Insight

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

30th Anniversary Newsletter
Annual Report Fiscal Year 2026



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Louis ShipShee (Prairie Band Potawatomi), *Young Male Bison,* mid 20th century, oil on canvas, 21 1/2 x 27 1/2 in., gift of Donald Lambert, 2014.169

Staff

Kent Michael Smith, *Director*

Kim Belanger, *Head of Museum Education and Outreach*

Molly Bernstein, *Education and Outreach Specialist*

Luke Dempsey, *Exhibition Designer and Museum Technology Lead*

Jennifer Harlan, *Programs and Events Specialist*

Emma Kellogg, *Education and Outreach Specialist*

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Robin Lonborg, *Deputy Director*

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Jui Mhatre, *Communications and Marketing Specialist*

Sarah Price, *Registrar and Collections Manager*

Elizabeth Seaton, Ph.D, *Curator*

Benjamin Shubert, *Security Officer*

James Taylor, *Gallery Preparator and Building Systems Lead*

Aileen June Wang, Ph.D, *Curator (outgoing)*

Cover: Norman Akers, (ᎿᎩᏃᎩᏍᎪ Wahzhazhe/Osage Nation) *New World Obstacles* (detail), 2025, oil on canvas, 72 x 60 in. Collection of the artist

Director's Message



Dear friends,

In 2026, the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art marks 30 years of serving Kansas State University, Manhattan, and the broader region. Since opening in 1996, the museum has grown into a vital place of connection between campus and community, artists and audiences, Kansas and the wider world. Thirty years later, our promise remains unchanged: free admission, meaningful encounters with art, and a deep commitment to stewarding the visual legacy of Kansas and the region.

We began this year with an ambitious fundraising goal of $300,000 in honor of this milestone. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are already on pace to surpass it. That support reaches far beyond our walls. It travels with a schoolchild seeing an original work of art for the first time. It stays with K-State students learning to look closely, think deeply, and carry new perspectives into the workforce and the world. It strengthens Manhattan as a place where people want to live, learn, visit, and raise families. It supports artists across Kansas and the region, whose work gives shape to the histories, questions, and truths of this place. In supporting the Beach Museum of Art, our donors help sustain a stronger, more thoughtful, more connected community.

The year ahead reflects the museum's growing role as a place where art helps us understand history, identity, land and belonging. This August, we will open *Home/Land: Wahzhazhe Artists Speak*. Presented during the national America 250 commemoration, *Home/Land* offers a timely opportunity to think more deeply about land, sovereignty, memory, and the meaning of home. The exhibition reminds us that American history is not a single story, and that artists help us see what words alone cannot always hold.

Since 1934, the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Gift Print has connected artists, collectors, and the university community through a limited-edition print. In 2026, this tradition marks a meaningful new chapter. We are honored to welcome Scott Anderson — K-State alumnus, University of New Mexico professor, and 2024 Joan Mitchell Fellow — as our next Gift Print artist. His residency will allow the tradition to unfold in real time. Rather than arriving as a completed edition, the print will take shape in the presence of students through conversation, observation, pressure, ink, paper, and the patient work of the studio. It is a meaningful return: a K-State alumnus bringing his practice back to the place that helped shape him, while helping shape the next generation.

The Beach Museum of Art was founded on the belief that art belongs at the center of a university and a community. Thirty years later, that belief feels more urgent than ever. Art is not reserved for a few. It belongs in the lives of schoolchildren encountering new ideas, K-State students preparing to shape the future, families finding connection, artists giving form to truth, and communities learning to see themselves and one another more fully.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary year. With your support, the museum's next 30 years can carry this promise even further.

— Kent Michael Smith, *Director*

President's Message

For 30 years, the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art has been an important part of the Kansas State University experience and a treasured resource for Manhattan and the region. Its impact reaches far beyond its galleries, creating opportunities for students, families, artists and community members to encounter new ideas, discover new perspectives and connect with one another through art.

The Beach Museum brings K-State's land-grant mission to life: sharing the university's knowledge, resources and expertise with the communities we serve. Through its exhibitions, collections and programs, the museum extends learning beyond the classroom and campus, making art accessible to people across Kansas and creating opportunities to learn, engage and see the world in new ways.

This anniversary is also a celebration of the incredible community that has sustained the museum for three decades. The generosity of donors, friends, alumni and supporters demonstrates a shared belief that art belongs at the heart of a great university and a vibrant community. Their support helps ensure that the museum remains free and accessible to all while continuing to serve generations of K-Staters and Kansans.

As we celebrate 30 years, I am grateful for the vision that created the Beach Museum and for everyone who has helped it grow. **I am especially excited about what lies ahead. As the museum continues to evolve, so too will its ability to bring people together, expand access to the arts and K-State's commitment to serving the people of Kansas.**

Congratulations to the Beach Museum of Art on 30 remarkable years, and thank you to everyone who has made this milestone possible.

— Richard H. Linton
President, Kansas State University



30 Years | 30 Milestones



1. **Founded in 1996,** the museum continues to preserve and grow K-State's art collection.
2. **Free admission and parking** since 1996.
3. **The only major museum** focused on the art of Kansas and its surrounding region.
4. Collection of **13,000+ objects and growing.**
5. **235 exhibitions** in the galleries.
6. Approximately **55,000 hours** open to the public since 1996.
7. Approximately **900,000 visitors** since 1996 (30,000+ visitors annually).
8. Expansion in 2007 (from 26,000 square feet to **43,000 square feet**).
9. **One of the only 5 art museums in the state of Kansas** accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.
10. **Continually accredited since 2003 by the American Alliance of Museums.**
11. **The Meadow,** a garden of prairie plants native to the Flint Hills located north of the museum established in 2015.
12. BMA Friends brought renowned photographer **Pete Souza** to deliver a talk in conjunction with the exhibition of his works in ***Two Presidents: One Photographer.***



13 **Virtual Exhibitions** at ***mkbma.org*** established in 2020.

14 **Virtual programs and events** — public programs via Zoom, Let's Talk Art series and virtual tours — offered since 2020.

15 ***Inside Out:*** **innovative exhibition** (during the COVID-19 shutdown) featuring collection works displayed in colorfully lighted windows for outdoor viewing and as walking tour around the museum building.

16 **All-age friendly education:** serving preschoolers, K-12 students, university faculty and students, military families, adults and seniors, and special needs audiences.

17 **Gift Print program** established in 1934 continues to commission a regional artist to create a unique print for sale to the public.

18 **Print and digital publications:** exhibition catalogues like ***Art for Every Home: Associated American Artists; Gordon Parks "Homeward to the Prairie I Come;" Ubiquitous: Enrico Isamu Oyama; John Steuart Curry: The Cowboy Within*** and many more.

