Quarterly, a publication of the Erie Art Museum, 20 East 5th Street, Erie, PA 16507, is published four times a year in May, August, November and February.
Message from the Director

There’s been a lot of talk about the changes being made at the Museum from supporters and critics alike. The good news—people are talking. The arts have a long history of being a catalyst for change and instigator of dialogue. So, let’s talk about the purpose of museums. Let’s talk about what it takes to make them sustainable. Let’s talk about art.

We kicked off the New Year by hosting our first ever Staff Chat, a townhall style meeting where board and staff openly discussed the EAM’s finances, the reasons for the changes being made and the outcomes we’re seeing as a result thereof. For example, increased attendance, a burgeoning membership base and an overall healthier operational budget to name just a few. For those of you who couldn’t make it, the live stream can be found on the homepage of the Museum’s website as well as our Facebook page.

When it comes to the artistic vision of the Museum, we’re looking to surprise, delight and challenge. We have more art on view than ever before and our upcoming projects and exhibitions will certainly start conversation and challenge people’s assumptions about art. We’ve also made some pretty big changes to the Spring Show, an annual juried exhibition of work made by regional artists. For example, we’re doubling the show’s footprint, extending its run through September 1st to expose summer tourists to local talent and even adding a no commission all day art sale.

As always, I want to thank the Museum’s unbelievably dedicated staff and volunteers, board of directors, donors, members and just about everyone else that has offered their support, ideas, time and resources to the Erie Art Museum. I look forward to seeing you at the Museum.

Onward,

Joshua R. Helmer
Director and Chief Executive Officer
What motivated you to become the next Board President of the Erie Art Museum?

“I've been involved with nonprofit boards for years. As a member of the original staff at the Erie Community Foundation's Nonprofit Partnership, I conducted board leadership training for a number of grantee organizations. With all of the work to be done at the Museum right now, I figured the Board would need someone with professional board experience plus the time needed to lead our turnaround effort. The opportunity arose and I threw my hat in the ring.”

What would you like to accomplish during your tenure as Board President?

“First and foremost, I want to help the Erie region understand why our Museum needs to make some major changes. Change is difficult but sometimes necessary. The Board hears the naysayers but recognizes that the general public doesn’t have all the facts. For example, the Museum is not financially sustainable and hasn’t been since the completion of our new building in 2010. We know what we’re up against and the entire board is laser-focused on making the Museum sustainable for generations to come. At the end of my tenure I would like to think that I helped make that possible.”

Can you tell us a little about some of the changes being made at the board level?

“We recently revised our bylaws, adding board term limits where there were none in the past and are working to restructure our committees to align with organizational goals and strategy. As of January, we have a standing Governance/Executive Committee, a Finance Committee and Development Committee that meet on a bi-monthly basis. Our Collections Committee, Facilities Committee and Education Committee will meet as needed plus we are looking to establish an IT committee to help the Museum develop some much-needed technical infrastructure.”
What are a few of the biggest challenges facing the EAM in the short term?

“In the short term we need to eliminate the Museum’s 1.4 million dollar debt. We are also working to create a healthy and sustainable operating budget. These challenges, however, are by no means insurmountable. They simply take time. Garnering community support and patience as we do what is necessary to turn the Museum around is a challenge in itself, but we’re confident in the direction we’re going and the results we’re seeing.”

What are you most excited about when it comes to the future of the EAM?

“One of the things that I am most excited about is how we are opening the Museum up to new audiences. I like seeing the Museum full of new faces in the evenings.

When it comes to specific projects, however, I am very much looking forward to the Art Bridges program sponsored by the Terra Foundation. The program makes it possible for smaller museums like ours to borrow objects from larger organizations like the Philadelphia Museum of Art.”

As part of the Art Bridges project, the EAM is set to receive *Untitled* by Felix Gonzalez-Torres in August 2019.

Museum staff and public handle prints by Homer and Curtis from the Museum’s collection at our first Hands-On in September 2018.
Believe it or not, this is how museums displayed their objects in the 1800s. By hanging the collection this way we’ve been able to photograph, catalog and assess the quality and condition of every object on view. Practical functions aside, this exhibit is about introducing the people of Erie to their art collection. *Everything but the Shelves* was made possible by Dr. Richard and Janine Dreyfus.
Artrageous is set for June 8, 2019. From the moment you walk into the Museum expect the unexpected. Food, music, dancing, art and more. A who’s who of Erie’s movers and shakers.

Sponsorships still available. New this year—small business sponsorship level. For a $250 sponsorship small businesses get two tickets ($200) to the event plus promotion. Tickets go on sale soon.

*Sponsors as of 2.8.2019*
WHAT’S ON

March/April/May

GALLERY NIGHT

MARCH 1 & APRIL 26 from 7 - 10 PM

It’s like a pub crawl, but with art. Shop, eat, listen to music and spend time with friends and family while visiting as many local galleries as you can. There’s no better way to get a feel for Erie’s arts scene. Check out our website for a list of participating galleries.

