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

This year was an incredible year for the Erie Art Museum. We added more than 900 new members, increased visitation by roughly 300%, lowered the Museum’s debt by $400,000, grew our endowment by $2,040,736 and will close this fiscal year with a $70,000 surplus. Whether changing the Museum’s hours or hanging nearly every framed object in our collection, the choices made in the last twelve months have resulted in a much healthier organization.

I am also extremely proud of the progress made in the care and management of the Museum’s collection. In the past year we’ve completely renovated two of our three main storage areas. This involved drafting new floorplans, clearing the spaces of objects (hence the nearly 1,200 pieces currently hanging in our main gallery), removing the old shelving units and installing new storage racks. As a result, we’ve doubled the Museum’s storage space and made it much safer to store and handle objects. In the next few months we’ll have the Museum’s collection professionally evaluated and take recommendations for the preservation and conservation of specific works thanks to a grant from the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation. Lastly, in March 2019, the Museum established its first-ever legally restricted collections endowment at the Erie Community Foundation for the sole purpose of future acquisitions.

While there’s still much to do, such as eliminate the Museum’s remaining $1.4 million debt, I am pleased to say that we’re on the right track to becoming a healthy and sustainable Erie Art Museum. 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 soon.

Onward,

Joshua R. Helmer
Director and Chief Executive Officer
Tell us a little about your first Spring Show? What did you take away from the experience?

“Tell us a little about your first Spring Show? What did you take away from the experience?”

“To be honest, I was deeply impressed. This year’s Spring Show opened my eyes to a lot of the exciting work being done in our region. I saw things submitted to the Spring Show that could easily hold their own in Philadelphia. Also, this was the first year we asked artists to include statements with their submissions and these were exceptional—I read every one. I can’t stress enough how important it is for artists to talk about their work and engage people with the reasons why they do what they do. It just makes art more relevant.”

Why put the Spring Show in the Customs House?

“Well, we had a couple reasons for putting the Spring Show in the Customs House. First, the Customs House is a major part of the Museum that has been somewhat underutilized since the completion of the new building in 2010. Second, the building was in need of repair. Therefore, we took the opportunity of the Spring Show to rehab the entire space and really make it a destination. In total, it took us about three weeks to transform the building. It was a massive undertaking, but as always it was a TEAM effort.”

While preparing to paint the Customs House we uncovered nearly two hundred years of paint. We purposely left this area unpainted in honor of the building’s colorful past.
How were the colors chosen for the Customs House?

“We wanted to pick colors that would wow and go well with the architecture. Teal, pink and cream were pretty popular in the early 1800s as they really made the geometrical shapes of neoclassical architecture pop. The decision to flip the color scheme on the first floor, however, was entirely that of the Museum’s Senior Preparator Vance Lupher, who spent three days convincing everyone that art would in fact look good on a cream and pink wall. I would like to take this opportunity to say/admit that Vance was 100% right. It looks amazing.”

What was the most difficult part of putting the Spring Show together?

“The biggest challenge with the Spring Show is putting it all together. Remember, we have no say in what gets into the show—that’s up to the juror. So, putting the Spring Show together is like decorating a house with random pieces of furniture. Not only do you have to use every piece, you have to find ways to make them resonate with each other and collectively feel like something. It took us three days to lay out the show. The first day involved the entire staff coming up with interesting object pairings and groupings. On the second day we placed the objects in the space. Then tweaked our arrangement and hung the show on the third day.”

What are your hopes for this year’s Spring Show?

“I am particularly excited to have the Spring Show run through September 1st because it will be seen by far more people, specifically those visiting our region in the summer months. With that said, I hope to see this year’s Spring Show give a little exposure to local and regional talent and ultimately sell out.”
“Making art is a deeply personal and sacred act. From this perspective, any act of judgment feels profane to this juror. Ah, what to do?

My initial impulse was to accept everything, but this was clearly not possible because over 600 works were submitted and the exhibition space allowed for far fewer. My second impulse was to create a simple mechanical device that would decide the fate of each piece: perhaps a pinwheel arrow to be spun in front of each work. This method would yield, like flipping a coin, an unbiased sampling of the works submitted and arguably a valid snapshot of art-making in the region. However, that approach was abandoned the moment I confronted the work itself, when my heart became involved and I felt drawn into this piece or that.

In the end I chose works that seemed to straddle an edge between clarity and ambiguity; works that provided enough solid ground as to be simply understandable, yet simultaneously open enough for personal interpretation. The process was deep and involved much conversation with my wife, Chehalis Hegner, an artist and photography educator. Together we debated many of the pieces regarding their strengths and originality.