19 **Collection available online** since 2013.

20 **BMA projects** beyond the museum walls: ***FFIGURATI #199*** mural in Aggieville and ***Manhattan Community Portrait*** video installations.



21 **National traveling exhibitions:** ***Paths to the Press: Printmaking and American Women Artists; Art for Every Home: Associated American Artists*** and ***"Homeward to the Prairie I Come": Gordon Parks Photographs from the Beach Museum of Art*** (a collaboration with Art Bridges).

22 **Increased representation in the collection:** Indigenous artists, women artists and artists from other underrepresented groups.

23 **Arts Adventure Trips continue for museum supporters:** past destinations include Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Cuba.

24 **Collaborations with regional peer museums representing cultural themes:** ***Silk Road Through Kansas, Home is Where We Are: Art of First Americans***

25 Survived major water damage in 2022.

26 Effective use of **Visual Thinking Strategies** in education to build visual literacy and foster critical thinking.

27 **Beach Ball annual fundraiser** inaugurated in 2023.

28 **5000+** social media followers and e-news subscribers.

29 **Select large-scale exhibitions and socially engaged projects:** ***Art for Every Home: Associated American Artists; Open A.I.R. (Artist In Residence): The Center for Food Perception and Aesthetics; To the Stars Through Art: A History of Art Collecting in Kansas Public Schools, 1900-1950*** and ***Gordon Parks: "Homeward to the Prairie I Come."***

30 **New exhibition series** ***Kansas Triennial*** inaugurated in 2025.

Exhibitions

Home/Land: Wahzhazhe Artists Speak

Marion Pelton and Archie & Dorothy Hyle Family Galleries
Aug. 18, 2026–July 24, 2027

Does the land on which you were raised shape your concept of home? What if you live in diaspora? How do you name "home"? In their art, Wahzhazhe/Osage artists Norman Akers, Anita Fields and Ryan RedCorn consider the significance of land, language and culture in shaping ideas about "home." The ancestral homelands of the Wahzhazhe once encompassed lands that are now part of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma. In the 19th century, U.S. government policies forced the Osage from much of that land and onto a reservation in present-day Oklahoma. In the generations that followed, the Osage Nation has continued to defend its sovereignty and cultural identity. Sharing their stories, Akers, Fields and RedCorn invite others to reflect on how history and landscape shape their own notions of home, land and belonging.

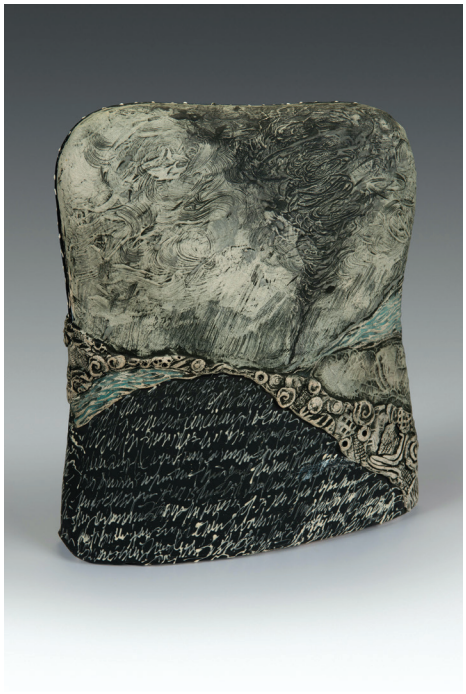
Home/Land is part of the initiative *Home Is Where We Are: Art of First Americans*, led by the Beach Museum of Art. Spanning institutions across the Great Plains, it marks a coordinated focus on contemporary Indigenous art. Each participating organization presents a distinct project that contributes to a broader collective effort amplifying Indigenous perspectives. Participating institutions in Kansas include the Chapman Center for Rural Studies, Kansas Studies Institute, Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, Mid-America All-Indian Museum, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Salina Art Center, Ulrich Museum of Art, and Volland, A Place for Art and Community—together positioning the region as a destination for experiencing the art of First Americans.

Home/Land offers unique encounters with the work of Akers, Fields and RedCorn. The exhibition is presented bilingually in English and Wahzhazhe, made possible through the translation work of Chris Côté. Four paintings by Akers, created during his 2025 artist residency at the Tyler School of Art in Philadelphia, are presented here for the first time outside their city of origin. A poem by RedCorn — best known for his monumental photographic portraits of contemporary Wahzhazhe — highlights another dimension of his artistic practice. In addition to being a visual artist, RedCorn is a writer who co-founded the 1491s, a comedy troupe, with filmmaker Sterlin Harjo and co-wrote the second season of the acclaimed series *Reservation Dogs*. *Home/Land* also brings to Kansas a major installation by Fields, *Wa-No'-Bree (Call to Eat)*, on loan from the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. Featuring more than forty ceramic sculptures and incorporating earth from Oklahoma, the installation conveys Fields' ideas about what makes a home and a community. In the Hyle Gallery, visitors experience art and commentary by Akers, Fields, and RedCorn that respond to the question, "What inspires your work?"

This year, the Beach Museum of Art and K-State's Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance collaborate on programming for K-State Indigenous Peoples Day. *Home/Land* artists Norman Akers and Anita Fields will deliver keynote addresses during an online program. The in-person closing event at the museum features visual artist Chris Pappan (Kaw, Osage, and Cheyenne River Sioux).

Major Sponsor: **Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's Lincoln & Dorothy I. Deihl Arts and Humanities Grant Program**
Sustaining Sponsors: **Dick and Gloria Delich Anderson**
Contributing Sponsors: **Art Bridges, Dan and Beth Bird, Terry and Tara Cupps, Stephen and Deborah Saroff, and David and Melinda Weaver**

This exhibition was also made possible through the generosity of the following academic units: The Chapman Center for Rural Studies and the Social Transformation Studies Department at Kansas State University, the Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies at K-State Libraries, and the Kansas Studies Institute at Johnson County Community College.



Anita Fields (ᏎᎷᏁᏍ 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



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

Related events

Home/Land: Art, Culture, and Place-Making
A partnership between the K-State Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance and the Beach Museum of Art on Indigenous Peoples' Day

Monday, October 12
10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. online programs, 5-7 p.m. in-person event
Registration is required. Visit *beach.k-state.edu/calendar* to register.

Guest speaker: Chris Pappan

Indigenous Recordings Listening Party
Featuring DJ Bad Alaskan (Aleut/Unangax̂ tribe of Alaska) and Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art Librarian of Wonder Thomas Bell

Thursday, October 29, 5:30-7 p.m.

BMA Friends Gathering with special guest Ryan RedCorn
Thursday, November 12, 5 p.m.



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Ryan RedCorn - ᎿᏁᏦᎯᏍᏆᏂᎪ (Follows in the Footsteps of God), ᎿᏁᏃᏁᏃᏍ (Wazhazhe/Osage Nation), *Portlyn Harjo, Creek/Seminole,* , 2019, dye diffusion thermal transfer printing; polyester cloth; silicone, Spencer Museum of Art, The University of Kansas, Museum purchase: R. Charles and Mary Margaret Clevenger Art Acquisition Fund, 2019.0064.01

Scott Anderson: Wayfarer

Ruth Ann Wefald Gallery
Nov. 10, 2026–Sept. 11, 2027

This exhibition presents paintings by Kansas State University alumnus Scott Anderson, known for richly layered works that move between landscape, memory, sensation and abstraction. Anderson creates paintings that feel both deeply observed and inwardly charged. His work invites viewers into spaces that are not easily fixed—places shaped as much by feeling and perception as by geography.

The term *Wayfarer* suggests movement, searching, and the experience of making one's way through unfamiliar terrain. In Anderson's paintings, that terrain is often psychological and physical. Forms emerge, dissolve, collide and drift. Color and gesture carry the weight of atmosphere, while the surfaces of the paintings reveal a sustained engagement with process and material. The result is work that feels alive with uncertainty, discovery and transformation.

This exhibition is especially meaningful because Anderson's journey began, in part, here at K-State. Bringing his work back to campus allows the museum to celebrate the lasting impact of an education shaped in purple while introducing students, faculty, and visitors to an artist whose national reputation continues to grow. Anderson was named a 2024 Joan Mitchell Fellow, a significant recognition of his work and its place within contemporary painting.

In connection with the exhibition, Anderson will also work with K-State Art Department students and faculty to produce the museum's biannual Gift Print. This longstanding tradition invites an artist to create a limited-edition print that supports the museum while also becoming part of its permanent collection. For this edition, the process itself carries special meaning: an acclaimed K-State alumnus returning to campus to work alongside students, sharing the discipline, questions, and possibilities of making art.

In this way, *Scott Anderson: Wayfarer* becomes more than an exhibition. It becomes a homecoming, a learning opportunity, and a reminder that the path of an artist is rarely linear—but always shaped by the places, people, and questions encountered along the way.



Major Sponsors: **Friends of the Beach Museum of Art, Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's Lincoln & Dorothy I. Deihl Arts and Humanities Grant Program, George and Margo Kren Fund, and The Weary Family Foundation**

Related events

Artist Talk: Scott Anderson
Thursday, February 18, 2027
5:30-6:30 p.m.
Immediately followed by Director's Circle, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
K-State President's residence
(Donors $2,500 and above annually)

Scott Anderson, *Tumblers,* 2017, oil on canvas, 60 x 75 inches. Image courtesy of the artist

A view of the Orval Hempler gallery



Collection Galleries

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.



Roger Y. Shimomura, *Guardian,* 12020, acrylic on canvas, 36 x 44 7/8 in., 2023.18



Dean Mitchell, *White Cup,* 1996, 52 x 34 in., gift of Jim, Angele, Luke, and Julia Johnson, in memory of Jeaneane Berryhill Johnson, 2003.232

America 250: The Pursuit of Happiness

On July 4, 2026, the United States celebrated the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This anniversary invites reflection on the promises and aspirations expressed in that document, including "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." In Kansas, the state motto, *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, or "To the Stars Through Difficulties" reminds us that the pursuit of our highest ideals is often shaped by both hope and hardship.

To commemorate America's semi-quincentennial, the Beach Museum of Art has selected artworks that encourage reflection on what it means to pursue happiness. Together, these works reveal a range of American experiences and aspirations, touching on themes of freedom, prosperity, well-being, dignity, belonging, and hope.

A self-guided tour brochure is available at the museum information desk and on the museum's website. Double Take programs during fall 2026 will offer opportunities for deeper engagement with selected artworks.

As you engage with these works, we hope that you see glimpses of yourself or your neighbor. We invite you to consider: what does it mean to pursue happiness, and does it look the same for everyone?



Doug Barrett, *A Beautiful Marriage,* 2020, inkjet print, 20 x 30 in., 2020.16

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

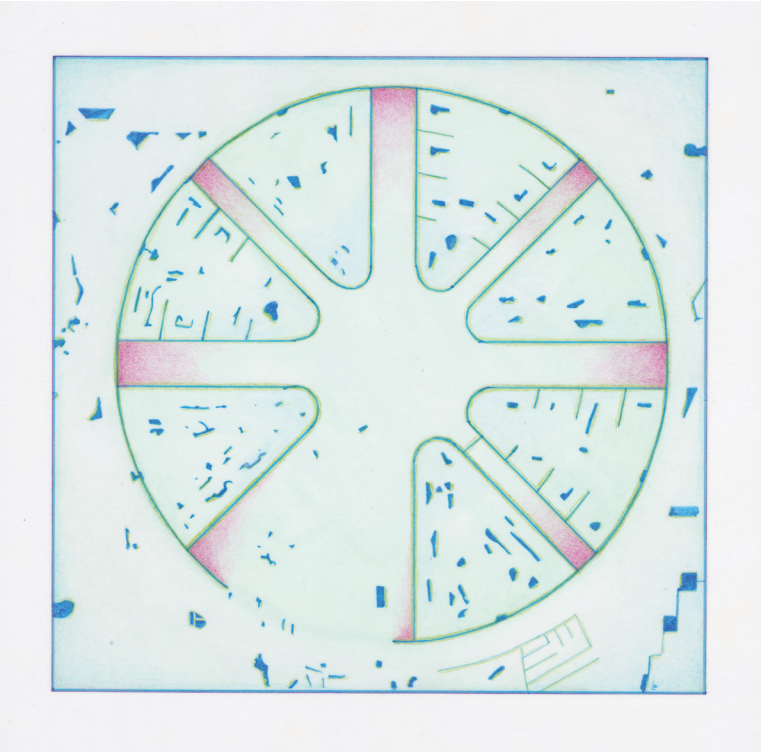
Donna Lindsay Vanier Gallery
Ongoing with new selections

Encounters with works of art can open doors into many fields of knowledge. With *STE[A]M: Exploring Science and Math through Art*, the museum continues to show how art can sharpen observation, deepen curiosity, and help students encounter science and mathematics in memorable ways.

