

Insight

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Director's Message	11	Fall 2026 Exhibition Preview	22	Friends of the Beach Museum of Art
3	Virtual Offerings #BEACHMUSEUMFROMHOME	12	Sponsor Spotlight	23	Thank You to Our Sponsors
4	Exhibitions	13	Donor Impact	24	Staff Spotlight
8	Calendar	14	Two Special Ways to Support Your Art Museum in Its 30 th Year!	26	Advisory Council
10	Education	15	Kudos and Updates	27	Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Membership Committee

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

As the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art celebrates its 30th year, I am reminded that our story has always been one of friendship — one that has endured through the decades and continues to grow. At the heart of this enduring support are the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art. Their name says it all. The care and compassion they bring to the museum reflect the truest sense of friendship — steady, generous and rooted in shared purpose.

This spring, I encourage you to visit two outstanding exhibitions that reflect the spirit of Kansas and the communities that define it. The inaugural *Kansas Triennial* continues to draw visitors from across the state, inspiring awe and pride in the art of our time. *Rural America*, curated by Liz Seaton, in our Wefald Gallery will soon enter its second iteration with a rotation of works, offering a fresh reflection of life in small communities in the Midwest and other areas of the country. I am very proud of how these two exhibitions inform each other and work in harmony. Together, they underscore the museum's ongoing commitment to exhibit, preserve and interpret the art and ideas that shape our region.

Milestones like these remind us that the museum's strength lies not only in its exhibitions, but in the people who bring them to life. I would like to recognize two members of our museum family who are making significant transitions. Curator Aileen June Wang has shifted to part-time as she balances family responsibilities in the Philippines and prepares a major exhibition opening this fall. Following the opening of that exhibition, Aileen will be stepping down from her role. We will miss her deeply. Be sure to read her feature story on pages 24-25. Longtime educator Kim Richards has also announced her retirement this May, marking the beginning of a new chapter

alongside her recently retired spouse. Kim's contributions to our educational programs — especially her outreach with Meadowlark and the Manhattan Senior Center — have been extraordinary, leaving a lasting impact on so many lives. Read more about Kim on page 17.

Last October's Beach Ball once again reminded us that art is a joyful connector, bringing new friends through our doors in unforgettable "fashions." As we look ahead to the next 30 years, we are grateful for every friend who helps keep our doors open and admission free for all. We warmly invite you to join us as a Friend of the Beach Museum of Art and continue this legacy of friendship, art and open doors for everyone.

— **Kent Michael Smith**, Director

TO THE STARS THROUGH ART

A HISTORY OF ART COLLECTING IN KANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS 1900–1950

Sections Credits

Teacher Resources Public Programs

School Districts

Search

MARIANNA KESTLER BEACH MUSEUM OF ART MKBMA.org



Screen capture of the *To the Stars Through Art* virtual exhibition.

VIRTUAL OFFERINGS #BEACHMUSEUMFROMHOME

Enjoy our interactive tools and platforms for adults, children, and families. For a frequently updated guide to these online resources, visit beach.k-state.edu/explore

Virtual exhibitions

- *Return to Prairie: Textiles for Green Burial Awareness*
- *To the Stars Through Art: A History of Art Collecting in Kansas Public Schools, 1900–1950*
- *Do You See What I See?*
- *Voices: Women Artists in the Era of Second Wave Feminism*
- *Salt Air*
- *Gordon Parks: “Homeward to the Prairie I Come”*
- *Doug Barrett: Find Your Voice*
- *Sunrise Over Kansas: John Steuart Curry*
- *Two by Two: Animal Pairs*
- *Waylande Gregory: Art Deco Ceramics and the Atomic Impulse*

eMuseum

Explore the museum’s art collection of over 12,000 objects for research or enjoyment with the online collection search tool. Visit beach.k-state.edu/explore.

BMA YouTube channel

Check out the latest video of the recorded program “Trees in the Grasslands: Three Perspectives.” A conversation about tree planting campaigns on the prairie and their impacts with Dana Fritz, Hixson-Lied Professor of Art at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln; Jesse Nippert, Kansas State University distinguished professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences; and Carson Vaughan, author and freelance environmental reporter. This livestream program was offered in conjunction with the exhibition *Field Guide to a Hybrid Landscape: Dana Fritz*.

To subscribe to our channel, find us at youtube.com/@beachmuseum. Explore videos of art, artist interviews and special

programs, including the museum’s virtual series “Let’s Talk Art,” “Art Bytes,” “Hear What I’m Seeing?” and more!

Educational resources

Resources are available for schools, early childhood programs, social service organizations and homeschool groups. Visit beach.k-state.edu/participate/educational-resources.

Social media

Stay connected with the latest developments in regional art and artists through engaging posts on our social media channels. Discover exciting museum activities and share your experience with us by tagging the museum!

- [beachmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/beachmuseum)
- [BeachMuseumofArt](https://www.facebook.com/BeachMuseumofArt)
- [@beachmuseum](https://www.youtube.com/@beachmuseum)

Staff

- Kent Michael Smith, *Director*
- Kim Belanger, *Head of Museum Education and Outreach*
- Luke Dempsey, *Exhibition Designer and Museum Technology Lead*
- Jennifer Harlan, *Programs and Events Specialist*
- Emma Kellogg, *Gallery Teacher and Visitor Studies Specialist*

- Theresa Marie Ketterer, *Registrar and Collections Specialist*
- Robin Lonborg, *Deputy Director*
- Nate McClendon, *Museum Outreach Specialist*
- Jui Mhatre, *Communications and Marketing Specialist*
- Sarah Price, *Registrar and Collections Manager*

- Kim Richards, *Education Specialist*
- Elizabeth Seaton, Ph.D, *Curator*
- Benjamin Shubert, *Security Officer*
- James Taylor, *Gallery Preparator and Building Systems Lead*
- Aileen June Wang, Ph.D, *Curator*

EXHIBITIONS

Kansas Triennial 25/26

Marion Pelton and Archie & Dorothy Hyle Family Galleries Aug. 5, 2025–May 31, 2026

Kansas Triennial 25/26 inaugurates a recurring platform for contemporary artists shaping the cultural landscape of Kansas. Featuring Mona Cliff, Mark Cowardin, Poppy DeltaDawn and Ann Resnick, the exhibition offers a snapshot of artistic practice in Kansas today, rooted in inquiry, experimentation and lived experience. These artists engage with materials and processes that reveal distinct ways of seeing and interpreting the world from Kansas outward. Through the exhibition, the museum affirms its role as the state's steward of visual art and as a catalyst for dialogue around what it means to make and sustain art in Kansas.

