

Current Museum Exhibitions in Wisconsin

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum (Wausau)

Birds in Art 2019

September 7 through December 1, 2019

Imaginations take flight, inspired by new breathtaking depictions of birds by some of the world's most talented artists who push themselves to new heights, striving to be selected for the internationally renowned Birds in Art exhibition. Majestic yet fragile, amusing, and poignant, birds connect us with the natural world, heralding each dawn and signaling environmental shifts. Savor artistic interpretations and discover anew what inspires you. The Museum's 2019 Master Artist is British colored-pencil artist Alan Woollett. The 44th annual exhibition features avian wonders through all-new interpretations in original paintings, sculptures, and graphics created within the last three years. Each fall, Birds in Art opening weekend festivities are part of Wausau's Artrageous Weekend.

Milwaukee Art Museum

Portrait of Milwaukee

September 6, 2019—March 1, 2020

Herzfeld Center for Photography and Media Arts

What made Milwaukee into the city it is today, and what does it mean to call oneself a Milwaukeean?

Portrait of Milwaukee reveals a deep connection between the city of Milwaukee and its residents. Photographs from the 1930s through the 2010s highlight some of the people, movements, businesses, and neighborhoods that have helped make Milwaukee what it is today. From small businesses to community churches, tannery workers to New Wave rockers, the subjects of the pictures in the exhibition show a midwestern city that is just as dynamic and diverse as the people who call it home.

Photographs in the exhibition are drawn from the Museum's collection, as well as from local collections that are rarely on public view.

Overture Center for the Arts (Madison)

Ho-Chunk Art: Sharing our Sacred Voice through our Art

November 1, 2019- January 5, 2020

Playhouse Gallery Reception

The original peoples of the Madison area are the Ho-Chunk. In English Ho-Chunk translates to People of the Sacred Voice. Despite the arduous times faced by the Ho-Chunk, their culture and creativity has endured. While there is no word for art in the Ho-Chunk language, there are words that describe beauty and goodness. These qualities will fill the space of the Playhouse Gallery. Contemporary mixed media art will be juxtaposed with traditional Ho-Chunk art forms that blend natural materials obtained through local foraging and harvest and paired with commercial art products that reflect our adaptive lifeways. Fourteen Ho-Chunk artists from Wisconsin and

beyond will provide a broad perspective of the values and traditions of their heritage. In respect of tribal elders and creative trailblazers, the art of long-time Madison residents Truman Lowe (1944 – 2019) and Harry Whitehorse (1927 – 2017) will highlight this exhibit. The contributions made by these elders have inspired countless contemporary Ho-Chunk artists to continue our legacy of preserving our culture through the arts.

Chazen Museum of Art

Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials

September 13, 2019- January 5, 2019

Pleasant T. Rowland Galleries

Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials features contemporary artwork investigating the complex cultural and material nexus that is “Plastic.” Organized around the curatorial concept of entanglement – which describes the literal entanglements of animals and plastic detritus as well as the plasticity of global networks – the exhibition assembles artistic investigations of humanity’s reliance on a material that is at once ubiquitous and, for that reason, virtually invisible. Featuring an international array of emerging and mid-career artists, Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials argues that plastic globally entangles categories of the aesthetic, the ethical, the material, the technological, and the critical.

John Michael Kohler Arts Center (Sheboygan)

Dr. Charles Smith: Aurora

July 14, 2019- May 17, 2020

Dr. Smith made hundreds of figural sculptures memorializing historical figures, community members, and celebrities, and depicting the tragedies and triumphs of the African American experience. The Arts Center’s collection of more than 150 works by Dr. Charles Smith (b. 1940) is one of thirty-eight collections of artist-built environments that will go to the Art Preserve, now under construction in Sheboygan, Wis., and set to open in August 2020. The Art Preserve is designed to be a research hub and a platform for collaborative exploratory programming. It will be a dynamic site of discussions, interdisciplinary investigations, and workshops dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and the presentation of artist-built environments.

Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass (Neenah)

Wisconsin Ideas, Global Influences

October 10, 2019 – February 22, 2020

This exhibition focuses on the wide-reaching impact Wisconsin glass artists have had on shaping the global landscape of contemporary studio glass during the past 70 years. Exploring the many qualities of the medium, these artists have developed meaningful, lasting works for new generations of audiences and collectors.

The exhibit includes the work of artists Eoin Breadon, Beth Lipman, Chuck Savoie, Deanna Clayton, Keith Clayton, Stephanie Trenchard, Michael Meilahn, Wes and Wesley Hunting, John Littleton and Kate Vogel, Kristin Thielking and Lisa Beth Robinson, Jeffrey Stenbom, Lisa Koch, David Huchthausen, Kent Ipsen, Harvey Littleton, Audrey Handler, Marvin Lipofsky and Doug Johnson.