On the jurying process, I really appreciate Chehalis’ remark:

We feel when something intimate or genuine is being shared with us. Whether through a lens, under a paintbrush, or at the sharp end of a sewing needle where it pierces the fabric, the creator allows us to feel close to the work. We recognize its genuine character because we sense it. We begin to understand only after our first impression. I ask myself which artist shared the most vulnerability? Which artist brought a level of intimacy so transparent it created a portal through which I can most deeply enter into the work? Does the work have a broader social significance? I select work that embodies a sincere sense of investigation.

Whether for their abstract nature, unexpected content, social narrative or sublime sophistication of technique, the five works chosen for the Juror’s Award made the strongest impression in the areas most important to us.”
What’s On

June/July/August

HIGHMARK MID-DAY ARTbreak 2019

Join us every Wednesday this summer for live music and lunch. Doors open at 11:30, music from Noon-1 pm. Brown bag it or grab something to eat in our cafe. Admission is Pay-What-You-Wish.

June 12 .............. Erie Philharmonic
June 19 .............. Mambo
June 26 .............. The Division Street Machine
July  3 .............. The Rooftop Project
July 10 ............. Mountain Thyme Ramblers
July 17 .......... Gem City Jazz Ensemble
July 24 ............. Brooke Surgener
July 31 ............. The Charles Brown Experience
August 7 .......... The Breeze Band
August 14 ........ Erie Philharmonic
August 21 ........ Campfire Jams
August 28 .......... Monica Lewis
September 4 .... The Honest Mistakes

Sponsored by:

GALLERY NIGHT

JULY 26 from 5 – 9 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. Be sure to check out our website for a list of participating galleries. $3 cover charge at the Museum for non-members and free for members.

POP-UP ART MAKING

THURSDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS

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

ARTrageous

JUNE 8, 2019 from 7 - 11 PM

ARTrageous is the Museum’s annual fundraiser. For one night, the Museum is completely transformed. Tickets are $100 and all inclusive. Five open bars, live music, dancing, art and food from the best restaurants in town. You don’t want to miss this.
EVERYTHING BUT THE SHELVES
December 1, 2018 – December 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

CHUCK JOHNSON
July 26, 2019 – June 1, 2020
Chuck Johnson’s sculptures are like visual poetry. Featuring stacks of endangered animals, medieval churches and gas-powered machines, Chuck’s sculptures express his growing concern for the state of the modern world.

Sponsored by:

ARTIST TAKEOVER: ROMAN GLASS
September 21, 2018 – August 15, 2019
Local printmaker Roman Glass challenges the status quo by transforming one of our largest galleries into an immersive street environment.

Sponsored by:

EVERYTHING BUT THE SHELVES
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BILL BRADY
August 10, 2018 – August 15, 2019
It doesn’t take much to enjoy the work of local artist Bill Brady. Playful, beautiful and touchable. Bill’s sculptures are easily some of the most beloved things at the Museum.

Sponsored by:

ASHLEY PASTORE: EVERYDAY MONUMENTAL
April 26, 2019 – March 1, 2020
Ashley Pastore transforms lottery tickets, old newspapers and even the dust she collects while cleaning houses into monuments of nostalgia. The artist’s goal? To get us to think about time, specifically the ordinary moments and rituals that fill our daily lives.

Sponsored by:
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.

MAKE-A-MOSAIC
June 9 from 2 – 4 pm
Use glass beads, stones, tiles and other fun materials to make your own mosaics. It’s like Build-A-Bear, but with more glass—in a safe way.

MAKE YOUR OWN COMIC STRIP
July 14 from 2 – 4 pm
Get carried up up and away making your own comic strips. It’s a great way to bring out the artist and storyteller in your kid. Oh, and if they or you want to dress up as a superhero that’s totally cool.

ART ROCKS
August 11 from 2 – 4 pm
It’s time for you and your kids to rock the paint and paint some rocks. Let’s face it—art rocks!

Sponsored by:

CRAFTING WITH KNIVES
with Matt Fang
In this workshop you’ll learn how to whittle useful items out of wood as well as safely use a knife for everyday tasks like sharpening a pencil and opening packages.
Class Meets: 8/22 from 6 – 8 pm
$30 ($25 Members)

OPEN LATE
THURSDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS OPEN TILL 9 PM
The Museum is open late on Thursdays and Fridays. Stop by after work or before dinner to grab a $2 beer, listen to music, make art or just hang out. FREE parking after 5 pm.

April 26 – September 1, 2019
Presented in partnership with Edinboro University, the Spring Show is an annual juried exhibition of the best local and regional art. This year’s Spring Show was juried by famed kinetic sculptor Arthur Ganson, who picked 125 pieces out of over 600 submissions to be included in the exhibition.

Sponsored by:

CAFÉ TAKEOVER
A Waffle Miracle has taken over the Museum’s café and will be serving lunch every Wednesday-Friday from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm this summer. Savory waffle sandwiches, desert waffles and even ice cream sandwiches made with waffles. $10 for a full portion and $6 for a half.