Major Sponsors: Friends of the Beach Museum of Art, Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's Lincoln & Dorothy Deihl Community Grants Program, and The Weary Family Foundation
Contributing Sponsors: Dick and Gloria Anderson, Mike & Dee Michaelis
Media Sponsor: KANSAS! Magazine

Related events

Artist Talk: Poppy DeltaDawn
5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12

Artist Talk: Mona Cliff
5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2

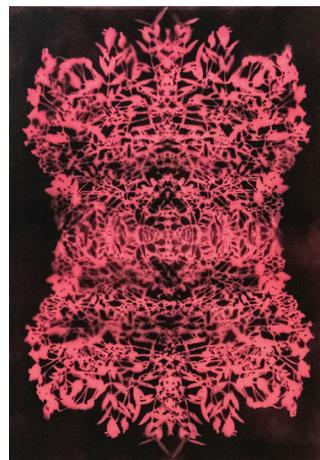
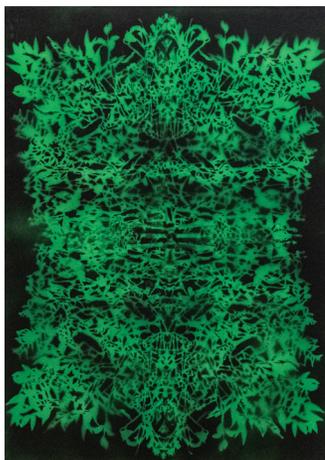


Mona Cliff, You Can't See the Wind
2025, seed beads, bugle beads, beeswax (copal, pine rosin, petroleum jelly), thread, resin, glue, and canvas. Courtesy of the artist

A view of the Kansas Triennial 25/26 exhibition

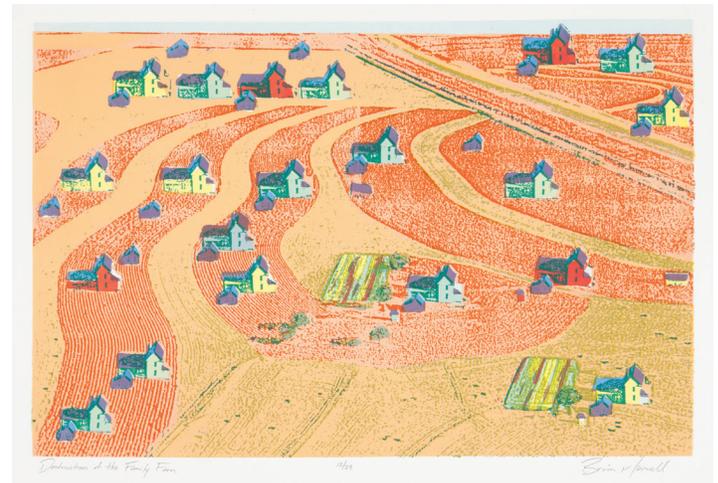


Poppy DeltaDawn, Woven
2025, baskets, cedar, textile. Courtesy of the artist



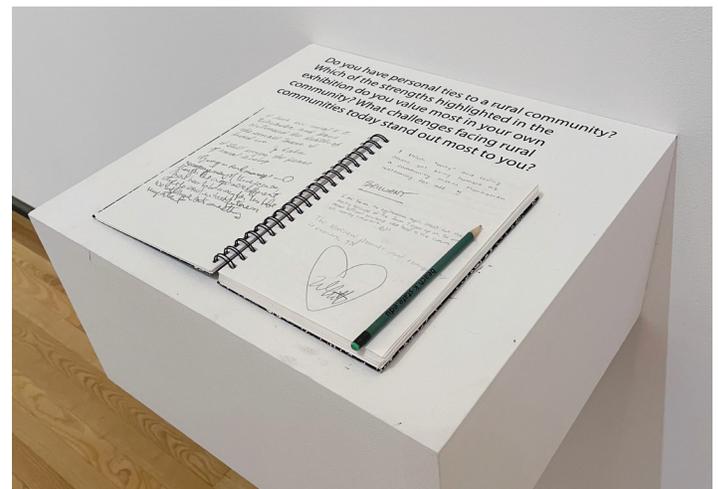
Ann Resnick, Untitled 1-3
2024, spray paint on mylar. Courtesy of the artist

Brian Maxwell, *Destruction of the Family Farm*
late 20th century, screenprint,
12 7/16 x 18 15/16 in., 2004.137



Related events

Hungry Heartland: Stories of Resilience
Conversation with K-State Faculty and Students in Art, Media and Communications, and Social Transformation Studies
5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, April 16



Many viewers have shared their thoughts about rural living in the exhibition's interactive station. We would love to hear from you!

Rural America

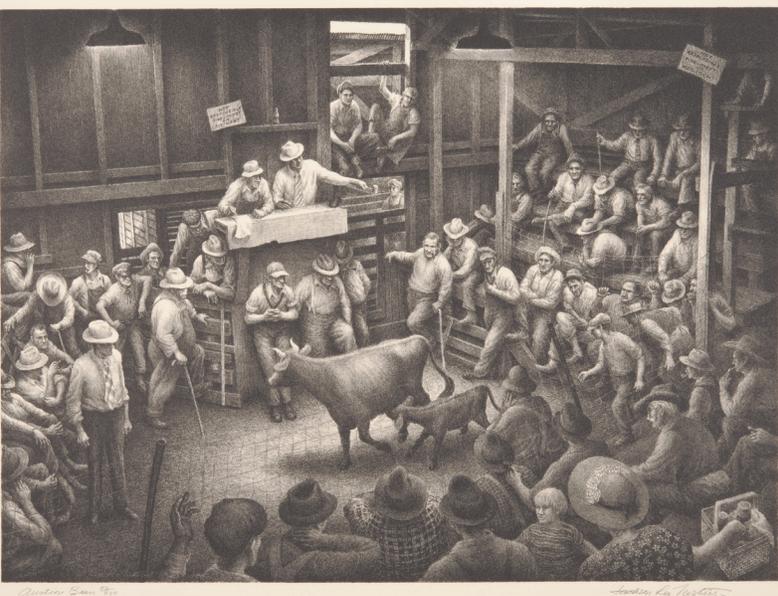
Ruth Ann Wefald Gallery
Sept. 2, 2025–Sept. 26, 2026

Rural communities across America face unique hardships, such as limited access to healthcare, education, and broadband services. Yet they also possess strengths, such as close-knit social networks, natural resources, and cultural traditions that contribute to their resilience and character.

The artworks in this exhibition highlight the challenges rural communities have faced and the unique qualities that have sustained them. The works offer a lens through which to consider the struggles and assets of today's rural communities. Artists explore themes such as the decline of small farms, grocery store closures, and the fading of local journalism. These are balanced by depictions of rural vitality such as tourism, community events, and faith institutions.

The exhibition will be in two parts, aligning with the fall and spring semesters of the 2025-2026 academic year. New works for spring include *Destruction of the Family Farm* by Brian Maxwell; *Winchester, Kansas, Tornado* by John Stuart Curry; and *Miller Ranch School House* by Gordon Parks.

Major Sponsor: Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's Lincoln & Dorothy Deihl Community Grants Program
Sustaining Sponsors: Dan and Beth Bird
Contributing Sponsor: The Beach-Edwards Family Foundation



Jackson Lee Nesbitt, *Auction Barn*, 1989, lithograph
12 5/8 x 17 1/8 in., gift of John, Susan, and Johnny Watt,
in memory of Sarah Katherine Watt, 2012.138

STE[A]M: Exploring Science and Math through Art

Donna Lindsay Vanier Gallery

This exhibition celebrates the value of integrating the arts into traditional STEM education. Presented as part of the museum's *STE[A]M* tours, this exhibition is designed to help elementary and middle school students explore scientific and mathematical concepts, such as the behavior of light and recurring patterns, through creative visual experiences. By placing these concepts in an artistic context, *STE[A]M*

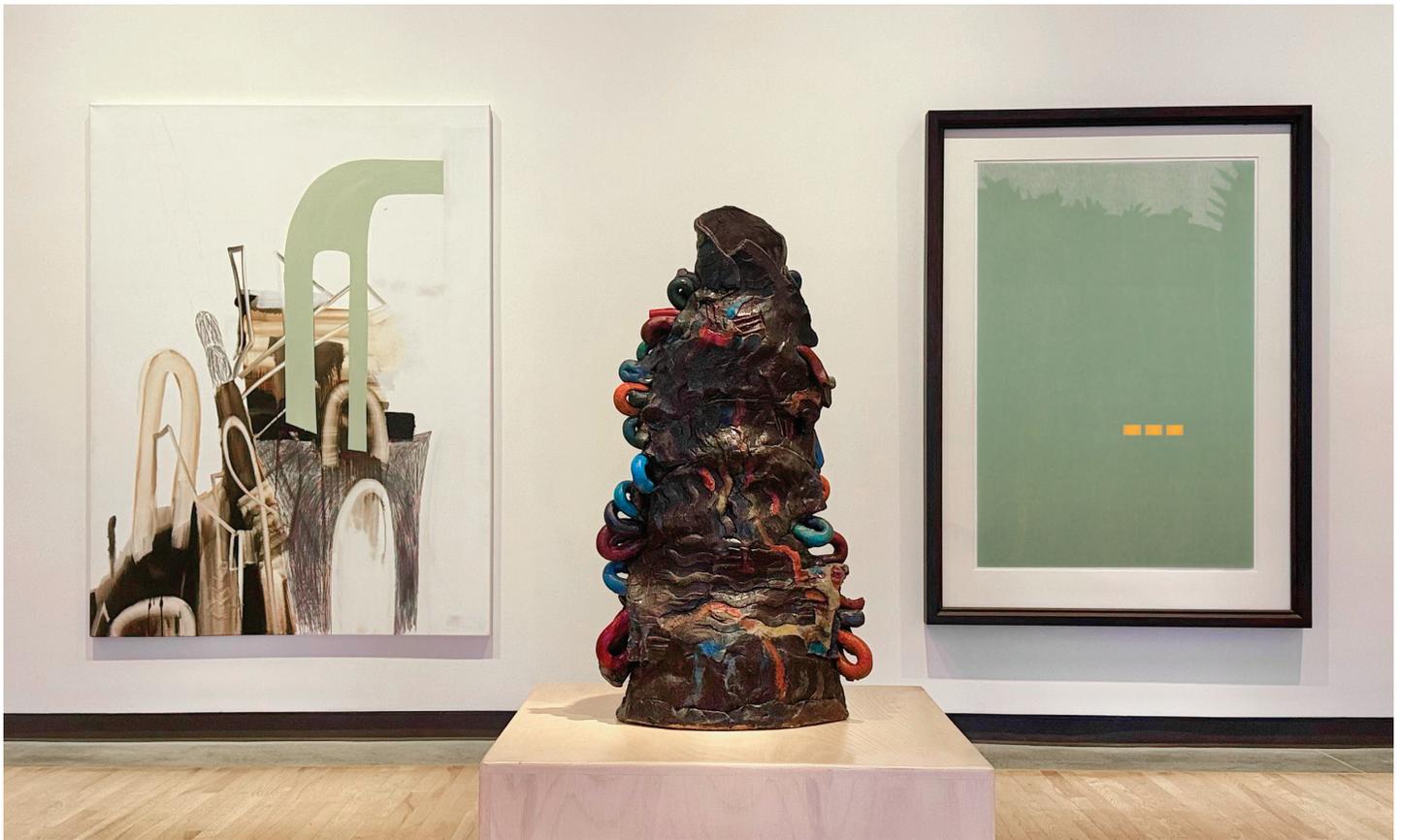
encourages curiosity, imagination and critical thinking. The exhibition demonstrates how science, technology, engineering and math come to life through art, transforming abstract ideas into tangible, engaging forms.

Major Sponsors: **Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's Lincoln & Dorothy I. Deihl Community Grants Program**



A view of the *STE[A]M* exhibition >

✓ A view of the Mary Holton Seaton Gallery West



Collection Galleries Spring 2026 Installation

The museum's collection galleries continue to evolve, offering new ways to experience art from historical to contemporary. In the Seaton Gallery, recent installations highlight the expressive power of abstraction and the many ways artists connect lived experience, culture, and identity through image-making. The Helm and Hempler Galleries explore the relationships between people, land and the prairie environment, revealing how place continues to shape artistic vision.



Kim Casebeer, *Fall Crescendo*, 2025, oil on linen mounted on board, 44 x 48 in., gift of Carl and Mary Ice, 2025.203



CALENDAR

Guest Artists and Speakers



Valerie Padilla Carroll



Photo by Taylor Mah

Mona Cliff



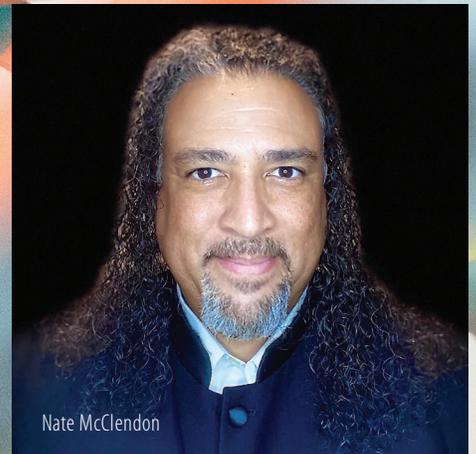
Poppy DeltaDawn



Tom Hallaq



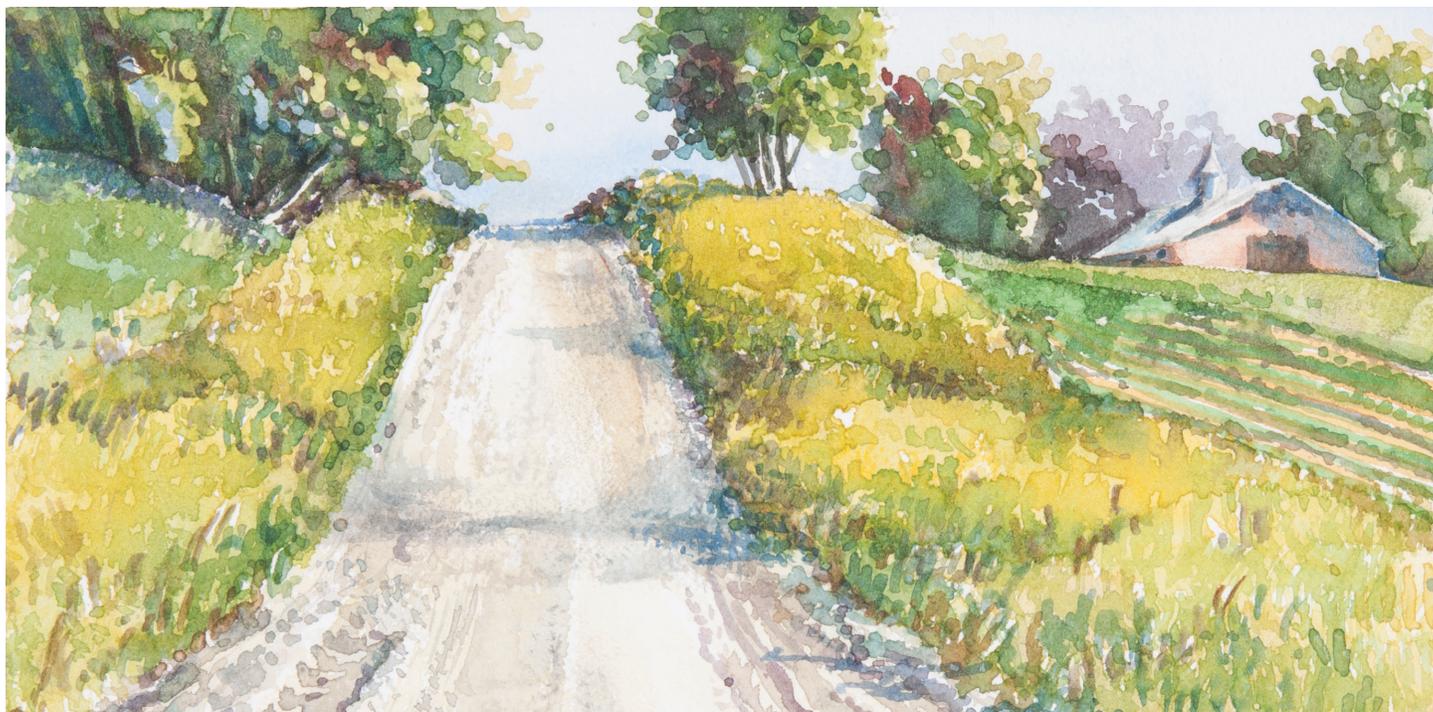
Shreepad Joglekar



Nate McClendon

Alan Shields, *Kansas Meatball*, 1985–1998, acrylic on canvas over aluminum tubing, bolts and nuts, and cotton thread, 115 x 130 in., Alan Shields Memorial Fund, Ross and Marianna Kistler Beach Endowment, and gift from the Estate of William Salero, 2007.111

✓ Ralph Fontenot, *Up Hill* (detail), 2010, watercolor on paper, 3 x 5 in., gift of Richard D. Olson Estate, 2014.465



Programs and Events | Spring 2026

All events, which are free and open to the public, will be held in the museum's UMB Theater and/or virtually. More details and links to join virtual events at beach.k-state.edu/calendar. For in-person events requiring preregistration, call 785-532-7718 or email beachart@k-state.edu.

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4

Student Strings Recital

Informal performance featuring K-State graduate and undergraduate string musicians.

1-3 p.m. Friday, Feb. 6

No School Makerspace: Valentine's Workshop

\$10 supply fee per participant, half price for military families and BMA Friends members. Cash or check accepted. Registration required.

February 3-14

SweetART Contest

Vote during open hours for your favorite artwork by placing a heart beneath it.

February 9-13, during museum open hours

USD 383 Early Expressions Student Art Exhibition

Public reception, 1-3 p.m. Feb. 14

5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19

Gathering of Friends

Private donor event

5:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26

Double Take: Gallery Tour of Select Artworks

5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12

Artist Talk: Poppy DeltaDawn

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 25

Student Strings Recital

Informal performance featuring K-State graduate and undergraduate string musicians.

5:30-6 p.m. Thursday, March 26

Double Take: Gallery Tour of Select Artworks

5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2

Artist Talk: Mona Cliff

5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, April 16

Hungry Heartland: Stories of Resilience

Conversation with K-State Faculty and Students in Art, Media and Communications, and Social Transformation Studies

9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, April 18

K-State Open House

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 22

Student Strings Recital

Informal performance featuring K-State graduate and undergraduate string musicians.

5:30-6 p.m. Thursday, April 23

Double Take: Gallery Tour of Select Artworks

5-7 p.m. Thursday, May 7

Beach Museum of Art Friends Members Annual Reception

Become a Friend today to receive an invitation, visit beach.k-state.edu/friends

1-3 p.m. Saturday, May 16

Cyanotype Workshop: Sun-printed Photograms

Ages 16+, \$15 per participant, half price for military families and BMA Friends members. Cash, check, or credit cards accepted. Registration required.

EDUCATION

ARTSmart Thursdays

Youth art classes at the museum connect gallery exploration activities with an art-making project in the classroom. Cost \$5 per child. Class schedules are as follows:

Homeschool ARTSmart (grades K-5): 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays

Pre-K ARTSmart (ages 2-5): 10-11 a.m. Thursdays

Elementary ARTSmart (grades K-5): 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursdays

February 2-6: Paper Destruction inspired by the work of Ann Resnick

March 2-6: STE[A]M Inventors' Workshop

April 6-10: Beadwork & Beeswax inspired by the work of Mona Cliff

May 4-8: Printing with Light — Photographs & Cyanotypes

Artist Workshops for Adults

Learn from local artists!

1-3 p.m., ages 16+ welcome. Cost \$15 per person, reservations required.

January 24: Zine Workshop — Self-Published Mini Magazines

May 16: Cyanotype Workshop — Sun-Printed Photograms

No School Valentines Makerspace

1-3 p.m. February 6

Create artful valentines for your friends or family! The workshop is for all ages. Fee of \$10 per person covers supplies to make five Valentine's cards. Reservations required.

Friends of the Beach Museum of Art members and Blue Star/Military Families* receive 50% off fees for classes. Payment can be made with cash or check. Please reserve your spot by emailing bmaeducation@k-state.edu or calling 785-532-7718.

*In conjunction with the Blue Star Museum program

Join Friends of the Beach Museum of Art at beach.k-state.edu/friends.

Pre-K ARTSmart students practice mark-making with sumi ink and other materials.



Always open: The Exploration Station located next to the Pelton Gallery, features books, activities and art projects related to current exhibitions.

Virtual resources for families and teachers

Curricula and resources. Visit

beach.k-state.edu/participate/educational-resources

Beach Buddies Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/bmabuddies



Head of Education and Outreach Kim Belanger teaches young artists about color through the work *Still Water* by Sven Birger Sandzén.



FALL 2026 EXHIBITION PREVIEW



Norman Akers ᏍᏏᏏᏏ (Wahzhazhe/Osage Nation)
Seeing Through the Myth, 2025, oil on canvas,
50 x 46 1/2 in., collection of the artist

Home/Land: Wahzhazhe Artists Speak

August 18, 2026–July 23, 2027

Inner Terrains: Scott Anderson

November 10, 2026–September 11, 2027

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: BRIAN AND AARON STINSON

The Beach Museum of Art is proud to recognize Brian and Aaron Stinson for their generous support and active involvement with the museum. As dedicated members of the *Friends of the Beach Museum of Art* committee, the Stinsons bring energy, insight, and a shared belief in the power of the arts to strengthen our community.

For the past two years, Brian and Aaron, both proud K-State alumni, have been underwriters of the annual Beach Ball fundraiser, helping make the event a highlight of Manhattan's social calendar. Their support, and their knack for arriving in unforgettable costumes, bring joy and personality to this beloved celebration. Beyond the museum, Aaron serves as an elementary special education teacher, and Brian is a principal software engineer at Red Hat, an open-source software company. They are steadfast champions of the arts in Manhattan, showing up, lending support and celebrating what makes this community vibrant.

"Brian and Aaron make it possible for the museum to connect people through art," said Kent Michael Smith, director. "Their belief in what art can do for Manhattan is at the heart of everything we strive for."



Brian and Aaron Stinson



>
Yoshiro Ikeda, title unknown
late 20th century, 17 x 17 1/2 x 6 in.,
gift of Jim, Angele, Luke, & Julia Johnson
in memory of Jeaneane Berryhill
Johnson, 2004.241

DONOR IMPACT: DICK AND GLORIA DELICH ANDERSON

Dick and Gloria first met in high school, and in the years since, two steady commitments have carried forward: a devotion to each other and a deep connection to K-State. They married in August 1966 at the start of their senior year at K-State—marking a new chapter in a partnership grounded in curiosity, generosity, and a shared appreciation for the arts. Now residents of Lake Quivira near Kansas City, the Andersons have built one of the most impressive collections of contemporary art in the region. Their passion for supporting artists and institutions alike is evident through their service on several Kansas City arts-related boards, including the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art.

The Andersons are active members of the Director’s Circle at the Beach Museum of Art and the museum’s acquisition committee, and most recently served as sponsors of the inaugural Kansas Triennial exhibition. They have also donated significant works from their personal collection to the museum, enriching its holdings and deepening its connection to contemporary art in Kansas and beyond.

“I’ve been very fortunate to have known Dick and Gloria for more than twenty years,” said Director Kent Michael Smith. “Their discerning eye for art is matched only by their warmth and generosity — qualities that reflect their K-State roots and their enduring belief that art strengthens communities and connects us to one another. We’re deeply grateful for their support, and for the enduring impact it will have at K-State.”



Dick and Gloria Delich Anderson

✓ Andrzej M. Zielinski, *Pink Paper Shredder* (detail), 2007, opaque watercolor, ink, acrylic, and graphite, 22 x 30 in., gift of Richard and Gloria Delilah Anderson, 2017.578



TWO SPECIAL WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR ART MUSEUM IN ITS 30TH YEAR!

For three decades, the Beach Museum of Art has been Manhattan's free-for-all art museum and the only major museum devoted to the art of Kansas and our region. As we celebrate this milestone, we've set a fundraising goal of \$300,000. Every gift, no matter the amount, helps us maintain free admission, develop new exhibitions and programs, and connect art with people across our campus and community. We hope you will consider donating to the museum during our anniversary year, including during two local fundraising events in April. With your support, we can sustain a museum that belongs to everyone for the next 30 years and beyond.

K-State Day of Giving, April 8, 2026: A 24-hour university-wide virtual fundraiser.

The museum complements the teaching, research and service missions of K-State by collecting, studying, caring for and presenting the visual art of Kansas and the region. Our exhibitions and programs integrate art with fields such as science, technology, engineering, mathematics, agriculture and the humanities, offering students and faculty new ways to think, create and problem-solve. Your gift can make a significant impact in helping the museum continue to serve the campus in exciting and useful ways. Visit k-state.edu/day-of-giving.



Grow Green Match Day, April 22, 2026: A fundraiser organized by the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF).

On this day, GMCF will match donations made to participating non-profit organizations, including the Beach Museum of Art. We are one of only five art museums in the state of Kansas accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. With your support, we can continue to bring world-class art experiences and culture to Manhattan and Kansas through important educational and outreach programs, including artist talks, interactive gallery tours, performances, all-ages friendly classes and workshops, and more. Visit GrowGreenManhattan.com for information on giving online and in person.

We are sincerely grateful for your support.



Man Ray, title unknown (detail), 1971, lithograph, 17 1/2 x 12 5/8 in., gift of Kathleen Kulp Hill (1957) and Randall Dale Kulp (1987) in memory of Thomas Lean Hill, 2005.325



KUDOS AND UPDATES

Something new is coming!

Furniture Redesign

This spring, the museum is partnering with K-State's renowned College of Architecture, Planning & Design on a furniture design initiative that invites advanced students to rethink how several key public areas of the museum function and feel. Their semester-long work will explore new possibilities for lobby seating, café areas, the children's exploration station and improved display elements to support an expanded retail platform. Through site visits, stakeholder conversations, and iterative design reviews, the students will help us envision welcoming and thoughtful spaces that better support and inspire our guests as we approach the museum's 30th anniversary celebrations.

✓ The Meadow (located just north of the museum) features custom-designed and fabricated furniture made in collaboration with students of the K-State College of Architecture, Planning and Design.

Art in the Heartland

The museum is excited to launch a new short-form podcast series *Art in the Heartland*, beginning in spring 2026. The series, created and hosted by Manhattan's own Clive Fullagar, is designed to deepen engagement with works from the museum's collection and current exhibitions. Each brief, welcoming episode will spotlight individual artworks and the ideas behind them, occasionally drawing on conversations with museum staff, artists and others whose perspectives enrich the stories we share. Select episodes may include companion images or optional QR-code access to support on-site listening. This project opens a fresh avenue for sharing the voices, histories and insights that shape the museum's work on campus, in our community and beyond.



Clive Fullagar

Look for more updates about these and other exciting projects!



Education and Outreach

Artful collaborations with K-State educators strengthen partnerships across our campus and community. In fall 2025 the museum hosted an event for area social services non-profit, Thrive! Flint Hills. Families toured the *Kansas Triennial 25/26* exhibition and created collages of monsters that might live in artist Poppy DeltaDawn's forest-like installation, *Woven*. K-State Libraries educators also introduced participants to better image prompts for Artificial Intelligence (AI). This activity coincided with the October 2025 AI Symposium, for which Kim Belanger, head of education and outreach, facilitated a collage-making activity called "Crafting Better Images: Collage vs. AI" at Hale Library's Sunderland Innovation Lab. Conducting arts programming outreach on campus led to several ideas for new collaborations.

We've been excited to introduce the museum to K-State First students from theatre, history, fashion, sociology, and math classes. K-State First is the university's first-year experience program for freshman and transfer students. Modern Languages students also learned Japanese calligraphy and French vocabulary related to African art taught by Emma Kellogg, our own gallery teacher.

How can we help your class? We invite you to connect with us!

Gallery teacher Emma Kellogg teaches vocabulary to her French III class using African art objects.

Thrive! Flint Hills families tour *Woven* by Poppy DeltaDawn in the *Kansas Triennial 25/26* exhibition.



Staff Transition

Our long-time Education Specialist Kim Richards is retiring from the museum. From 2003 to 2008, Richards was a docent at the museum. She returned in 2012 as a Gallery Teacher primarily heading the K-6th grade student tours and eventually served communities of all ages. In 2015, she worked in Senior programming leading the Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) sessions and Artist Biography presentations.

Richards said about her experience at the museum: "I have thoroughly enjoyed working at the Beach Museum of Art. As a university art museum, it offers an atmosphere of creativity, inspiration, and academic excellence. Interacting with elementary aged students gave me energy, college students provided hope and the aging community gave me perspective."

Highlights of her work at the museum:

- Sharing and teaching VTS across disciplines: public school teachers, K-State departments of Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, English Language Program and special audiences.
- Collaborating with Senior Living facilities to build programming for the aging community.

"Kim's impact is woven into every corner of the museum's educational work, but even more deeply in the senior outreach programs she built at Meadowlark, the Manhattan Senior Center, and Stoneybrook. Her thoughtful approach has created lasting connections that will benefit our community for years to come," said Kent Michael Smith, museum director. "Kim is deeply respected and admired by our entire staff, and while we will miss her daily presence, I suspect we'll soon be welcoming her back as a frequent visitor."

Museum Head of Education and Outreach Kim Belanger said: "We're deeply grateful for the joy Kim Richards has brought to arts education in our community. Her kind leadership has inspired creativity, confidence, and curiosity in students of all ages. While we will miss her, we wish her all the best in her next chapter!"



Kim Richards



Education Specialist Kim Richards conducts a gallery program with a Homeschool group.

✓ K-State School of Music, Theatre and Dance Associate Professor Shannon Skelton's class discuss works selected by Museum Registrar and Collections Specialist Theresa Ketterer (third from left).

Collections

During the fall 2025 semester, the museum hosted seven classes in the Collections department's Works Exam space. Six of the classes came from the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance. The students viewed works from the museum's collection pulled by registrars Theresa Ketterer and Sarah Price. The artworks covered a range of topics, but three classes specifically explored a selection of Pop Art. A photography class from Marysville High School, taught by Matthew Friedrichs, viewed photographs highlighting a variety of artists in the collection.

The selected art ranged from a 12th-century bowl from the Korean Goryeo dynasty to a 2020 photograph by Doug Barrett. The fan favorite was a collection of Andy Warhol polaroids of celebrities taken during the 1970s and 1980s.

Classes and individuals who make an appointment in the museum's Works Exam room can choose to view art from our collection of over 12,000 objects. Contact us at **785-532-7718** to schedule your appointment!

✓ Marysville high school photography students engage with the works selected for their viewing.



University Honors Program Seminar: Wading Through a Complex Visual World

Curator Liz Seaton and Education Specialist Kim Richards spent the fall semester using the museum’s collection to help K-State first-year honors students develop a deeper understanding of visual literacy. Offered through the Staley School of Leadership, the seminar introduced students to museum education looking exercises, including Visual Thinking Strategies. Students learned about the demonstrated benefits of such exercises, including the honing of observation skills, active listening, oral communication and evidence-based reasoning. They were trained to facilitate a VTS session with their peers as one of their final projects.

“I think they also experienced the simple joy that comes with gaining confidence as a viewer of art — having the skills to bring meaning to any kind of creative work,” Seaton said. “We hope what the students have learned about visual literacy will carry over in their studies at K-State as well as in their careers and lives.”

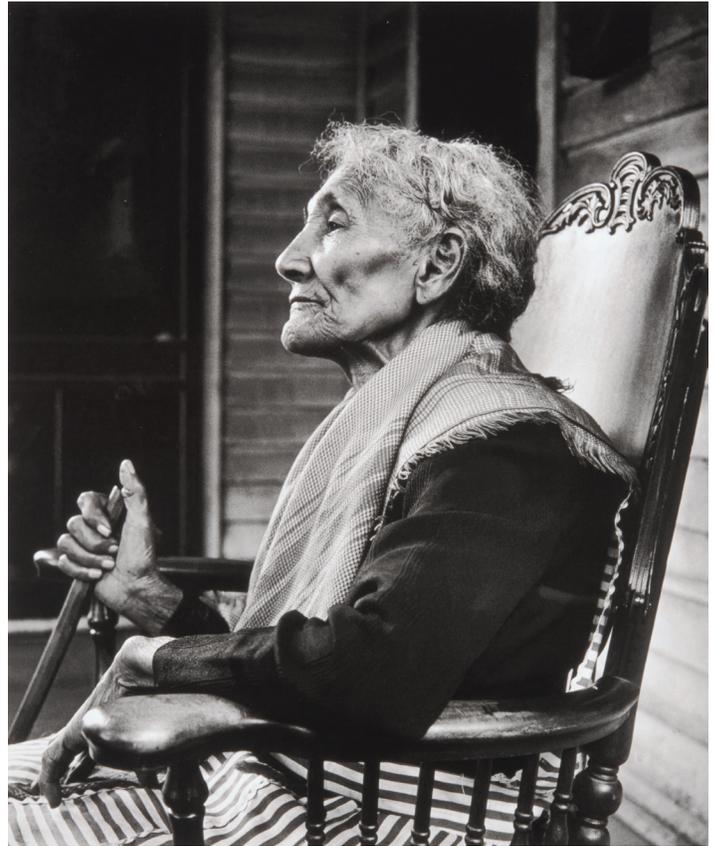
Student Henry Bosco reported to Richards during the semester that he was applying what he was learning in architecture courses. Elizabeth Larson, a freshman at K-State, wrote in an assignment: “I am an elementary education major. ... In one of my classes, the professors have been stressing the importance of active participation in class, and VTS would be a great way to give my students some interactive experiences.”

Arell Braud, Leo Pittala and Liana Murphy, K-State first year honors students, learned how to moderate Visual Thinking Strategies sessions during a fall 2025 leadership studies seminar on visual literacy led by Curator Liz Seaton and Education Specialist Kim Richards.





Gordon Roger Alexander Buchanan Parks, *Mrs. Jefferson*, 1950, printed 2017, gelatin silver print, 16 7/8 x 14 in., gift of Gordon Parks and The Gordon Parks Foundation, 2017.373. Image courtesy of and copyright by The Gordon Parks Foundation



Homeward to the Prairie I Come: Gordon Parks Photographs from the Beach Museum of Art continues to travel

The exhibition *Homeward to the Prairie I Come: Gordon Parks Photographs from the Beach Museum of Art* recently finished the first leg of its tour facilitated by the Art Bridges traveling exhibition program. The program is part of Art Bridges' mission to expand access to American art nationwide. Each museum to host *Homeward to the Prairie I Come* has brought a unique perspective to the discussion of Parks's creative career.

After showings in Syracuse, New York; Waterbury, Connecticut; and Wichita, Kansas, the exhibition will have a rest period until February 2026, when it will open for the second leg of the tour at the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It will then travel to Brigham Young University Museum of Art in Provo, Utah, and the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in Montgomery, Alabama, before returning home to K-State.



Homeward to the Prairie I Come: Gordon Parks Traveling exhibition destinations (left to right)

-
- Brigham Young University, Provo, UT
 Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK
 Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- Wichita Art Museum, Wichita, KS
 Montgomery Museum of Fine Art, Montgomery, AL
 Mattatuck Museum, Waterbury, CT



Exploring Perception Through Video Portraits: Two Campus Events Spark Dialogue

This academic year, K-State hosted two unique experiences through the Video Portrait Project led by Museum Outreach Specialist Nate McClendon. Both events invited participants to reflect on how facial perception can influence identity, trust, and community.

K-State Salina Civic Lecture Series

In November, McClendon spoke at the Civic Lecture Series on the neuroscience of perception, exploring how the brain shapes our interpretations of faces. Using interactive software, attendees joined polls and quizzes via their phones. One activity asked participants to guess which statement matched a portrait, revealing how assumptions often reflect the observer rather than the subject.

"A lot of psychology goes into how they perceive a person just from looking at their face," McClendon noted. "The goal is to recognize that our perception of someone is really based on who we are — not who they are."

The lecture coincided with video portraits installed across three Salina campus buildings, on display through spring 2026.

College of Education Workshop

In January, McClendon brought the project to the College of Education, where educators explored perception's impact on learning environments. The workshop featured interactive activities and a live video portrait recording, sparking conversations about psychological safety, bias, trust and vulnerability.

Video portraits were recorded in conjunction with the workshop. "The experience of recording portraits is truly unique," McClendon said. "You can feel the energy change as personal walls start to come down. You find yourself in a very honest and sacred space."

Portraits from the workshop will be exhibited in Bluemont Hall this spring, continuing the conversation on perception, psychological safety and humanization.

Nate McClendon (left) leading his session at the K-State Salina Civic Lecture Series.



Farhan Sadique participates in the K-State College of Education workshop.



FRIENDS OF THE BEACH MUSEUM OF ART

Hong Chun Zhang, *Sunset Twister* (detail), 2023, ink on fabric, 42 x 96 in., 2024 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art purchase, 2024.12.



Larie Schoap

Welcome, everyone, to the Beach Museum of Art. Whenever I have the opportunity to talk about art in Manhattan, I always say that our town is an “art destination.” And it all begins with the Beach Museum of Art, the only major art museum that focuses on Kansas and the region — and best of all, it is free and open to everyone.

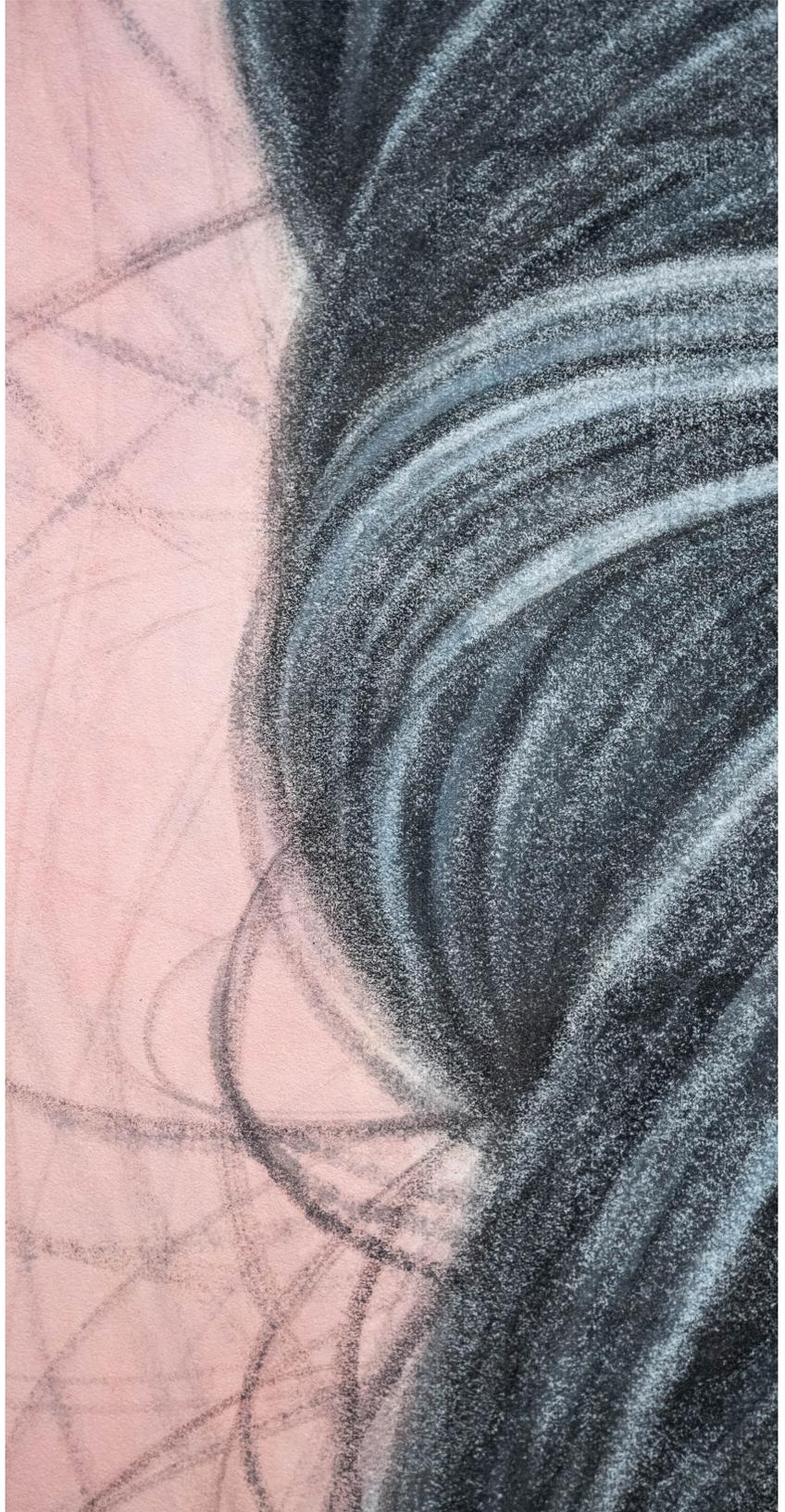
I personally love stopping by whenever I’m in the neighborhood. I enjoy eating lunch in the Meadow when the weather allows or upstairs in the atrium. It’s amazing to see how many people pass through the galleries each day.

Not only is the art impressive, but so is the staff. Few museums are fortunate enough to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable team. A great way to show your appreciation is by getting involved — either by becoming a Friend of the Beach or by volunteering your time to support the museum’s programs and initiatives. Volunteering plays a vital role in helping the staff meet their goals and extends every donation a little bit further, which keeps admission and parking free for everyone.

The next time you stop by, I encourage you to bring family or friends along. And if your group would enjoy a guided experience, you’re welcome to contact the museum in advance to inquire about tour options. And don’t forget to bring your lunch and make a day of your visit.

In this newsletter, you’ll find information about becoming a Friend of the Beach Museum of Art and details about the many events offered throughout the year. I hope to see many of you soon, exploring your free museum.

— Larie Schoap
*Chair, Friends of the Beach Museum of
Art Membership Committee*



THANK YOU TO OUR 2025–2026 EXHIBITION AND PROGRAM SPONSORS

Major Sponsors

Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's Lincoln & Dorothy I. Deihl Community Grants Program

Friends of the Beach Museum of Art

Weary Family Foundation

Sustaining Sponsors

Dan and Beth Bird

Contributing Sponsors

Dick and Gloria Delich Anderson

The Beach–Edwards Family Foundation

Mike and Dee Michaelis

Media Sponsors

KANSAS! Magazine

Radio Kansas

Marvin R. Gould, *Nowhere Fast*, 2009, graphite, charcoal, Xerox toner, cement, and rust powders on paper, 70 x 53 1/2 in., gift of Marvin R. Gould, 2010.41

Love Art? Support an exhibition and its programs!

Businesses or individuals who sponsor specific exhibitions and programs receive valuable public recognition. Please contact Director Kent Michael Smith at kentmsmith@k-state.edu for details.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: AILEEN JUNE WANG

Aileen June Wang has been a curator at the Beach Museum of Art since 2015. With a heavy heart, we will be bidding farewell to her in August 2026 after the opening of her exhibition *Home/Land: Wahzhazhe Artists Speak*. Wang, with her expertise in contemporary art, has been a valuable part of the museum team. She has curated incredible exhibitions and brought significant artists to the museum by organizing artist talks, gallery conversations, performances and more. In addition, she has represented the museum through scholarly

publications, delivered talks, and participated in national conferences. These contributions have been inspiring and have enhanced the experiences of colleagues, visitors and patrons at the museum. We're grateful to continue benefiting from her insight, collaboration, and expertise during the months ahead.

We take this opportunity to highlight some of Wang's significant contributions. (More information can be found on the museum's website, beach.k-state.edu/explore).

Select exhibitions curated/ co-curated by Wang at the Beach Museum of Art:

- *Printing Beyond Borders: Contemporary Indian Prints at Kansas State University* (2024)
- *wood+paper+box in your hands*, 2023 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Gift Print
- *Doug Barrett: Find Your Voice* (2021)
- *Gordon Parks: "Homeward to the Prairie I Come"* (2021 and touring nationally, see page 20 for the tour venues)
- *Voices: At the Crossroads of Asia and America* (2019)
- *Culture Mixmaster Zhang Hongtu* (2018)
- *Ubiquitous: Enrico Isamu Oyama* (2017)
- *Minidoka on My Mind: Paintings and Prints by Roger Shimomura* (2016)
- *Behind the Glass Eye: Photographs by Toyo Miyatake* (2016)
- *Elizabeth "Grandma" Layton: You Gotta Have Art* (2016, museum's 20th anniversary)



Aileen June Wang

What projects have been satisfying for you personally and why?

Almost every project I've worked on has been personally satisfying in some way. I'll highlight one group here, the exhibitions on Asian and Asian diasporic art that I organized, which allowed me to share something from my cultural background.

One of my first projects, the exhibition with my hero Roger Shimomura, resulted in a friendship that continues to this day. The exhibitions with Japanese Italian American artist Enrico Isamu Ōyama and Chinese American artist Zhang Hongtu gave me opportunities to experiment as a curator. Enrico and I schemed to install a giant sticker created by him across the walls of the Hyle gallery. *Ubiquitous* featured a live painting performance by Enrico in the museum's outdoor space; the painting is now in the museum's collection. *Culture Mixmaster* Zhang Hongtu energized local communities with its interactive sculpture Ping-Pong Mao, leading to ping-pong tournaments co-hosted by the museum and organizations such as Manhattan Parks and Recreation.

My personal journey discovering Asian and Asian diasporic art in the museum collections led to the exhibitions *At the Crossroads of Asia and America* and *Printing Beyond Borders*. I collaborated on these with colleagues and students at the University of Kansas, the Spencer Museum of Art in Lawrence, the Mulvane Art Museum in Topeka, and the Birger Sandzén Memorial Art Gallery in Lindsborg. I am grateful for these valuable professional opportunities.

What have you liked the most about working at the Beach Museum of Art?

There are two highlights: one, getting to know and working with supporters of the Beach Museum and two, working with and learning from some of the most talented and inspiring artists living today. The New York Arts Adventure trip that I co-organized with Linda Duke and McCain Auditorium Director Todd Holmberg in 2017 generated memorable personal experiences, such as Mindy Weaver and Ray Coffey playing a competitive Ping-Pong Mao game in Zhang Hongtu's studio, to much laughter. I remember my amazement at seeing Dan and Beth

Bird, who visited Enrico's studio in New York, front and center in a K-State lecture hall for a program about the artist's graffiti influences. Dan revealed his boyhood fascination with the graffiti he saw on the sides of train cars passing through the Flint Hills.

Is there an upcoming program or exhibition at the museum to which you especially look forward?

I'm excited about the exhibition I'm currently working on, *Home/Land: Wahzhazhe Artists Speak*, which opens August 18. It features three contemporary Wahzhazhe/Osage artists — Norman Akers, Anita Fields, and Ryan RedCorn — and explores what home and homeland mean from their perspectives. Their ancestors were forced out of Kansas by the U.S. federal government and settled in Oklahoma in the 1800s. As an immigrant, I, too, think about what home and homeland mean, and I wanted to explore these questions with artists I greatly admire.



Anita Fields, ʋAZAZA (Wahzhazhe/Osage Nation) and Muscogee Nation, *What the Earth Knows*, 2005, clay, slips, 11 x 10 x 3 in., collection of the artist. Photo by Thomas Fields



2025-2026 Advisory Council

Norman Akers
Margaret Chen, *Chair*
Tom Giller
Mike Goss
Shreepad Joglekar
Don Lambert
Michael McClure
Bryan Pinkall
Larie Schoap, *Friends Membership Committee Chair*
Richard Seaton, *Collection Committee Chair*
Lucas Shivers
David Weaver, *Finance Committee Chair*
Mindy Weaver
Fran Willbrant
Ex Officio:
Dr. Marshall Stewart, *Executive Vice President*

for External Engagement and Chief of Staff
Evan Jones, *KSU Foundation*
Kent Michael Smith, *Museum Director*
Robin Lonborg, *Museum Deputy Director*
Jennifer Harlan, *Museum Programs and Events Specialist*

Finance Committee

Margaret Chen
Mark Knackendoffel
David Weaver, *Committee Chair*
Fran Willbrant

Collections Committee

Dick Anderson
Gloria Anderson
Norman Akers
Shirley Baker
Carole Chelz
Shreepad Joglekar
Don Lambert
Mike Michaelis
Larry Peters
Patty Reece
Richard Seaton, *Committee Chair*
Barbara Waterman-Peters

Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Membership Committee

Cynthia Amano

Linda Knupp

Larie Schoap, *Chair*

Aaron Stinson

Brian Stinson

Membership Subcommittees: Recruitment and Retention

Finding ways in which the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art can attract new members and retain current members. These efforts may include staffing Friends of the Beach Museum of Art tables at museum programs and events, as well as other community gatherings.

Meadow

The Meadow at K-State is a one-half-acre learning landscape of prairie plants native to the Flint Hills, located north of the museum's Dan and Beth Bird Archway. The Meadow was transformed from mown turfgrass in 2013. Today, the site features over 40 species of plants introduced through sowing and transplanting. This subcommittee will serve as volunteer supporters of cyclical annual maintenance led by K-State faculty and staff.

Beach Ball

The Beach Ball is the annual fundraising and "friend-raising" party for the Beach Museum of Art. Members of this subcommittee will assist with securing underwriters, promoting ticket sales, assisting with decorations, and volunteering for critical assistance during the event.

Annual Reception

Each May, the Beach Museum of Art hosts a reception in honor of its Friends organization. This subcommittee assists with planning, decorations and implementation of the reception.

If you are a Friend of the museum and interested in joining one of these subcommittees, we would love to hear from you! Please send an email expressing your interest to Kent Michael Smith at kentmsmith@k-state.edu.



Mika Laidlaw, *Question*, 2000, coil-built earthenware, 15 1/4 x 8 1/2 x 9 in., gift of the estate of Robert L. A. Clark, 2023.44. Image courtesy by David Mayes

RECENT ACQUISITION



<

José María Mijares, *Untitled*
1989, linocut, 13 7/8 x 11 in., gift of Benjamin
Ortiz and Victor P. Torchia, Jr. collection, 2025.211d