Sponsored by:

HANDS-ON

Hands-On is a monthly opportunity to handle some of the best objects in our collection. $10 for members and $15 for non-members plus the price of admission. Capacity is limited to 25 people per session.

HOKUSAI’S MANGA
March 15 from 6 - 7 pm

First published in 1814, the Manga is a collection of literally thousands of sketches made by the Japanese master Hokusai.

STIEGLITZ PHOTOGRAPHS (PART II)
April 12 from 6 - 7 pm

Stieglitz was one of the most influential photographers of all time and we just so happen to have over thirty of his photographs. Join us for part two of a three-part series dedicated to the work of Alfred Stieglitz.

S.M.S (SH*T MUST STOP) PORTFOLIO
May 10 from 6 - 7 pm

Sick of galleries and museums, artists like Marcel Duchamp, Man Ray, Roy Lichtenstein and John Cage started mailing art directly to peoples’ homes. Rarely seen and very cool.

ART TALK

WITH JOSH HELMER
Art Talk is a monthly lecture series dedicated to blowing your mind. Free for members and $5 for non-members plus the price of admission.

THE HISTORY OF PAINTING
March 22 from 6 - 7 pm

From caves to canvas and eggs to oil, the history of painting spans thousands of years. Join us as we brush up on the history of one of the most popular artforms of all time.

ART THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD (Replay)
April 19 from 6 - 7 pm

Great art has always shocked, shaken and sparked conversation. Join us as we discuss everything from the naked body to the use of urine as a medium.

ART & SCIENCE
May 24 from 6 - 7 pm

Left brained or right brained? It’s far from an either/or. Art’s a science and science an art. Join us as we explore their tangled past.

Sponsored by:
PRECIOUS METAL JEWELRY MAKING with JAN & DAN NIEBAUER
In this class you'll learn basic and advanced jewelry making techniques. Make and follow your own project plan from start to finish.
Class Meets 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17, 4/24 from 7 - 9 pm
$125 ($100 Members)
Materials not included, tools provided for use.

INTERMEDIATE DRAWING with EHREN KNAPP
This class is perfect for those of you looking to strengthen your existing drawing skills.
Class Meets: 3/21, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25 from 5 - 6:30 pm
$125 ($100 Members)
Materials not included.

ASIAN WATERCOLOR with ESTHER HONG
This class will introduce you to the art of Asian watercolor painting. You’ll learn to paint traditional motifs such as bamboo, orchids, plum blossoms and chrysanthemums with traditional materials. Small class size allows for personalized instruction.
Class Meets: 4/4, 4/11, 4/18, 4/25, 5/2, 5/9 from 4 – 6 pm
$125 ($100 Members)
Materials not included.

BEGINNER DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY with ERICA WHITING
In this class you’ll learn the basics of digital photography, such as camera controls, aperture, shutter speed and composition. A digital camera with settings beyond automatic is required.
Class Meets 4/6, 4/13, 4/20, 4/27 from 10 am – 12 pm
$125 ($100 Members)

TO REGISTER: Go online: erieartmuseum.org, Call the Museum at 814-459-5477, or Stop by during Museum hours.
ARTIST TAKEOVER: ROMAN GLASS  
Sept. 21, 2018 – Aug. 2019  
Local printmaker Roman Glass transforms one of our largest galleries into an immersive street environment that will challenge the way you look at Erie.  
Sponsored by:

BILL BRADY  
Aug. 10, 2018 – Aug. 2019  
It doesn’t take much to enjoy the work of local artist Bill Brady. Playful, beautiful, and touchable. Bill’s sculptures are easily becoming some of the most beloved things at the Museum.  
Sponsored by:

EVERYTHING BUT THE SHELVES  
Dec. 1, 2018 – Dec. 1, 2019  
With all the work to be done cataloging and evaluating our collection we’ve decided to put it all on view. That’s right. All of it. The good, the bad and the ugly. Over a thousand pictures hung salon style.  
Sponsored by:  
Dr. Richard & Janine Dreyfus

KIDS AS CURATORS  
Jan. 25 – March 3, 2019  
Exhibitions are for those with something to say. This year the Museum partnered with three local schools to ask Erie’s youth to collect, research, categorize and present objects in a way that says something about them as individuals and a generation.  
Sponsored by:

CAFÉ TAKEOVER

Give a Crêpe is taking over the Museum’s cafe and serving lunch every Thursday-Saturday from 11 am – 2 pm and Sundays 3 – 5 pm. Savory and sweet crepes made to order, fresh salads and more.

POP-UP WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS
Don’t be surprised to find pop-up art making demonstrations in our galleries on Thursday and Friday nights. Spoon carving, figure drawing, weaving and more.
SECOND SUNDAYS

Second Sundays are perfect for spending time with your kids at the museum. Different art making activities every month and admission is Pay-What-You-Wish.

