“Boundaries are borders and borders become the doors to be opened.”

-Béatrice Lebreton, p. 8-9
Dear Members,

I am thrilled to be a part of the Erie community. Thank you for being so welcoming. Your enthusiasm and support of the Museum is what makes this such a unique place. Its past and future are woven into the cultural foundation of Erie and I am excited for all the programs and collaborations.

Beginning in June, our summer programs include new gallery tours on Saturdays at 1 pm and a happy return to in person Second Sundays activities for families.

In building our exhibitions and education programs, we are planning a series of conversations and workshops. Based on our exhibitions, these guided discussions and short workshops are wonderful ways to reintroduce yourself to the Museum’s collection, and regional artists’ work. Keep an eye out for details through our emails, website and social media.

One of the featured exhibitions, the 98th Annual Nicole and Harry Martin Spring Show, is a great way to survey the visual art of the region. We are so fortunate to have the partnership with Edinboro University to provide such accomplished and engaging jurors like Roberto Lugo. To complement the exhibitions, the Donald & Clare Richwine Gift Shop is showcasing a selection of prints and small sculptures by some of the artists. This August, we will be presenting painters Béatrice Lebreton based in New York, and David King from Cleveland. Lebreton’s works use the rich vocabulary of her blended cultural heritage, weaving visual stories that tie past and present. King’s paintings combine familiar and foreign narratives inspired by old family movie reels.

I also want to express my appreciation to the staff and board of the Erie Art Museum. They have shepherded the Museum during many challenges. Their perseverance, dedication and passion they have for this cultural gem and the Erie community is what has brought us to this point. The Museum is in a place where we can begin the next phase of growth and connection with the community.

I can’t wait to see you at the Museum!

Laura Domencic, Executive Director
We’re excited to announce new additions to our team, and highlight the dedicated staff members that have stuck with us throughout the wild ride that was 2020. Make sure to say hello to them at this summer’s events.

**ADMIN**

Eric Dye, our new Marketing Director, is an expert in - you guessed it - marketing, but also photography, videography, and documentary making. Eric enjoys spending time walking Presque Isle with his fiancée that he met online playing video games!

Christine Eddy has served as Development Director of the Museum for the past seven years, having worked in development for 17 years. Her passion is connecting individuals and businesses to Erie’s cultural treasure. Christine has an outgoing personality and can usually be seen meeting and greeting people at EAM and events. She enjoys networking, helping others, fashion, and working out.

Jamie Keim, a new Designer and Educator for the Museum, is an Erie native who spent the majority of her twenties studying art in NYC. Jamie is a painter and tree planter and can be found in any of Erie’s local parks with her partner and their pup.

Mary Pruchniewski has been the Finance Director for the EAM for over 10 years and works for four other nonprofit agencies. She loves the challenges the Museum offers. She loves her husband of almost 31 years, her two dogs, and her two grandchildren and one on the way!

**EXHIBITIONS**

Matthew Coté, our Lead Preparator and Collection Manager, has been working for the Museum since 2018. Originally born and raised in Tacoma, WA, he arrived in the Erie area to attend Edinboro University’s graduate art program. Since graduating, Matthew’s artwork has shown nationally in 30 exhibitions.

James Pearson is a Preparator and archival framing specialist for the EAM, working behind the scenes to build great exhibitions. James also likes building musical instruments, and baking bread.

**VISITOR SERVICES**

Maddie Alfieri is a Front Desk Attendant for the EAM. She is currently an Honors student at Gannon University, studying Criminal Justice and Criminalistics. She enjoys hiking, golfing, and spending time with her friends.

Todd Paropacic is a Front Desk Attendant and the Manager of the Gift Shop for the EAM. He also interviews artists and gives tours, which is his favorite part of the job. Todd is a poet, singer-songwriter, illustrator, and actor, because one artistic pursuit is not enough for him. In his free time, Todd loves playing video games and spending time with his wife and pets.

**FACILITIES**

Kirk Oglevee turned up on EAM’s doorstep in 2015 and won’t leave. He has all his shots, plays moderately well with others, and is available for immediate adoption. He is also our Facilities & IT Director.

Brooke Glienna is the Facilities Assistant for the EAM. She studied psychology and human services in college and also went to cosmetology school. In her free time, she likes to hang out with her kid, boyfriend, and her zoo of animals.
About the Juror, Roberto Lugo

The 98th annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show was judged by Roberto Lugo, an American artist specializing in ceramics. Lugo uses porcelain as his medium of choice, illuminating its aristocratic surface with imagery of poverty, inequality, and social and racial injustice. Lugo holds a BFA from Kansas City Art Institute and an MFA from Penn State. His work has been featured in numerous exhibitions and is held in many private collections. He is the recipient of various awards, most recently including a 2019 Pew Fellowship, a Cynthia Hazen Polsky and Leon Polsk Rome Prize, and a US Artist Award.

A Note from the Juror:

It was my honor to be a juror for this year’s exhibition. What I wasn’t prepared for was having to make so many difficult decisions. The quality of art was unprecedented. The artists that submitted work this year were diverse, innovative and had so much heart. I love hearing from the range of artists that decided to honor us with submitting their artwork. I feel truly honored to have played a role in this process and I hope you enjoy this selection of works.

In my decision process I really wanted to hear from a wide range of voices and present some opportunities for less represented artists to have a moment to shine and have their voice heard. Since I couldn’t meet the people, I had to rely on their visual language and the artist statements sharing what they wish to see in the world through their art. It is truly a blessing to have taken part in this wonderful exhibition and I hope you enjoy it as a participant, viewer, collector, or any of the many ways that art collides with our existence. Love.

Northwestern Pennsylvania Art Association Award Winner:

Barbara Yerace
*In Celebration Of The Bear, 2020*
Paper Mache And Glass Beads

Artists of Distinction: Lugo chose 5 artists of distinction. A few have multiple pieces in the show. Here is an example of each of the artists’ work.

David King
*Red Shoes*

Brad Lethaby
*Last Tweet—January 8, 2021*

Thomas Jackson
*Nicks BBQ*

George Cooley
*Princesse Guerrière*

Chuck Johnson
*Ecclesiastical Backpack*
What’s On

June/July/August

SECOND SUNDAYS

Spend time with your family creating at EAM.

We're excited to host Second Sundays in person again. Different art making activities every month, plus admission is Pay-What-You-Wish.

More information at: erieartmuseum.org/second-sundays. Online registration is appreciated.

Join us for the following dates:
June 13th, 2-4 pm
July 11th, 2-4 pm
August 8th, 2-4 pm

Sponsored by:

SATURDAY TOURS

Summer is here and the art on our walls is ready to socialize, safely. Join EAM staff member, Todd, for 40 minute tours through each gallery.

Saturdays at 1pm. Online registration appreciated. More information at: erieartmuseum.org/saturday-tours

EAM GIFT SHOP

Our Gift Shop is looking great these days. Stop in and purchase works by Kat Charnley, Marcia Merrins, Dana Miller, and more.

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. We look forward to seeing you.

Raku fired sculptures by Marcia Merrins.
FIRST THURSDAYS

There is nothing better than summer in Erie, and we’re excited to join in on the fun.

Join us on the first Thursday of each month, starting June 3rd. We’re hosting three evenings of music, artist demos, food trucks, and more. Keep an eye out for updates and details on our website and social media.

Be sure to mark these dates on your calendar!:

**June 3rd, July 1st, and August 5th.**

VIRTUAL TOUR

Not able to get in to see us in person?! 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 most recent exhibitions of 2021.

Access the tour at erieartmuseum.org/virtualtour.

Sponsored by: **ErieMultimedia**

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 and on YouTube Channel.

Tune in! facebook.com/erieartmuseum.

David Kiefer, IUP MFA graduate.

FOR THE KIDS

We’re partnering with the Children’s Museum on some creative events for aspiring artists this summer. Keep an eye out for updates and details on our website and social media!

ARTrageous

Unfortunately, ARTrageous 2021 has been postponed. Stay tuned for a series of smaller events and fundraisers throughout the year!

Contact Christine Eddy, Development Director, for info on sponsorships. email: christine.edly@erieartmuseum.org

GALLERY NIGHT

We’ve missed Gallery Nights just as much as you have. We’re planning on hosting again next time around. See you in the fall.