Racine Art Museum (RAM)

It's Like Poetry: Building a Toshiko Takaezu Archive at RAM

August 2, 2019 - July 26, 2020

Windows on Fifth Gallery

RAM's archive now numbers over 30 works, including Toshiko Takaezu's (1922-2011) most expansive grouping, the installation comprised of 14 "human-sized" forms, the Star Series. Significantly, the museum's holdings span the range of Takaezu's working career—with a double-spouted pot from the 1950s being the earliest and the Star Series (1999-2000) being the latest. There are also drawings and prints—works with forms that echo the shapes of Takaezu's three-dimensional pieces while also reflecting her sensitivity to shape and color. This exhibition features small bowls, toasting goblets, platters, two-foot high closed pieces, and large spheres created over several decades of the artist's career, which is on view in the unique, street-facing gallery space.

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art (MMoCA)

Wisconsin Triennial

October 19, 2019- February 16, 2020

A signature survey of contemporary art statewide, MMoCA's Wisconsin Triennial is a cornerstone of curatorial programming. The 2019 Wisconsin Triennial will feature 34 individual artists and collectives working in painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, video, photography, performance, and sound—a broad array of mediums that reflects the diversity of approaches artists undertake in their explorations of process and content. The Wisconsin Triennial simultaneously takes the pulse of the current artistic moment, both highlighting the latest developments in artistic practice and honoring timeless themes that remain relevant for artists working today.

Lynden Sculpture Garden (Milwaukee)

Rosemary Ollison: Prosperity in a Million Scraps

August 11, 2019 - December 8, 2019

Rosemary Ollison has transformed each of her apartments into an artist environment, deploying layers of pattern, duct tape sculptures, curtains of woven leather, crazy quilts, and inventive drawings. At Lynden she creates an immersive environment within the former home of Harry and Peg Bradley. Spreading beyond the gallery, where a nineteen-foot leather quilt will hang, Ollison will transform Lynden's dining room, preparing it for an imaginary dinner party. Ollison is a 77-year-old self-taught artist and 2018 Nohl Fellow in the Emerging category. At 16, Ollison moved to the Midwest from an Arkansas plantation, and she began making art in 1994 while healing from an abusive marriage. She collects glass, leather, bracelets, beads, bones, and jewelry from thrift shops and rummage sales and repurposes these materials into sculptural and wearable works.

Cedarburg Cultural Center

The Art of Sandra Pape

October 18, 2019 – December 1, 2019

Sandra Pape is an expressionist painter and mixed media artist. Being a self-taught artist she works without restrictions and chance is a positive force for her. Images of women and children are often a reoccurring theme for her.

Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum (Milwaukee)

Jeffrey Clancy: Measured Misalignments

October 17, 2019 – January 26, 2020

Developing the story of the Smith Family at the Villa Terrace is one of our primary curatorial goals at the museum. UW-Madison professor of Art in Metalsmithing and Jewelry, Jeffrey Clancy, delves into this effort by examining the Villa Terrace – both objectively and anecdotally – by re-telling its stories in a way that combines facts with the artist's idiosyncratic observations and imagined likely possibilities. His sculptures and installations reveal inherent truths about historical understanding – that the many holes in our knowledge of history are often filled with conjecture and guesswork to build a more complete picture. When you remove these fabricated elements, you are left with a surprisingly spare portrait of the past.

Cedarburg Art Museum

Whimsical Houses of Ron Corlyn

October 2, 2019 - January 12, 2020

In "The Whimsical Houses of Ron Corlyn," over a dozen illustrations and three 3-D models of the towering and teetering houses that grew from Corlyn's imagination are on display. In his early career as a visual artist, Corlyn drew perfectly ordinary Victorian houses until the mid-1970s when he ventured into the realm of his imagination and started drawing "ridiculous pictures of ridiculous houses." These houses that he deemed architectural jokes are exhibited beside matching 3-D models that borrow skills from his earlier hobby of model railroading. Ron Corlyn is a Milwaukee native and award-winning artist-photographer-author with an impressive background in the arts. He leapt into the world of sculpture and painting while studying at the Layton School of Art in Milwaukee and then at the University of Wisconsin where he graduated in 1955. Throughout his career, Corlyn worked as a professional photographer and has self-published various children's books. Complimenting his artwork, one of Corlyn's children's books, "The House That Grew," will be available for purchase throughout the duration of the exhibition.