



Erie Art Museum

Quarterly

Summer 2022 Issue 2:4



i capture you on film. i
snap you in my sleep. a like-



needed spirit. i know you exist.
i see your image in silver.



Portraits: Seeing Each Other and Ourselves

Presenting temporary exhibitions alongside the permanent collection create conversations between artists and their work. In the current exhibitions on view, there is a strong presence of portraiture including celebratory portraits of women of color in Béatrice Lebreton's *Living Her Truth: Transcending Boundaries* and of new Americans in *Out Of Many – Stories of Migration*.

In the most recent permanent collections exhibition, *Photographic Portraits* brings this theme to the surface. This exhibition features a small selection of the many photographic portraits found in the collection of the Erie Art Museum. Among the works, Kathe Kowalski's *Self-Portrait* speaks of the validation when taking photographic portraits of others. The handwritten thoughts around the border of the image shed light on the inner self and motivation in her creative process; "I capture you in film. I snap you in my sleep. A like-minded spirit. I know you exist. I see your image in silver."

In this sense, Kowalski's photograph resonates with Anja Honisett's *Kate*, a painting on display in the *99th Annual Spring Show*. While not a self-portrait, *Kate* depicts a woman taking a selfie. The camera (or phone) is integral to the portrait as a tool activated by the subject. The act of documenting a person taking photographs of themselves suggests a kind of agency. The figures are active; they are aware of the viewer's gaze as they are in the process of recording their own. Reflecting back, Kowalski's personal works incorporating text with image parallel Honisett's merging of traditional figurative painting with digital self-portraiture. Honisett's aim to "bring the viewer's focus back to the self in its purest form" also appears to apply to Kowalski. Where they diverge is focus: Kowalski's on her relationship with the other subject in the image, and Honisett on "women's relationship with themselves."

How we see others and ourselves is fundamental to our own sense of self. As you explore the galleries, consider what other conversations are in the undercurrents between exhibitions.



Laura Domencic, Executive Director

Images:

Top left: Kathe Kowalski, *Self-Portrait*, c. 1984, Gelatin silver print, Gift of Nate and Jake Kowalski. Currently on view in *Connecting with the Collections: Photographic Portraits*.

Bottom right: Anja Honisett, *Kate*, oil on linen, 2021
Currently on view in the Spring Show.

WHAT'S ON

June/July/August

BE MOOOVED



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

Join us for an artist talk with Paula Garrick Klein, the artist behind *The Secret Life Of Cows*.

Thursday, June 23rd, 6 pm.

Free for members.

Museum admission for non-members.

Highmark ★ Erie Art Museum

ART AFTER DARK



Mark your calendars for our concert series on the first Thursday of every month! **June 2nd, July 7th, August 4th.**

June 2nd will feature musicians **Mustafa, Bilal, and Nibal**, who play traditional Middle Eastern music using their voices, dombek drums, and the oud. The trio has performed for local Erie celebrations for the Syrian community and for World Refugee Day.

Bar opens at 5 pm, music begins at 6. Free for members, Museum admission for non-members. The doors between us and the businesses on 5th and State will be open - make sure you stop by Primo Tailoring, Glass Growers Gallery, and The Dollhouse at Pointe Four Vintage while you wait for the music!



Sponsored by:



GALLERY NIGHT



June 17th

Gallery Night is a city-wide celebration of art. Businesses, local galleries and venues stay open late with some hosting their own events. Shop, eat, listen to music, and spend time with friends and family while visiting as many local galleries as you can. There's no better way to get a feel for Erie's art and culture scene.

Stop by the Erie Art Museum on June 17th for The Groove band playing from 7-10 pm!

More information at:

ErieArtMuseum.org/gallery-night

Sponsored by:



SECOND SUNDAYS



Explore creativity, new mediums, and artistic process with your loved ones each Second Sunday of the month from 2-4pm. Admission is pay-what-you-wish.

Summer Second Sundays:
June 12th, July 10th, and August 14th.

