America. One has been here at least twice as long as the other; neither has met each other until introduced by O'Neill. After interviewing them separately, O'Neill matches them so that they each have something, beyond their status as immigrants, in common. The results provide moving testimonial to their shared experiences living an adopted country.

Pictured left: Malak and Noel, both born in Saudi Arabia. Both are physicians.



Nate Guidry's documentary images focus on the Latino community, through the story of a Mexican single father of two, in the Brookline neighborhood of Pittsburgh. As Guidry describes him, his subject is a humble man of modest means whose singular focus is providing for his two daughters. "I only want what best for my babies," he says. Guidry documents his sacrifices, and the tender-hearted moments he shares with his girls, ages 7 and 9.

Pictured right: Brianna and Emma look on as Jose blows out candles on a birthday cheesecake.



MUSEUM HOURS

Thursdays: 2 pm - 8 pm
Fridays: 2 pm - 8 pm
Saturdays: 10 am - 5 pm
Sundays: 1 pm - 6 pm



Erie Art Museum

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On the Cover:

Paula Garrick Klein, *Four Friends*, Oil on Canvas

The Erie Art Museum receives general support from Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.



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THANK YOU FOR VOTING THE
EAM AS ERIE'S BEST MUSEUM!

Gallery *Erie Art Museum* Night

April 29th, 7-10 pm

Gallery Night is
sponsored by:

