Happy fall to all of you! I hope you and your families enjoyed a beautiful summer and continue to persevere through the ongoing health and economic challenges faced by our community and nation.

In spite of reduced hours and restricted visitation, we are pleased that hundreds of guests came through the Museum this summer. We saw members, first-time visitors, and return visitors each weekend. The 97th Annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show was quite the draw. The success of the Friday and Saturday hours allows us to continue to operate the Museum by appointment-only through the end of 2020.

Now we look forward to opening new exhibits including, Treacy Ziegler’s "Under a Concrete Sky", and our Collection Highlights - showcasing some of our most valued and renowned works by Steiglitz, Calder, Warhol, Daumier, and Anuszkiewicz to name a few. Plus, well-loved, local artist, Wilda Sunberg’s “A Life in Watercolor”.

Speaking of preparation, the EAM staff has kept on task despite unprecedented limitations. Their incredible dedication and attention to detail prevails as they continue to adapt to assure the safety and enjoyment of our in-person visitation, keeping our online presence and engaging with our community, along with being innovative & visionary for future programming. A big shout out to tEAM and I can’t thank them enough for their dedication.

Thank you to our members for their support; renewals and new members have been a source of inspiration to us. We are also very grateful to all of our Erie Gives donors. This is an incredibly difficult time for individuals, families and businesses, tEAM was humbled to see the great support we received at a time that we need it most. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and the strong spirit to assure the EAM continues to be a pillar in the art community, presenting unique exhibitions and art education and inspiring art appreciation in our community.

We still miss the opportunity to offer creative in-person programming and festive gatherings, we miss being the location of choice for many monumental events, especially weddings, family and business celebrations and we so appreciate your past and future patronage. Whether we are back to full capacity or with limitations, we look forward to bringing you art in as many ways as possible going forward!

Wishing all of you safety, health and resiliency,
Interim Director, Pam Masi
What’s On

October/November/December

ON VIEW

WILDA SUNDBERG: A LIFE IN WATERCOLOR

A founding member of the Northwest Pennsylvania Artist Association, Wilda Sunberg has shared her passion for watercolor for decades. The exhibition is a celebration of her life with ten works that span her career.

Sponsored by:

STAY SAFE

The safety of our visitors and staff is a top priority at the Erie Art Museum. Masks are required to enter the Museum and a six-foot distance between visitors is a must. Visitation numbers are limited and registration is required. Be sure to register online at erieartmuseum.org/visit. We look forward to seeing you.

VIRTUAL TOUR

Not able to get in to see us?! There’s no reason not to enjoy the Erie Art Museum. Take a “walk” through the Museum from your phone, tablet, or computer. It now includes the 97th Annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show. Access the tour at erieartmuseum.org/virtualtour.

Sponsored by: ErieMultimedia

ART CRITIQUE

November 13 from 6 – 7 pm

Working on a new piece? Want feedback? The Erie Art Museum will host its monthly Art Critique. 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:

MERCEYhurst UNIVERSITY
EDINBURGh UNIVERSITY
ON VIEW

TOM FERRARO: SAFETY ZONE
Local artist, Tom Ferraro, personally selected works that express the complex emotions of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

SECOND SUNDAYS

Spend time with your family creating. Every Sunday the Erie Art Museum will share cool projects that use items around the house that you can do at home. Put your own creative spin on one of these projects! erieartmuseum.org/second-sundays
Sponsored by:

FORGERY HOUR

November 6 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 an artist to help you make a fake. $15 plus the price of admission for non-members and $0 for members. Register online, space is limited.

MEET THE ARTIST

We’re getting to know local and regional artists better. What they are working on, what’s their inspiration, what media do they like to use, and more. The staff-led, online interviews are posted on Facebook. Tune in! facebook.com/erieartmuseum.
EAM PAINT NIGHTS

November 13 and December 18 from 6 – 7 pm
What’s better than an evening of painting with a group of friends? Supplies and guidance provided as you create a twist on a famous work of art. Held safely in the Museum while we can, otherwise, we’ll move online. Space is limited. Registration is required. Check our website or Facebook for updates. erieartmuseum.org/eam-paint-nights.

ON VIEW

TREACY ZIEGLER: UNDER A CONCRETE SKY
Compassion, transformation and acceptance are abstract concepts. Ziegler hopes to find root for these concepts in the metaphor of animals. Animals have been telling our stories for thousands of years. Ziegler’s sculptures bring amazement and wonder as they question their relationship with the space they occupy. Sponsored by:

COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS
Fifty of the Museum’s most treasured works on display at one time. From Steiglitz, Rauschenberg, Sloan, and Close to Warhol, Hockney, Picasso, Daumier, and more. We’re pulling out our heavy hitters.