WORKSHOP

SECONDSUNDAYS
ART ADVENTURE with Carissa Brandt

Looking for something fun for your kids to do this summer? Sign them up for Art Adventure, a weeklong summer camp at the Museum. We’ll have scavenger hunts, games and of course art-making. Perfect for curious minds with lots of energy. Ages 7-11.

June: 6/17, 6/18, 6/19, 6/20, 6/21 from 9 – 11 am
July: 7/8, 7/9, 7/10, 7/11, 7/12 from 9 – 11 am
August: 8/12, 8/13, 8/14, 8/15, 8/16 from 9 – 11 am

$85 ($70 Members)

Materials included.

TO REGISTER: Go online: erieartmuseum.org, Call the Museum at 814-459-5477, or Stop by during Museum hours.

BEGINNER PRINTMAKING with Doug Eberhardt

This class will introduce you to the basics of relief printmaking. You’ll learn to make single-color wood block prints as well as multi-colored linoleum block prints.

Class Meets: 6/6, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27 from 6 – 8 pm

$115 ($90 Members)

Materials 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: 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25 from 4 – 6 pm

$125 ($100 Members)

Materials not included.

PORTAIT PHOTOGRAPHY with Erica Whiting

This class will introduce you to the basics of portrait photography such as camera controls, aperture, shutter speed and composition. A digital camera with settings beyond automatic required.

Class Meets: 7/11, 7/18, 7/25, 8/1 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

$125 ($100 Members)

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August: 8/12, 8/13, 8/14, 8/15, 8/16 from 9 – 11 am

$85 ($70 Members)

Materials included.

TEACHER WEEK

July 22 – 26, 2019

For all of you teachers looking for Act 48 credit, Teacher Week is back! This year we’re partnering with the Children’s Museum and focusing on new ways of engaging students.

$125 ($100 Members)

TO REGISTER: Go online: erieartmuseum.org

ON BREAK

ART TALK & HANDS-ON

Let’s face it, programs like Art Talk and Hands-On are great, but summertime in Erie is just too nice to be inside. No worries! They’ll be back in September.
Hmmm...I wonder which art museum I should give to on Erie Gives Day?

All gifts made to the Erie Art Museum on 8/13 receive a match from the Erie Community Foundation.
Over the course of the last twelve months the Erie Art Museum’s membership program has doubled in size. Below is a list of every current EAM member. Roughly 1,800 people. We cannot thank you enough for being a part of the Museum and supporting the Museum.
How long have you been at the Museum?
“I’ve been at the Museum for almost twelve years now. I was hired to help with branding back in 2007. Fun Fact: I actually interned at the Museum in 1998, while a design student at Edinboro University.”

Did you ever see yourself working in an Art Museum?
“Not in an art museum per se, but graphic design is such a visual field that it makes sense. I’ve worked at a design agency, newspaper and even a manufacturing company, but the Museum is by far the place where I’ve been able to be the most creative.”

What’s the most difficult part of your job?
“The most difficult part of my job is coming up with fresh, good design that can be used across multiple platforms. Luckily for me, this is one of the things that I am also really enjoying right now. For example, taking Paul Giovanopoulos’s Countess B painting and incorporating it into our visual identity was a challenge, but a fun one. I love finding new ways to use our ladies.”

What are you looking forward to the most at the Museum?
“I really like the direction the Museum is going in. We’re thinking about what we do in a more thoughtful and holistic way. This also means being research and data driven, which has really opened my eyes to a completely new way of thinking about design and marketing.”

What’s your vision for the future of graphic design at the EAM?
“The future of the Museum’s graphic design is fun and sassy. Museums, especially art museums, are known for taking themselves too seriously and that has put a lot of people off. It’s ok to be fun, and I think the EAM is really embracing that in both its tone of voice as well as its look and feel. Going forward you’ll see a much more consistent type of design coming out of the Museum. Basically, we want people to be able to look at something and know it’s from the Erie Art Museum, not just because it says so, but because it feels like the Erie Art Museum. From the banners hanging on State Street to the branding of Gallery Night and the Quarterly, it’s all starting to feel like the Erie Art Museum— fun and sassy.”

New Board Member: Adam Williams
The Erie Art Museum’s Board of Directors elected their first new board member since the Museum’s change in leadership last spring. Appointed on Wednesday, March 20th, attorney Adam Williams will join the Museum’s Board of Directors. As a native of Erie, PA., Williams has made it his personal mission to help elevate the local business climate and support small business owners through legal advocacy. Williams is enthusiastic about the future of the Museum and is eager to join the tEAM.
**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:  
Ellen Paquette (Warren, PA)  
*Lady Mantis*, 2017  
acrylic on panel

In painting portraits of animals in the style of the Renaissance, I am combining two of my favorite things—wildlife and Renaissance art. My intention is to use the conventions of Renaissance portraiture to highlight the innate wisdom and dignity of wild creatures.

**Inside Cover:** Artwork by Carissa Brandt & Torie Pesta

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.