POT OF GOLD PIGGY BANK
March 10 from 2 - 4 pm
It’s getting close to St. Patty’s Day, so what better time to make your own pot of gold piggy bank to keep your treasures safe. Perfect for all ages.

MAKE YOUR OWN PLAYDOUGH
April 14 from 2 - 4 pm
Our market research shows that 100% of kids want to make their own playdough. Go ahead, ask your kid or husband. See. Come make your own playdough. You know you want to.

MEMORIES FOR MOM
May 12 from 2 - 4 pm
With Mother’s Day right around the corner make mom something special. Take a polaroid in front of your favorite work of art and then make a personalized frame just for mom.

HOLIDAYS

SAINT PATRICK’S DAY
March 17 from 10 am - 5 pm
How do you spend St. Patty’s Day? Looking at art?! Good. Arts out and the bar is out. Stop by for a beer and have a look around.

PEEP SHOW

April 20 from 12 – 2 pm
No! Not like that! It’s an art making competition where people make things out of marshmallow peeps. Cash prizes awarded for best art historical reference, most creative use of peep, etc. Day of submissions only. Judging begins at 1 pm.

Sponsored by: Doug & Kathy Grisier

APRIL 26 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2019
Presented in partnership with Edinboro University, the Spring Show is an annual juried exhibition of local and regional art. This year’s Spring Show will be judged by kinetic sculptor Arthur Ganson. To register visit our website.

ARTIST HAPPY HOUR
March 21 & 28 from 5 - 8 pm
Got Spring Show submissions to drop off? Do it during happy hour. Stop by after work or before dinner to drop off your work, grab a beer and just hang out. Not an artist? You’re still invited.

ALL DAY ART SALE
April 13 from 11 am - 5 pm
For those of you who submit work to the Spring Show but don’t get in, no worries. We’re hosting an all-day art sale. Let’s face it, there’s a lot of great work that does not make it into the Spring Show that deserves to be seen! No commission. Cash and check only. Buyers deal directly with artists. Beats lugging your stuff home.

Sponsored by: EDINBORO UNIVERSITY, Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel
How long have you been at the Museum?
“I've been at the Museum for almost two years. I started as an intern, then was hired as the Museum's Education Coordinator and now hold the position of Director of Education.”

Did you ever see yourself working in an Art Museum?
“Yes. Museums have always been a big part of my life. I practically grew up in my hometown's art center in Carlisle, PA. In college I worked at a natural history museum. For me, there's just something really different and exciting about museum education. I think it's because the connections that are being formed, the 'ah-ha moments' that you see people experience, are so powerful. I don't think too many people get to see the impact they have on the world all that often, but as a museum educator it's something that I get to enjoy daily.”

What's the most difficult part?
“I like to think of challenges as opportunities. When I first moved to Erie and told people I worked at the Erie Art Museum, they'd say something like "I didn't even know there was an art museum" or "I haven't been to the Museum in years." So, I guess the biggest opportunity I see has to do with awareness and access. We want people to think of the Museum as a fun, exciting and comfortable place to be.”

What are you looking forward to the most at the Museum?
“It really is an honor to be here right now. Not just at the Museum, but also Erie. I feel a strong sense of purpose coming into work every day. Internally and externally, there's a lot of work to do, and I see being here as an opportunity to make a real difference. Big picture aside, I am particularly excited to begin engaging the local teacher community on a more regular basis. We have a couple focus groups coming up to discuss the ways in which the Museum can better serve teachers and their students.”

What's your vision for Education at EAM?
“Provide better experiences for, and foster deeper relationships with Erie's youth. This entails everything from reevaluating the impact of school tours, starting a teen ambassador program, facilitating more intergenerational experiences and meeting our audiences where they are in terms of familiarity with art and comfort level with museums.”

New Acquisition
David Hockney, *Potted Daffodils*, 1980
Lithograph, 44 1/5 x 30 1/10 in.

As a major part to the Pop Art movement of the 1960s, Hockney is considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Always willing to break the rules of picture making, Hockney's *Potted Daffodils* is no exception. Deceptively calm, the image is made of thousands of frantic strokes and scribbles. Hockney’s work can be found in major museums all over the world such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Tate Modern, Guggenheim and now, thanks to James and Jerry Zurn, the Erie Art Museum.
MUSEUM HOURS
THURSDAYS: 11:00 am – 9:00 pm
FRIDAYS: 11:00 am – 9:00 pm
SATURDAYS: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
SUNDAYS: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
Closed: Monday – Wednesday

On the cover:

Inside Cover: Artwork by Carissa Brandt

The Erie Art Museum receives general support from Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority and is a partner of Erie Arts and Culture.

“Hmmm... what should I do today? Get this rash looked at or go become a member at the Erie Art Museum?”

membership means MORE
MORE to see
MORE to talk about
MORE to be a part of

First-time membership only $15