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.
A little over a year ago the Museum was $1,800,000 in debt. Over the course of the past twelve months we made a number of changes geared toward building a healthy and sustainable Erie Art Museum. In 2018, we lowered the Museum’s debt by $400,000, grew our endowment by $2,040,736 and closed our fiscal year with a $70,000 surplus. This summer we added another $46,800 to the endowment (which now totals $2,687,536) and sold property to the Erie Downtown Development Corporation (EDDC) for $1,100,000. That said, it’s with great pleasure that I share with all of you that the Erie Art Museum is now nearly debt free.

For us, this year is about raising the bar in terms of pretty much everything we do. For example, the Museum is set to receive two world-class works of art, the likes of which have never been seen before in Erie, PA. Thanks to the Museum’s participation in the Art Bridges + Terra Foundation program, the Philadelphia Museum of Art will be loaning us a painting by Chuck Close, while Crystal Bridges will be sending us an edible installation piece by Felix Gonzalez-Torres. Furthermore, we’ll be exhibiting the work of renowned ceramist and Erie native Brett Kern. A master of clay, Brett’s sculptures are fun, smart and nothing short of exceptional. Lastly, I am proud to announce that we’ll be hosting this year’s Northwestern Pennsylvania Artists Association’s (NPAA) Biennial for the first time in the Museum’s history.

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
Behind the Scenes

**Art Bridges + Terra Foundation Initiative**

**What is the Art Bridges + Terra Foundation initiative and how did the Museum come to be involved?**

The Art Bridges + Terra Foundation project is a groundbreaking initiative geared toward increasing public access to great works of American art. Led by the Philadelphia Museum of Art and funded by Art Bridges and the Terra Foundation, the project unites nine museums across Pennsylvania in a somewhat unprecedented partnership model. Thanks to the support of Art Bridges and the Terra Foundation, the Philadelphia Museum of Art will be sharing some of its greatest works of American art with communities across Pennsylvania. Partnering museums were selected by Timothy Rub, the George D. Widener Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and include the Allentown Art Museum, Demuth Foundation, Michener Art Museum, Palmer Museum of Art, Reading Public Museum, Trout Gallery, Westmoreland Museum of America Art and of course the Erie Art Museum.

**What objects will be coming to the Museum and why were they selected?**

We’ll be receiving two truly exceptional works of American art. The first is an edible installation by Felix Gonzalez-Torres [Fig. 1] and the second a massive painting by Chuck Close [Fig. 2]. We selected the Close in order to pair it with a woven self-portrait made by the artist from our own collection [Fig. 3]. What makes this pairing so interesting is that Close tries to replicate what he does in paint with thread. A connection that would otherwise be lost without the comparison. When it comes to the Gonzalez-Torres, we wanted to bring a major piece of boundary pushing contemporary art to Erie. Gonzalez-Torres transforms everyday objects like candy into interactive installations meant to break down traditional boundaries and get people to act. His work tends to deal with issues of gay rights, gun violence and AIDS. Simply put, these are two world-renowned works of art, the likes of which have never been seen before in Erie, PA.

[Fig. 2] Chuck Close, *Paul*, 1994. Oil on canvas. Philadelphia Museum of Art: Purchased with funds (by exchange) from the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Cummins Catherwood, with the Edith H. Bell Fund, and with funds contributed by the Committee on Twentieth-Century Art, 1994 © Chuck Close. Courtesy Pace Wildenstein, New York.
[Fig. 3] Chuck Close, *Untitled*, 1993. Woven silk tapestry. 2003.3.1
Behind the Scenes

Art Bridges + Terra Foundation Initiative

When will the works arrive and how long will they be on view?

The Gonzalez-Torres will be on view starting September 5th and will be at the Museum for a year. The Close arrives on September 10th and will be on view for six months. The Art Bridges + Terra Foundation project is a multi-year, multi-phase project. So, we’ll see quite a few famous works of art come to Erie over the course of the next several years.

Are you planning any special programming around these objects?

Yes, in addition to the loaned objects, the Museum will receive programming funds from Art Bridges. In our case, we plan to use these funds to give every school in Erie access to the Museum via subsidized tours. Thanks to our partnership with Art Bridges, we’ll be able to offer free transportation and tours to thousands of local school children. In total, we’re expecting to see about 4,000 students visit the Museum this year specifically to engage with these objects.

What does it mean for the EAM to be involved in a project like this?

For us, the Art Bridges + Terra Foundation project is incredibly exciting. Being a smaller regional art museum, the majority of the people living in Erie rarely have access to the types of objects being made available to us through the program. More importantly, a project like this is clearly looking to and thinking about the future of American museums. The connections being formed and the impetus to leverage one another’s assets, whether it be collections, professional knowledge, etc. has the potential to deeply impact and strengthen the partnering cultural organizations. We’re honored to be a part of it.