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

Sponsored by:



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/videos](https://erieartmuseum.org/videos)

Support provided by:

Art Bridges



celebrate erie

Celebrate Erie is a three-day festival designed to bring us all together for a regional showcase of all things Erie. The Erie Art Museum will be open on **Friday, August 19th** and **Sunday, August 21st** and admission will be pay-what-you-wish. Stop in for a break from the August sun and enjoy our exhibitions.

STUDENT TOURS



Student tours at the Erie Art Museum build on youth's natural curiosity and Pennsylvania state education standards. 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 at jamie@erieartmuseum.org or call the Museum at 814-459-5477.

ERIE GIVES DAY



Make your plan to give, Erie Gives Day will be here on **August 9th!** Check donation forms will become available on **June 20th.** Look for an email from us with ways to support the Museum.

Questions? Contact Averie at averie@erieartmuseum.org.

EXHIBITIONS

June/July/August

CONNECTING WITH THE COLLECTION: PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS



Unknown artist, Untitled photograph, Gelatin silver print, 1903

This exhibition includes a selection of fifty photographs from the EAM collection that spans the history of photography as a form of art. Guest curated by Pittsburgh documentary photographer, Brian Cohen.

On view through March 26th, 2023.

“OLE’ SAY CAN WE SEE?” SCULPTURES AND PRINTS BY GARRY R. BIBBS



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

In *Ole’ Say Can We See?* Professor Garry R. Bibbs addresses social and political ideas, issues, and occurrences in our past and current American society. Bibbs often works using direct metal fabrication, welding various types of metals, and forms the parts into sculptures for the wall, pedestal, and floor.

On view July 21st, 2022, through February 12th, 2023.

ERIE ART COMPANY & NOODLEFISH PRESENT: NARCISSUS



Look into the shattered mirror of the modern media landscape and experience *Narcissus*, an interactive installation that invites you to peer into the reflecting pool.

On view through September 2022.

Be sure to tag [@theerieartmuseum](#) and [@noodlefishproductions](#) in your selfies!



This summer, the Erie Art Museum will present work from selected artists who participated in the Chautauqua School of Art residency program in Chautauqua, New York. This prestigious residency program presents the most contemporary artists, whose practices involve various media such as video, ceramics, fiber works, drawing, painting and more.

On view August 19th through January 2023.

OUT OF MANY – STORIES OF MIGRATION



Lynn Johnson

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 features the faces and experiences of multiple generations of migrants and immigrants through the use of original, contemporary photography and essays.

On view through April 30th, 2023.

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.

THE SECRET LIFE OF COWS



Paula Garrick Klein, *Lucy*, Oil on Canvas

Step out of the doldrums of the city, and into the pastoral beauty of *The Secret Life of Cows*. In this exhibition, Paula Garrick Klein captures the spirit and tranquil majesty of our bovine friends from the last small beef cattle farm in Pittsburgh, PA.

On view until August 7th, 2022.

BÉATRICE LEBRETON – LIVING HER TRUTH



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

June 26th is your LAST CHANCE to see the work of Béatrice Lebreton at the EAM. With 5 different series of multimedia portraiture, *Living Her Truth: Transcending Boundaries* is the first retrospective of her work, 20 years in the making.

Closing June 26th, 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.

99TH ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

On view until August 5th, 2022

The Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show is an eclectic survey of the region's most interesting art. An annual exhibition, the Spring Show is open to any and all artists living, working or studying within 250 miles of the City of Erie, Pennsylvania.

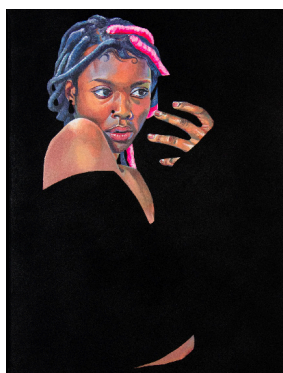
About the Juror: Jessica Hong is the new Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) where she is responsible for broadening art historical narratives and shaping a dynamic collection and exhibition program.