ON VIEW

ARTrageous

Need something to look forward to? ARTrageous 2021 will be here before we know it. Special thanks to all of our corporate and individual sponsors who’ve committed so far. Sponsorships are available. Check out erieartmuseum.org/artrageous2021 for details. Save the date for June 12, 2021.

GOT ART?
Show us what you’re working on; finished or not, we want to share what regional artists are doing during the pandemic. Share images through Facebook messenger or by email. We will post them on our social media pages.

erieartmuseum.org/artrageous2021
The opening of Treacy Ziegler’s *Under a Concrete Sky* comes at a very interesting time in history. Under the restrictions of a pandemic, limited social contact, and hypervigilance to not further the spread of a deadly disease, the exhibition becomes even more relevant to an audience who has experienced its own type of confinement.

Treacy Ziegler tells us that her art isn’t one of self-expression, it’s “an act of listening and engaging with others.” With an undergrad degree in community mental health, master’s degree in social work, Ziegler attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art where she started with printmaking and painting. Feeling restricted by two dimensional works, Treacy moved into sculpture. Her passion for listening led Treacy to the Prisoner Express.

The Prisoner Express offers free in-the-mail art classes for 8500 prisoners in the continental United States. Many prisoners write on a regular basis because Prisoner Express is their only contact outside of prison. Treacy, is the Volunteer Art Director for the program.

It’s through this program that Ziegler collected thousands of letters and had the idea to turn them into sculptures of animals. She describes why she chose to turn the letters into animals,

“Compassion, transformation and acceptance are abstract concepts. I hope to find root for these concepts in the metaphor of animals. I discovered the vast fluidity of animal metaphor in teaching art to prisoners. After all, animals have been telling our stories for thousands of years. Crucial to our experience with animals is our ability to sustain moral judgment. Animals exist neither good nor bad. Suspending moral judgment clears space for wonderment and in wonderment; primary prejudicial defenses are put aside. It is my hope that the exhibition will be experienced as wonderment for the audience.”

What’s it been like working on this exhibition and these works during the pandemic?

Even before the pandemic hit, I was working on the twelve-foot giraffe. As you can imagine, the challenges were ever present throughout the process. Working on the fish gave me comfort because there is an intimacy in modeling form in clay – developing a quiet conversation with the clay. There is something so precious about being able to give up concerns where the only thing that matters is the clay in one’s hand.
I’d like to share something I observed while working in the prisons that seems relevant to how many have felt during the pandemic. When I first started going to prisons, I was struck by how one could never see the horizon. As a landscape painter I understand the horizon as the beginning of any creation. It is often the first stage in any creation story of many cultures – dividing earth from sky. As a painter I understood how the horizon kept one oriented. I understood that the loss of the horizon and its subsequent disorientation was deliberate in prison. I asked my students to draw what they understood as the horizon, to understand direction – north, south, west, east; to know where the sun came up when they woke and where it set at night. I also knew that this would get me kicked out of prison. Orientation to one’s place in the world and the horizon are forbidden in prison.

However, now during the pandemic, everyone’s horizon is challenged – the horizon of what people take for granted is lost, of how people understand their days, the simple routines of a day that make life sensible. I sensed the loss of a horizon for everyone where sky, land, and water were commingled.

**How did you choose the animals you wanted to create?**

I began each morning reading the prisoners’ letters before shredding them. The understanding of why I created certain animals evolved over this period. The camel is made from letters of prisoners in solitary confinement. It seemed fitting to create a camel for these letters; the harshness of solitary confinement reflecting the desert. The giraffe is dedicated to those prisoners who have experienced mental health issues, particularly Clarence, who has written to me for years from solitary confinement. The giraffe is based upon lines that Clarence wrote me. The donkey is based upon an animation project that I had hoped to do with the prisoners. Each animal has a connection to my thinking about prisoners.

**What do you hope the audience walks away with after encountering the exhibit?**

It’s important for me that the exhibition can be appreciated by anyone regardless of their education, age or background. I want children as well as adults to find something that they can relate to in the exhibition. Ultimately, I hope to create wonder.
Throughout 2020 the Erie Art Museum has pushed forward.

- The 97th annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show
- Visit reservations to ensure safety of staff, members, and guests
- New exhibits by Treacy Ziegler, Tom Ferraro, Wilda Sundberg, and EAM Collection Highlights
- Plus, our virtual tour to view the Museum from the comfort of home

We look forward to 2021. We will continue to forge ahead, no matter what obstacles we may encounter. Without the support of members and donors like you, we wouldn’t be able to do what we do. Donate to the Erie Art Museum today and continue to help us meet our mission.

Contact Christine Eddy, director of development or visit erieartmuseum.org/give to donate online.