Developed in response to a curriculum need within USD 383, the exhibition brings the "A" of art into STEM learning through close looking, discussion, and direct connections to classroom concepts such as light waves, refraction, geometric patterns, structure and systems. Rather than treating art, science and math as separate disciplines, *STE[A]*M helps students see how inquiry often begins: by observing carefully, asking questions, and making meaning from what they see.

As the Beach Museum of Art enters its 30th year, *STE[A]M* reflects our ongoing the commitment to serve campus, schools, and the community through free access to art and ideas.

Major Sponsor: **Greater Manhattan Community Foundation's Lincoln & Dorothy I. Deihl Arts and Humanities Grant Program**



Lynn Benson, *Rotonda Circle,*
from *Waterplaces*, 2012–2015, colored pencil and ink
on paper vellum, 9 x 9 1/16 in., 2016.71.36



Randy Regier, *Little Capitalist*, 2003, wood, plastic,
and bronze with engraving, 10 5/8 x 4 x 3 1/4 in.,
gift of David and Patrice Lewerenz, 2022.44

2026 K-State Common Work of Art

Each year, the K-State First Book committee selects a common reading for first year students to provide a shared intellectual experience. The 2026 K-State First Book is *Callings: The Purpose and Passion of Work* by David Isay.

A MacArthur Fellow and *New York Times* bestselling author, Isay has dedicated his career to documenting the human experience. Through his organization, StoryCorps, he has helped people across the United States record and preserve their life stories for future generations. In *Callings*, Isay shares compelling accounts of people who have found meaning in their work. Some are well paid, while others volunteer their time. Some discovered their passions early in life, while others found them much later. Many overcame significant challenges or made dramatic life changes to pursue what mattered to them most.

To complement the K-State First Book selection, the museum presents Elizabeth "Grandma" Layton's *Business Business Business, You Gotta Have Art*, the 2026 Common Work of Art. The drawing depicts Layton with her second husband, Glenn Layton, who often served as her model and muse. In the context of this year's First Book, the couple's hats invite reflection on work and success: How does the contrast between "BUSINESS" and "You gotta have ART" suggest different ideas about careers and achievement? What kinds of jobs today require both creativity and business expertise?

Layton herself never expected to become a nationally recognized artist. A journalist by profession, she did not begin drawing seriously until the age of sixty-eight. In 1977, following the death of one of her five children and a prolonged depression, she enrolled in a contour drawing class at a nearby university. The experience proved transformative. During her second career, she became known for her expressive self-portraits, many of which explore historical events and contemporary social issues.

K-State Student Welcome Reception

Thursday, August 27, 5-7 p.m.
K-State First Book and Common Work of Art Open House



Elizabeth Layton,
Business Business Business, You Gotta Have Art, 1991, colored pencil and graphite on paper, 14 9/16 x 18 1/8 in., gift of Ross & Marianna Beach, 1998.222

Joan Foth, title unknown (Kansas landscape) (detail)
1978, watercolor with graphite on paper, 8 1/2 x 11 1/4 in.
gift of Don Lambert, 1997.10

Calendar

Guest Artists and Speakers


Chris Pappan


Scott Anderson


a.k.a. Bad Alaskan
Alex Kimball Williams


Lisa Olstein
Photo by Anja Schutz


Nate McClendon


Ryan RedCorn


Thomas Bell



Photo of Alex Kimball Williams and album cover design by Orlando Begaye (Navajo/Diné). Williams, a.k.a. Bad Alaskan is the DJ for the Indigenous Recordings Listening Party.

Programs and Events | Fall 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.

5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20
Gathering of Friends
Private donor event

5-7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27
Student Welcome Reception

5:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27
Double Take: Gallery Tour of Select Artworks

5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3
Fall 2026 Exhibition Opening

5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 10
Artist Talk & Poetry Reading: Lisa Olstein
Author of *Distinguished Office of Echoes*

5:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24
Double Take: Gallery Tour of Select Artworks

6:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9
Beach Ball: A Free Community Celebration
21+ event | Costumes encouraged

5-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12
Home/Land: Art, Culture, and Place-Making
Indigenous Peoples' Day Program and Gallery Tour

5:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22
Double Take: Gallery Tour of Select Artworks

5:30-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29
Indigenous Recordings Listening Party

5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12
Gathering of Friends
Private donor event

5:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19
Double Take: Gallery Tour of Select Artworks

5-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 10
Winter Party

Noon-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12
Holiday Makerspace
All ages, $10 per person, registration is required. Register at ***beach.k-state.edu/calendar***



Education

Blue Star Museum
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

ARTSmart Youth Art Classes

Connect gallery exploration activities with an art-making project in the classroom. Cost $8 per child, register in advance to guarantee your spot. Class schedules:

Homeschool (grades K-8): 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Sept. 8, Sept. 29, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1

Pre-K (ages 2-5): 10-11 a.m. Thursdays, Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3

Elementary (grades K-5): 3-5 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 10, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, and Dec. 3

After School Art Club

Elementary students in grades 2-5 are invited to join a weekly after school art club!
Cost $35 for 4 weeks. 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 9–30, Oct. 7-28, Nov. 4–Dec. 2
(no club Nov. 25)

Artist Workshops for Adults & Teens

Learn from local artists. Reservations required. Saturdays, fees and dates TBD.

Story Explorers

Join Ms. Emma and friends for pre-K story time with integrated movement and art exploration.

10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18, Dec. 16. Free, preregistration required.

Friends of the Beach Museum of Art members and Blue Star/Military Families* receive 50% off fees for classes. Registration is required for our programs and is online at ***beach.k-state.edu/participate/classes***

**In conjunction with the Blue Star Museum program*

Always open: The Exploration Station is an open play and story space for kids.

Virtual resources for families and educators

Curricula and resources. Visit ***beach.k-state.edu/participate/educational-resources***



Kansas symbols painted in an Artmaking with Nature class ›

Virtual BMA

#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 13,000 objects for research or enjoyment with the online collection search tool. Visit ***beach.k-state.edu/explore.***

BMA YouTube channel

Check out the latest videos of art, artist interviews and special programs! To subscribe to our channel, visit ***beach.k-state.edu/videos*** or find us at ***youtube.com/@beachmuseum.***

Educational resources

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

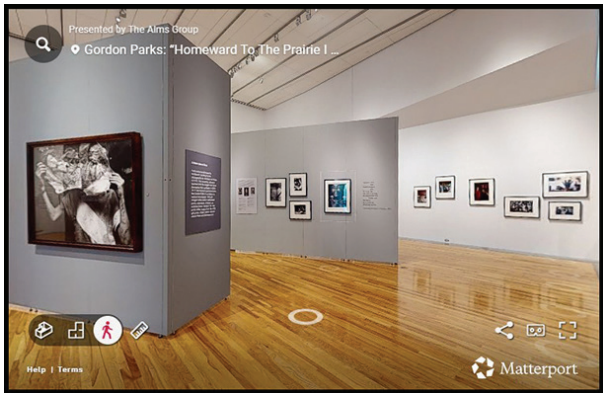
Social media

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

BeachMuseumofArt

@beachmuseum



Screen capture of the Gordon Parks: "Homeward to the Prairie I Come" 3-D virtual tour ›

What's Happening … Behind the Scenes

Making Space for Welcome

Furniture Redesign

The Beach Museum of Art has always been more than a place to view art. It is a public space for learning, gathering, reflection and connection. As we enter our 30th year, we are especially grateful for a new collaboration with students from K-State's College of Architecture, Planning & Design, whose work is helping us imagine how the museum's public spaces can better serve visitors of all ages.