Artists of Distinction:

Selected by Jessica Hong, Juror



Daniel Burke,
Waiting the Return



Sarah Curry,
Kayla



Jaden Estes Carlson,
Guarded



Ryan Zimmerman,
Embrace



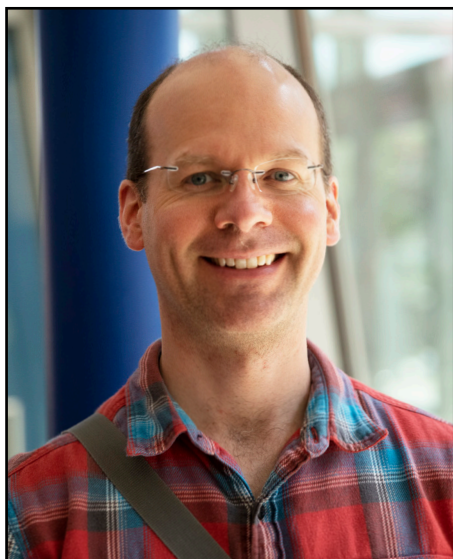
Brooke Ebeling,
Millennial Gothic

Northwestern Pennsylvania Art Association Award Winner:

Ron Bayuzick, *Krypto Kid*



Staff Spotlight: **James Pearson**, Preparator and Collections Manager



How long have you been with the Museum?

I've worked here about twelve years (not all of them consecutive) in a variety of different jobs, from assistant curator to frame shop manager. Currently I'm working both on exhibitions and collections.

What is your favorite part of your job?

We have a great group of people here, and working with them is really fun. Also getting to meet lots of different artists, who tend to be fascinating and creative people (as we know!) Seeing an exhibition go from the planning stages to being up in the gallery for people to see is really satisfying.

Is there anything in the collection that particularly interests you, or that you think will surprise people to know we have?

One thing that interests me is the original core of our collection, acquired before we became the Erie Art Museum. The members of the Erie Art Club put their money together to start an art collection. Some of the artists they collected are now in art history books, but back then they were

considered cutting edge and contemporary. That's taking a risk! I feel grateful to them for investing in the future. It also makes me wonder how our contemporary art will look 100 years from now.

What are you currently working on?

As I write this, we are putting the finishing touches on *Connecting with the Collection: Photographic Portraits*.

What is your favorite part of your job?

The biggest challenge is juggling such a wide variety of different projects, as we have to, being a relatively small museum. On the other hand, it's never boring!

HAVE YOUR EVENT AT EAM!

Photo by Jake Swan



The Erie Art Museum offers an alluring and fascinating space for private and corporate events. Our events staff is here to assist you in creating a memorable event from start to finish.

The Museum's Holstein Gallery is available for a 130 person seated event, or 250 person cocktail reception. We also host smaller, more intimate events such as bridal showers, board meetings, and staff retreats. Additional add-ons include usage of our outdoor patio, AV operation, and bar service.



Interested in renting the Museum for your special event? Email Event Coordinator Laura Flockerzi at laura.flockerzi@erieartmuseum.org.

BEHIND THE SCENES

WITH PROFESSOR GARRY R. BIBBS

Ole' Say Can WE See? is on view July 21st through February 12th, 2023.



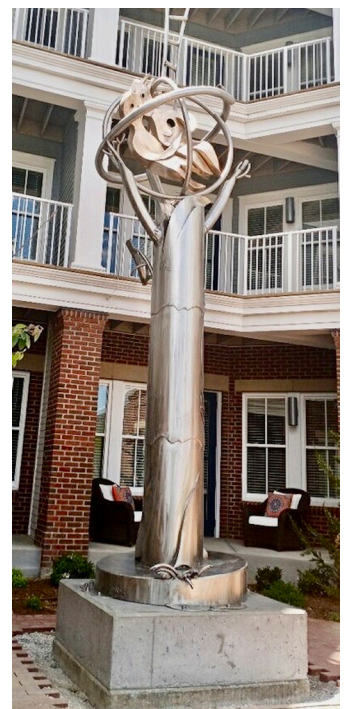
Garry R. Bibbs is larger than life. He has been the Head of Sculpture at University of Kentucky for over 32 years, is an ordained deacon at his church, Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist, and is a renowned sculptor with over 36 public works in cities across the country. He is best known for his work with direct metal fabrication, where he welds various types of metals, and forming the parts into sculptures for the wall, pedestal, and floor.