[Detail Fig. 1] Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Untitled (L.A.), 1991.
What’s On

September/October/November

CLOSING CELEBRATION

September 6 from 5 – 7 pm
Join us as we celebrate the closing of the Nicole & Harry Spring Show. Grab a drink at the bar, listen to live music and from 6 to 7 pm see what’s still available. Accepted works and purchases can be taken home starting at 7pm.

SECOND SUNDAYS

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

BUILD-A-MARIONETTE
September 8 from 2 – 4 pm
Sure, puppets can be creepy, but making one with your kid can be a lot of fun. We’ll have everything you need to make your own marionettes.

MONSTER MASH
October 13 from 2 – 4 pm
Use junk drawer items to make the scariest, weirdest, wildest monsters just in time for Halloween.

WEAVING DAY
November 10 from 2 – 4 pm
Looking for something new to do with the kids? Try weaving. It’s fun, easy and the results are beautiful. Plus we’ll have the Chautauqua County Weavers’ Guild here to show you how.

Sponsored by:

DRAG BINGO

October 4 from 7 – 10 pm
It’s bingo, but with a hell of a lot more pizzazz! Between games enjoy performances by Erie’s favorite queen Rebecca Mae and others. Cash bar, prizes and more. $30 for non-members and $15 for members. Entrance fee covers your first five cards. Additional cards $3 each. Register online or over the phone.

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BRETT KERN: THE LOST WORLD
September 1, 2019 – August 16, 2020
The tagline of *Jurassic Park: The Lost World* reads “Something has Survived”, and this is undeniably true for Brett Kern. What survived? Brett’s infatuation with the pop culture of the 80s and 90s. A master of clay, Brett’s sculptures are fun, smart and nothing short of exceptional.

Sponsored by:  
West Virginia University  
California University of Pennsylvania  
Erie Arts & Culture

BILL BRADY
August 10, 2018 – January 1, 2020
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:  
Lincoln Recycling

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:  
Maple’s

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:  
DiLaninger Landscape Architects & Contractors
BLACKSMITHING BASICS with Greg Gehner
In this class you’ll learn the basics of blacksmithing and complete a project of your own. Past projects include fire pokers, bottle openers and more. Ages 14 and up. No experience required. Register online or over the phone.
Class Meets: 11/16 and 11/17 from 9 – 1 pm
$125 ($100 Members)
Materials included.

OPEN-MIC POETRY
October 3 from 6 – 7 pm
Why not? We’ve got a microphone. Stop by to read or listen. It’s a great way to meet other writers in the area, workshop your newest poem and get a sense of the local writing scene.

ART CLASS
October 11 from 6 – 7 pm
Ever look at a famous work of art and think “I could do that”? Well here’s your chance. The challenge? Can you counterfeit a famous work of art from our collection? We’ll provide the materials and even have an artist on hand to help you make your fake. $15 for non-members and $10 for members. Register online or over the phone.

ART CRITIQUE
Meets: 9/13, 10/11 and 11/8 from 6 – 8 pm
Working on a new piece? Want feedback? Bring it to one of our monthly critiques. Get together with other local and regional artists to share and discuss your work. It’s a great way to meet fellow artists and strengthen the artist community in Erie. Professional and amateur artists welcome.
Sponsored by:

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

COMIC BOOK ART
September 13 from 7:30 pm – 8:30 pm
What are you doing after Comic-Con? Going to the art museum to get your hands on some original drawings by Jack Kirby, Joe Kubert, John Buscema and more. From Spidy to Batman we’ve got ’em all. Nerds assemble!

THE BEST OF
November 1 from 6 – 7 pm
Picasso, Matisse, Whistler, Warhol, Lichtenstein and more. We’re putting out the best of the Museum’s collection for you to get your hands on.

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. Register online or over the phone.
Class Meets: 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, and 10/17 from 4 – 6 pm
$125 ($100 Members)
Materials not included.

MAKE & PLAY
Meets: 9/28, 10/19, 11/2 and 11/23 from 2 – 4 pm
Need a little down time? Drop the kids off with us for a few hours. They’ll work with Ms. Carissa, the Museum’s Director of Education, to make their own paper, paint, sculpt and more. New art making activities every month. Materials included. Ages 7 – 11.
$20 for non-members and $10 for members. Register online or over the phone.

OPEN LATE
THURSDAY & FRIDAY NIGHTS
Open till 9 pm
The Museum has become quite the hang out spot on Thursday and Friday nights. Stop by after work or before dinner to grab a $2 beer, listen to live music, make art or just hang. FREE parking after 5 pm.
**ART TALK**

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

**TOP 50 SYMBOLS IN WESTERN ART**  
September 27 from 6 – 7 pm  
Join us as we count down the top fifty symbols used in western art. We’ll cover everything from the loyal dog to the sexually promiscuous cat.

**GENDER IN ART**  
October 18 from 6 – 7 pm  
If you think gender is solely a twenty-first century topic you couldn’t be more wrong. Issues of gender have been played out in art for centuries. Join us as we explore masculinity, femininity and even the gender bending of Christ.

**THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS (REPLAY)**  
November 15 from 6 – 7 pm  
For hundreds of years artists used plants and flowers to communicate all kinds of messages. Join us as we root around their hidden meanings.

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**HALLOWEEN**

**PUMPKIN CARVING**  
October 24 from 6 – 8:30 pm  
Bring your own pumpkin or pick one up at the Museum. We’ll have everything you need to carve a super cool pumpkin. Plus, we’ll clean up the mess!

**GHOULS NIGHT OUT**  
October 25 from 7 – 11 pm  
We’re throwing an adult costume party! We’ll have ghoul bands, dancing, specialty drinks and prizes for the best art inspired costumes. $5 cover charge for non-members and free for members.

**TRICK-OR-TREAT**  
October 27 from 1 – 3 pm  
Last year we had over 500 people trick-or-treat through the galleries with their kids and grandkids, and we can’t wait to do it again! We’ll have arts and crafts, a monster themed scavenger hunt, full sized candy bars and prizes for the best art inspired costumes. Admission is free and all are welcome.

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**INTRO TO DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY**  
with Erica Whiting  
In this class you’ll learn the basics of digital photography, such as camera controls, aperture, shutter speed, ISO, exposure, metering and composition. A digital camera with settings beyond automatic is required. Register online or over the phone.

Session 1: 9/7, 9/14 and 9/28 from 2– 4 pm  
Session 2: 11/2, 11/9 and 11/16 from 2– 4 pm  
$125 ($100 Members)
GALLERY NIGHT

September 20 from 7 – 10 pm
If you haven’t been to a Gallery Night at the EAM in a while then this is the one. No, seriously! We’ll be debuting two world-class works of art, the likes of which have never been seen before in Erie, PA. Renowned ceramist and Erie native Brett Kern will be here to celebrate his opening. Plus, we’ll have live music by the Honest Mistakes and Tim Kaye, ClaySpace, art making, $2 beers and snacks by Coffee in the Park. $3 cover charge for non-members and free for members.
Sponsored by: ERIE UPLIGHTING

MEMBERS ONLY

MEMBERS ONLY THANKSGIVING
November 22 from 6 – 8 pm
What are we thankful for? Our members. We’re inviting all of you to the Museum for a little holiday pre-gaming. Food, live music, art and more.

ART CLASS

PRECIOUS METAL JEWELRY MAKING
with Jan and 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. Register online or over the phone.
Class Meets: 9/11, 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16 and 10/23 from 7 –9 pm
$125 ($100 Members)
Materials not included. Tools provided for use.

CLAYSSPACE TAKEOVER

September 21 Demo: 10 am –12 pm and 1 – 3 pm
Erie ClaySpace is taking over the EAM and they’re bringing the one and only Brett Kern! Brett will be demoeing his dino-making process and ClaySpace will be selling their work. If you’re into clay (and who isn’t) this is a can’t miss. Oh yeah, and thanks to Erie Arts & Culture, admission is Pay-What-You-Wish.
Sponsored by: ERIE CLAYSSPACE
New Board Member: Brad Postema

The Erie Art Museum’s Board of Directors is proud to announce the appointment of Brad Postema to the Museum’s Board of Directors. As senior vice president and chief investment officer for Erie Insurance, Brad’s experience and skills will serve the EAM well as it looks to the future. Brad is enthusiastic about the work being done at the Museum and is excited to join the tEAM.

Staff Spotlight
Victoria Alcorn - Special Events Manager

How long have you been at the Museum?
“I started at the Museum as a museum studies and marketing intern in January 2018. After graduating from Penn State Behrend in May, I was fortunate enough to be offered a part-time position and then a full-time position managing the Museum’s special events.”

Did you ever see yourself working in an art museum?
“Yes, but it took some time. Throughout high school I really enjoyed taking classes like art appreciation and ceramics. Then, when I went to college I got interested in marketing and business. Shortly thereafter, I discovered Art Administration, a perfect combination of both.”

What’s the most difficult part of your job?
“Every time we get a new client, I remind myself that they’re not just booking the Museum as a venue, they’re trusting me to help them plan and manage their event. So, I want to make sure every client receives the attention they deserve. Sometimes this is easier said than done, especially when we have five or six events going on in a month. Luckily for me, I love this job and take a lot of pride in making myself available to clients 24/7.”

What are you looking forward to the most at the Museum?
“It really surprises me how many people have no idea they can have an event at the Museum. So, I’m looking forward to raising that awareness. The Museum is by far one of the most affordable and unique venues in town. Over the past several months we’ve reworked our pricing structure, rethought our menus and drastically improved the rental section of our website. The good news is, we’ve already seen our event numbers double compared to last year.”

What’s your vision for the future of special events at the EAM?
“Simple, the Erie Art Museum becomes the best event venue in town. What do I mean by “best”? Sure, we’ll be fairly priced, unique and beautiful, but also easy. Going forward, we’d like to be more than just a venue. We want to be the kind of place that makes the entire planning process easy.”
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

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.