K-State College of Architecture, Planning & Design students present ideas for the new furniture to the museum staff

This student-led project looks closely at the areas where guests pause, meet, study, shop, and spend time together. Their proposals include refreshed lobby seating, a more inviting retail display, new gathering furniture near the UMB Theater, and a family-focused exploration area overlooking the Meadow from the second-floor atrium. Each idea reflects a thoughtful understanding of how design can shape the experience of welcome.

What makes this project especially meaningful is that it brings K-State talent directly into the life of the museum. These students are not simply designing furniture; they are considering how people move through a museum, what makes families feel at ease, how students seek a place to linger, and how visitors engage with the building before and after they encounter the art.

Their work reminds us that museums are shaped not only by collections and exhibitions, but also by the spaces that make people feel they belong.

Upholding the Highest Standards

In the coming year, the museum will undertake an important institutional milestone: reaccreditation by the American Alliance of Museums. Our self-study will be due in November 2026, followed by an anticipated site visit in March 2027 by two museum leaders who will assess our facility, policies, collections stewardship, governance, public service, financial practices, and overall institutional operations.

While this process is rigorous, it is also deeply meaningful. Accreditation is the museum field's highest national recognition, signaling that a museum meets professional standards and is committed to ongoing reflection, accountability and improvement. That recognition is held by only a small percentage of museums nationwide: Of the more than 33,000 museums across the United States, just 1,122 are currently accredited.

The Beach Museum of Art has a proud history of accreditation, placing us among only five art museums in Kansas fully accredited by AAM. That distinction matters. It affirms the care we bring to the works of art entrusted to us, the seriousness of our educational and public mission, and the responsibility we hold as stewards of Kansas's visual legacy.

Reaccreditation is not simply a review of what we have done. It is an opportunity to look carefully at who we are, how we serve, and how we can continue strengthening our role for K-State, Manhattan, Kansas, and the broader region. It reminds us that excellence is not a fixed achievement, but an ongoing practice—one carried forward every day through thoughtful exhibitions, public programs, collection care, teaching, research, and the many relationships that make this museum matter.

As we enter this process, we do so with gratitude for the community that has helped sustain the Beach Museum of Art for 30 years, and with renewed commitment to the standards, values and public trust that guide our work.

Education and Outreach News

What do prairie grasses, mental health, and board games have to do with an art museum? In April, a group of students and staff discussed these ideas and more at the pilot meeting of the new BMA Student Ambassadors Group. With diverse backgrounds in history, art, biology and anthropology, attendees gathered with the common goal of amplifying student voices in the museum. Their ideas included student-created art, theatre, and music events, mental health craft and game nights, skill-sharing opportunities, Meadow walks & talks, and more.

The Student Ambassadors will begin in August with an application process. Our goal for this initiative is to invite students from multiple disciplines and backgrounds to share their perspectives to influence museum programming and see the impact of their volunteer efforts. Ambassadors will gain leadership skills and make new friends as they organize student-led social and educational events, represent the museum as advocates, and collaborate on programming related to the K-State First Book and Common Work of Art. Their first task will be to apply their ideas to the K-State Student Welcome Reception at the museum during Week of Welcome.


Student Game Night at the museum

Staff Spotlight

I recently spoke with Deputy Director Robin Lonborg and learned how her interests and work experiences relate to her role in the museum. The questions and responses below are excerpted from our conversation.

— Jui Mhatre, *Communications and Marketing Specialist*



Robin Lonborg

Before coming to work at the museum, was there a job or other experience that you feel prepared you for this work?

This is my 13th year working at the Beach Museum of Art, which has allowed me to develop a deep understanding of museums and how they operate. Each year presents new opportunities that make the work so fulfilling. The arts have always been at the center of my life, from growing up dancing to attending film school in college, I feel very lucky. I now have nearly 30 years of professional experience working with visual artists, dancers, filmmakers and more. Supporting the operational side of this work is uniquely rewarding and challenging, and I feel fortunate to help bring many important projects to life.

What recent project has been satisfying for you personally and why?

Working with the K-State College of Architecture, Planning and Design students on new furniture for the museum entry, gift shop, café and educational area really sparked all my creative juices. It was incredibly exciting to see the designs the students came up with! Once it's all fully installed, I hope you will make a special trip to view the new furniture. Also, here's a little teaser about the gift shop: we're going to offer museum T-shirts soon!

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

I'm a huge fan of the work of Ryan RedCorn and Norman Akers, so I'm very excited about the *Home/Land: Wahzhazhe Artists Speak* exhibition that opened August 18, 2026. Ryan's background in both film and photography makes his photographs something extra. The images are deep, and I could look at them for hours. I have a passion and love for nature and the environment, so Norman's work really speaks to me in that way. I can't wait to learn more about Anita Fields, who is also featured in this exhibition.



Norman Akers (Osage Nation), *Calling For Home* (detail), 2023, oil on canvas, 74 x 68 in., 2023 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art annual purchase, 2023.11

Sponsor Spotlight: Terry and Tara Cupps

The Beach Museum of Art is proud to recognize Terry and Tara Cupps, longtime supporters whose generosity, leadership and deep commitment to Kansas State University have strengthened programs across campus.

Terry and Tara were awarded KSU Foundation's Medal of Excellence in 2022, an honor recognizing exceptional service, leadership and philanthropic contributions to the university. Both are KSU Foundation Trustees and active members of the K-State community. Their impact is felt widely across K-State, where few people embody the spirit of purple pride as genuinely and wholeheartedly as Terry and Tara.

At the Beach Museum of Art, Terry and Tara have been valued friends and supporters for many years. Their presence at museum events, programs and donor travel experiences reflects the kind of engaged philanthropy that helps sustain the museum's role as a bridge between campus, community, artists and audiences.

"Terry and Tara bring such warmth and generosity to everything they touch," said Kent Michael Smith, museum director. "During our recent Beach/McCain Arts Adventure in Chicago, I had the privilege of spending several days with them and was reminded again how fortunate the museum is to count them among our friends. They care deeply, listen closely, and make every experience richer simply by being part of it."

The Beach Museum of Art is grateful for Terry and Tara Cupps and for the many ways their friendship continues to move the museum's work forward.



Terry and Tara Cupps



〈

Emil C. Fischer, *Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art*, ca. 1973, ink on paper, 10 x 13 in., U2.2009

Advisory Council

Beach Museum of Art Advisory Council Members

Margaret Chen
Mona Cliff
Tom Giller
Shreepad Joglekar
Evan Jones
Don Lambert
Sally Linton
Michael McClure
Eric Norris
Jeff Sackrider
Larie Schoap
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Friends Membership Committee

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Linda Knupp
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Aaron Stinson
Brian Stinson



Yoshiro Ikeda, *Morning Show* (detail), ca. 2001, glazed earthenware, 30 x 16 x 16 in., gift of Jim, Angele, Luke, & Julia Johnson in memory of Jeaneane Berryhill Johnson, 2004.242

ANNUAL REPORT 2025–2026

Highlights of fiscal year 2026

Enjoy recorded videos of the past year's events on the museum's YouTube channel at ***beach.k-state.edu/videos***. Please subscribe, like, comment or share.

Beach Ball 2025 | Museum Fundraiser











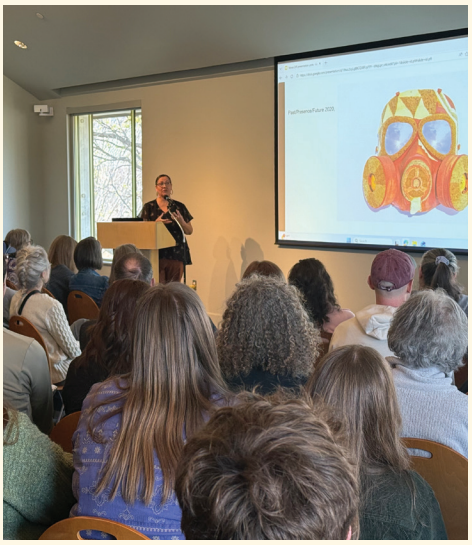






Exhibition opening of *Kansas Triennial 25/26* in Sept 2025. This was the inaugural installation of the museum's new exhibition series Kansas Triennial. From left: museum director Kent Michael Smith and exhibition artists: Mark Cowardin, Ann Resnick, Poppy DeltaDawn and Mona Cliff.





Artist Talk by Mona Cliff



Artist Talk by Mark Cowardin



Artist Talk by Poppy DeltaDawn

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

Curator Liz Seaton introduces a tour group to Waylande Gregory's ceramic and glass works during an April visit. The group traveled from St. Joseph, Missouri, home of The Missouri Theatre, where Gregory created the building's distinctive exterior and interior ornamentation. Their tour also included regional museums and architectural sites featuring Gregory's work. Gregory was the focus of the Beach Museum of Art's 2020 online exhibition, *Waylande Gregory: Art Deco Ceramics and the Atomic Impulse.*



Former education specialist Kim Richards retired in spring 2026. As a retirement gift, the museum staff selected one of her favorite gift prints, *Elbing Treehouse*, a lithograph by Gesine Janzen. Seen here is Richards holding the gift print with museum staff at her informal retirement reception.







The museum's Collections Committee meeting in spring 2026.

The fall 2025 Gathering of Friends featured special guest, Manhattan, Kansas artist Phyllis Garibay-Coon who presented on her suffragist mural installed in the Kansas State Capitol.



Phyllis Garibay-Coon sits by her mural *Rebel Women* in the State Capitol in Topeka.

BMA Staff Field Trip to Wichita, Kansas

In fall 2025, the museum staff experienced two great art tours. The first visit was at the Emprise Bank headquarters were Mike Michaelis, chairman and CEO of Emprise financial corporation and curator Jan Steinert gave us a tour of their amazing and massive collection, known as the "Art of Emprise." Michaelis is an avid collector of art by Kansas artists and a generous museum supporter.

The second stop was at the Ulrich Museum of Art at Wichita State University. Their staff, including Vivian Zavataro, director; Brenda Lichman, director of education; Taryn Trapani, registrar and collections manager, James Porter, exhibition designer and Teri Mott, communications manager gave a tour of the museum, current exhibitions and outdoor sculptures.



Ulrich Director Vivian Zavataro (second from left) gives a tour of the Ulrich museum.

Group selfie time at the Emprise Bank.





Mike Michaelis shares a story about a sculpture displayed in the Emprise Bank.



BMA and Ulrich museum staff in one of their galleries.



New! Education specialist Emma Kellogg (standing on right) conducts Story Explorers, a new free program for families. Thanks to Manhattan's local music teacher Katlyn Gebhardt (left) who added a special musical element to the sessions.

In spring 2026, the museum hosted the ART 600: Drawing Workshop class of Professor Erin Wiersma from the K-State Art department. Students viewed works from our collection specially selected by Registrar and Collections Specialist Theresa Ketterer. The museum frequently hosts researchers and classes in the Study Room for viewing of works selected from the 13,000+ objects in our collection. These art encounters encourage dialogue across disciplines, and students consider how the works might inspire their practice. Contact us to schedule your class visit!











In April 2026, the K-State Arts Adventure group (comprised of McCain Auditorium and Beach Museum of Art Friends and supporters) went to Chicago. Top image: a tour at the Art Institute Chicago, left image: a visit to Cloud Gate by artist Anish Kapoor, a public sculpture in Millennium Park. It was a great adventure to experience amazing visual and performing arts in the Windy City.

Donor Impact: Tom and Mary Kevin Giller



Tom and Mary Kevin Giller

For Mary Kevin and Tom Giller, support for the Beach Museum of Art is rooted in friendship, service, and a remarkable family legacy. Mary Kevin is the daughter of Eleanor and Bill Stolzer, whose longtime commitment to K-State and the Beach Museum of Art helped shape the museum we know today. Their legacy is honored in the Stolzer Family Foundation Gallery, a beautiful space within the museum's 2007 expansion that continues to welcome visitors into meaningful encounters with art.

Tom and Mary Kevin carry that legacy forward with warmth and purpose. Mary Kevin has served through the Friends of the Beach Museum of Art, while Tom currently lends his insight as a member of the museum's Advisory Council. Together, they represent the kind of steady, deeply personal support that allows the museum to remain free, accessible, and connected to the community it serves.

Museum Director Kent Michael Smith first came to know Tom through weekly meetings of the Manhattan Rotary Club, where a shared focus on service, community, and Manhattan's future creates natural opportunities for meaningful connection.

"Getting to know Tom through Rotary has been one of the great pleasures of my time in Manhattan," Smith said. "He and Mary Kevin understand that supporting the museum is not only about sustaining a place, but about carrying forward a belief in art, education and community. Their generosity honors the Stolzer family's extraordinary legacy while helping us imagine what the Beach Museum can become for future generations."

Through their involvement and generosity, Tom and Mary Kevin remind us that donor impact is measured not only in gifts, but in continuity, care, and lasting belief in the power of art to bring people together.

A view of the Stolzer Family Foundation Gallery with the Douglass Abdell sculpture: *Kreqe-Aekyad*, welded steel, 79 1/2 x 59 x 19 in., 1988.7



Grow Green Match Day

On Tuesday, April 22, 2026, the Beach Museum of Art proudly participated in the 14th Annual Grow Green Match Day, organized by the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF). Thanks to the generosity of forty donors, the museum raised $15,934.13. With the added 50% Grow Green Match, an additional $7,500 was contributed, bringing the total to $23,434.13 in support of the museum.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each of our donors and to GMCF for facilitating the match. These gifts are instrumental in making our education and outreach programs a reality. Please join us in celebrating these incredible supporters!

Richard & Shirley Baker
Betty Banaka
Kathleen Bergman & Dale Jamieson
Daniel & Beth Bird
John & Sarah Blair
Will Boyer & Darla Allen Boyer
Stephen Bridenstine & Erin Strathe
Dr. M. Chance-Reay
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Rob Noble
Mary Katie Philp
William Richter
Larie Schoap
Elizabeth Seaton
Kent Michael Smith
Bill & Sharon Snyder
Tina & Tim Steffensmeier
Mary Ellen Sutton
David & Melinda Weaver
Douglas Wendt
Alison Wheatley



2026 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art Annual Reception

On May 7, the *Friends* of the Beach Museum of Art gathered for their annual reception. The afternoon featured many highlights. Director, Kent Michael Smith, kicked things off with a warm welcome. He shared staff updates, anniversary news, and introduced some very special guest presenters. Students from K-State's APDesign program outlined their semester long projects to redesign the museum's lobby, atrium, children's area, and new retail space. The announcement of the winning vote for the annual *Friends* art acquisition capped off the event. *Conjured Topography*, by artist Mona Cliff, was chosen for inclusion in the museum's permanent collection.

Fiscal Year 2026 Exhibitions



Poppy DeltaDawn, *Woven* (detail)
2025, baskets, cedar, textile.
Courtesy of the artist

Kansas Triennial 2025

Aug. 5, 2025–May 31, 2026

Rural America

Sept. 2, 2025–Jan. 24, 2026

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

Opened December 2, 2025

Collection Galleries

2025 Installation

Fiscal Year 2026 Financials

Thank you to our current endowments

Acquisitions Endowment (multiple supporters)

Ross and Marianna Kistler Beach Endowment for the Marianna Kistler Beach Art Museum

H. Alan and Karen Bell Art Museum Fund

Pat Riker Conderman Endowment

Vera M. Ellithorpe Art Museum Endowment

Morgan and Mary Jarvis Wing Excellence Fund

G. E. Johnson Beach Museum Fund

Jeaneane Johnson Art Acquisition Fund

Charles L. Marshall Sr. Beach Museum of Art Fund

Nolan G. and Jean M. McKenzie Beach Museum Excellence Fund

Max Byron Miller Art Acquisition and Conservation Fund

Caroline Peine Museum Endowment

Marion H. Pelton Fund

Priorities Endowment (multiple supporters)

Repairs and Renovations (multiple supporters)

R. M. Seaton Endowment for Exhibitions

L. W. and Eleanor Stolzer Beach Museum of Art Endowment

Ward-Downey Print Acquisitions Fund

Weary Family Beach Museum of Art Fund

Ruth Ann Wefald Curatorial Internship Endowment

Merrill and Dorothy Wilson Werts Fine Arts Internship

Revenue and expenditures

Revenue	FY 2026
State allocation, wages	$695,189.30
Endowment income	$485,587.80
Grants	$50,000.00
Contributions	$285,742.42
Other Income	$44,900.10
Total income	**$1,561,419.62**

Expenditures	FY 2026
Wages	$1,205,532.17
Acquisitions & conservation	$77,211.74
Advertising & PR	$18,390.44
Building maintenance	$12,429.44
Collection management	$33,966.17
Exhibitions and programs	$58,231.87
Foundation fees	$13,248.01
Furniture	$20,000.00
Memberships and subscriptions	$3,964.80
Professional development	$21,897.05
Supplies	$11,642.04
Telephone	$8,169.25
Other	$1,522.41
Total expenses	**$1,486,205.39**

Waylande Gregory, R. F. D. (duplicate of mural for Columbus, Kansas, Post Office), 1939, terra cotta, 2016.86



Fiscal Year 2026 Attendance

Total attendance	**25,896**
Walk-in	**16,319**
Outreach	**9,577***

* Outreach: Senior centers, Parkinson's and memory support groups, local schools, libraries, community events, educational resources for loan, e-newsletters and event emails

Beach Museum of Art followers (as of July 1, 2026)

Facebook	**2,944**
Instagram	**2,720**
YouTube	**256**

Beach Buddies Facebook group

Members (as of July 1, 2026): 654

Gifts of note

A special thank you to Friends who renew their memberships with a gift of $2,500 or more per year. These annual gifts are vital to the museum.

The George and Margo Kren Fund
Building on the Krens' longstanding commitment to staff development, the George and Margo Kren Fund continues their meaningful legacy of support by providing resources that allow the museum to respond to emerging needs and pursue important opportunities at the director's discretion.

The Weary Family Foundation
The Weary Family Foundation has consistently provided support that has helped the museum carry out its mission. The foundation's steady support has been invaluable.