What originally made you gravitate towards being an artist?

As a child, I realized how sought after artistic talent was and how my teacher would make such a fuss over good artwork. That grabbed my interest, so I worked hard and became good at it. Then, I wanted to create art all the time. Next to wanting to be an NFL pro football player, it was my first love.

You've worked on a significant amount of public sculptures. Can you talk about that process?

Public art was introduced to me by my mentor, renowned Chicago sculptor, Richard Hunt. My first public artworks, *"Life Family and Good Health,"* were installed in 1992 at the University of Kentucky Clinic building in Lexington, KY. I have now produced over 36 public artworks. The process for producing a large outdoor sculpture, or public sculpture, is not as much about making the artwork, rather than meeting all the necessary criteria to be qualified, experienced, and creative enough to be commissioned to produce sculpture. Most commissioned sculptures send out a call for art, or a Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposal. Next, there is usually a prospectus that gives the artist a specific site location for the sculpture, scale limitations, a theme, a budget, and a deadline. After that, your proposal is reviewed by a committee, or organization, and, if selected as the finalist, then you are commissioned to create your sculpture proposal. Some sculptures can take



Common's Love Tree, stainless steel

years to produce, and like most building construction projects, they involve architects, building engineers, structural engineers, project managers, contractors, and crane operators. The artist must be able create their sculpture with the assistance of all these different specialists. I have been very fortunate to work with many art committees for city, state, corporate and private public art projects. The public art process is a very unique one, that can be extremely time consuming and very costly. However, when it is done right, it is very rewarding.



Rapper's Religion, monprint

Language plays an important role in your practice. Your exhibition is called "Ole' Say Can WE See?" What made you select that title for the exhibition?

I am working on a series of sculptural forms and print works that address the American flag. I use the American flag as a formal object to express the various situations based on its conditions and truths. The title, "Ole say can WE See?" asks us if we are seeing/aware of what's happening in America or are we closing our eyes to it all. Can we see or are we blind? Most of my art compositions are based around social, political, and personal subject matter. Being an African American male, my environment causes me to speak on race and justice, youth and social media, human control, and biblical truth. My art also addresses jazz and music, which is the only true American art form.

Do you have any advice for young artists?

First, be a dreamer, see beyond your realities and own it. Then, practice and be passionate about everything you create, especially all of your mistakes and what you may consider to be bad artworks. Be trained, learn many art skills, tools and materials, go to art school, or be part of various art community programs and workshops. Obtain necessary constructive criticism; listen and learn! Be productive, believe in yourself, WORK HARD and never, ever give up. Being an artist is a lifestyle, so make art your life and everything that comes with it.



Sharp Man in a Wrong Place, monprint

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
20 East 5th Street • Erie PA 16507
erieartmuseum.org

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Permit #44

Return Service Requested

On the Cover:

Durim Loshaj, *Scattered Dogwood and Berries*, Oil on Gessoboard
in 99th Annual Spring Show

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



Quarterly, a publication of the Erie Art Museum,
20 East 5th Street, Erie, PA 16507, is published four times a year.

Downtown Erie is experiencing exciting changes with new buildings and renovations!

With that comes construction zones, which will limit some
street and sidewalk access around the Museum. To help safely
navigate the downtown area we've created a guide to Museum
access, including the map below:

Erie Art Museum 2022 Parking & Construction Guide



- Legend
- Sidewalk Closed
 - Sidewalk Clear
 - Road Closed

Please note that this information is
subject to change. We will update
this guide as new information
becomes available to us.

See the full guide on our website at
[ErieArtMuseum.org/directions](https://erieartmuseum.org/directions).