Grants

Art Bridges

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



Ann Resnick, *14,616 HRS* (detail), spray paint with graphite on burned paper, 38 x 50 in, 2026.16

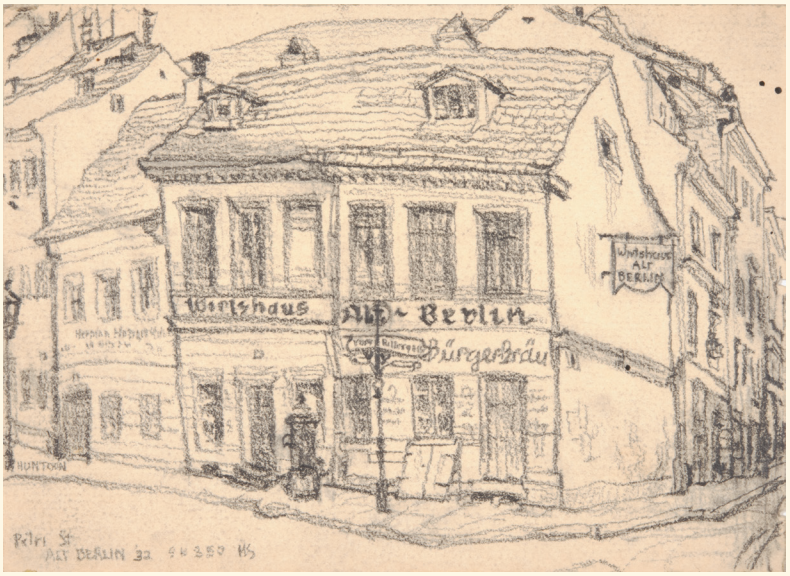
Acquisition Highlights

July 1, 2025–June 30, 2026

The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art furthers the teaching, research and service missions of Kansas State University by collecting, studying, caring for and presenting the visual art of Kansas and the region. The museum's collection comprises more than 13,000 works. Newest additions include:



C. Bertram Hartman, title unknown (cityscape), ca. 1930, watercolor on paper, 17 1/8 x 11 15/16 in., gift of Benjamin Ortiz and Victor P. Torchia, Jr. collection, 2025.213



Mary Huntoon, *Study for Old Berlin,* 1932, graphite on paper, 5 x 6 15/16 in., 2025.31



Joanna Mitchell, *Child's Beaded Crown,* 2013, multicolored glass beads, leather, thread and elastic, 4 3/4 x 6 1/4 x 6 in., 2025.187



Jim Leedy, *Construction,* late 20th century, stoneware with glaze and paint, 42 x 15 x 13 in., gift of the Harrison Jedel Family Trust, 2025.197





Luis Jimenez, *El Borracho I, II (diptych),* 1992, lithograph, 34 x 22 1/2 in., Spencer Museum of Art, The University of Kansas, Museum purchase: Friends of the Art Museum, Lawrence Lithography Workshop Archive, 1997.0163; 1997.0164. Impression 12/54 of this edition donated to the BMA by Carole Chelz, 2025.222

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



Dennis Kent Helm, *Unity of Life,* 1991, lithograph, 11 3/4 x 11 1/16 in., gift of Stephen Paul Lim, 2025.208



Dana Fritz, *Eastern Redcedar Stumps/ Culled Eastern Redcedars,* 2019-2025, inkjet print on paper, 16 x 40 in., 2025.220

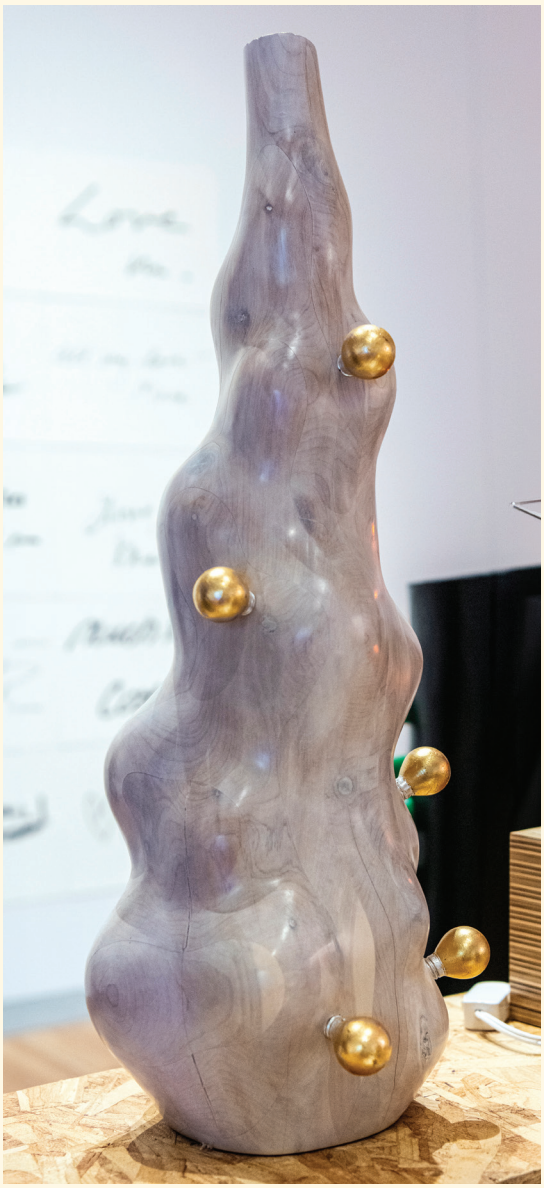




Works by Tara Mitchell (Prairie Band Potawatomi)

Left: *Bandolier bag for child,* 2025-2026, glass beads, cotton and velvet cloth, and thread, 26 3/4 x 8 1/8 x 1 7/8 in., 2026.54

Right: *Bandolier bag for woman,* 2025-2026, glass beads, cotton and velvet cloth, and thread, 45 1/2 x 13 1/8 x 2 in., 2026.55



Mark Cowardin, *Cloud 11c,* 2015, eastern red cedar, cast aluminum, and gold and silver leaf, 27 1/2 x 10 x 9 in., 2026.34



Mario Carreño, *Untitled,* 1989, linocut, 13 7/8 x 10 15/16 in., gift of Benjamin Ortiz and Victor P. Torchia, Jr. collection, 2025.211b



Dennis Edward Navrat, *Black Hills Lao Tzu Buffalo 1.18,* 1998, mixed media on handmade paper, 16 x 17 1/2 in., gift of University of South Dakota Emeritus Professor of Art and his wife, Sue Summervill Navrat, 2025.28

Nicholas Geankoplis, *It Pays to Fly,* 2017, porcelain tile with overglaze decals, 42 x 15 x 13 in., gift of the artist with additional funds provided by the Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art, 2025.29





Sue Jean Covacevich, *Caged* (detail), ca. 1959, oil on canvas, 35 1/8 x 28 in., gift of Teresa Covacevich Grana, 2015.61

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY | Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

701 Beach Lane
Manhattan, KS 66506
4085-001

Recent Acquisition

Mona Cliff, *Conjured Topography,* 2022, 17 7/8 x 109 x 2 in., 2026 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art annual purchase, 2026.17