Sponsored by:
The 98th Annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show will continue through June 25th.
Make sure to stop in and see what your community has been creating, before it’s too late. Winners and a message from this year’s juror on page 3.

Sponsored by:

The Year That Was Missed

An exhibition featuring BA students from Mercyhurst University, The Year that was Missed, includes various works by artists that were destined to show their student final exhibitions but were unable to be shown publicly due to the pandemic. We’ve changed that. Every artist involved brings a unique style, voice, and technique that culminates in a stunning exhibition to witness.

The Year That Was Missed - Mercyhurst will run through August 22nd.

Teri Fitzpatrick

Enchanted Destinations: The Life and Work of Teri Fitzpatrick

A retrospective of her work, celebrating her life and dedication to the arts, will be on display through July 18th.

Sponsored by: Douglass Bennett, Amicangelo & Theisen, LLC, Trolley Line Vineyards LTD, Mr. & Mrs. W.B. Conner, Shawn & Sharon Rooney, Beautiful Smiles, Al Mooney Family, and Jim & Julie O’Brien.

Treacy Ziegler

Treacy Ziegler: Under a Concrete Sky

We’re bidding our animal friends farewell on August 8th. Join us on July 23rd from 6-8 pm for an artist talk with Treacy and light refreshments.

Sponsored by:
“An appreciation of time occurs as we can look both forwards and backwards, yet remain present.”

-David King

David King is a contemporary artist from Cleveland, Ohio who focuses on translating photographic images into vibrant paintings; created with oil paint, oil stick, chalk pastel and acrylic. In this body of work, King was inspired by a treasure of 50+ year old family movie reels. Often unrelated figures from multiple photos are combined to create new, otherworldly tales. The works serve as an opportunity to connect with others, finding familiar strings holding us together.

On view from August 6th - February 6th.
Sponsored by Thrive Therapy Space and King Communications
Béatrice was born in Tours, France. Her travels took her to different countries in Europe and Africa. She came to the USA in 1986 and has been residing in New York City since 2008. Her paintings are narratives that incorporate fabrics, shells and beads in which she draws influences from traditional African motifs and cosmology.

Béatrice Lebreton – Living Her Truth: Transcending Boundaries will be on view in the Museum from August 6th, 2021 through May 8th, 2022.

What originally made you gravitate towards being an artist?
Creating has been a driving force in my life since early childhood. Creativity continues as an escape and a defining grace in my life. As a child, I watched my grandmother sew, knit, crochet, and do embroidery. It was part of everyday life. I would spend hours playing with fabric remnants, cutting images in catalogs, and shaping stories before I could write. I have been gifted with a great imagination, so art has always been a natural conduit. Art allowed me to “say” things that I couldn’t express in any other way. Additionally, I was exposed to art daily as my mother had reproductions of paintings on the walls of our home. I was fascinated by the way they made me discover different worlds, the stories they told, and the joy they brought me. That feeling of pure joy is addictive and never left. So, I can say that my happiness and sense of “being” is connected to creating.

What is the significance to using tapestry/fabric elements in your painting work?
Fabric, for me, is a visual language. In fact, I learned that in the Dogon (an ethnic group from Mali) the word “fabric” means “the word.” African fabrics have always been a vehicle for communicating politics, status, and other messages. Therefore, adding a cultural and historical context is central to my works and artistic expressions. The abstract, geometric shapes also imply movement. The lavish colors symbolize a celebration of diversity. The textiles contain the stories of our lives and the world. I use “recycled fabric” (remnants donated by a friend, who is a tailor at the African Market in Harlem where I live). These scraps retain a secret personal history even when discarded. By repurposing the fabrics, I preserve memories.

What is the inspiration or inspirations behind your work?
I am inspired by people’s journeys and stories, above all, women. Mythological stories, legends from diverse cultures, have been a great source of inspiration. By combining them with my own experiences and mixed cultural background, I create storytelling pieces that celebrate women. Thus, I could say that my work is relevant to black womanhood, history and identity. I have been influenced by earlier studies in anthropology, consequently my work is often a research-based investigation. My work is attuned to women’s issues and based on portraits. The portraits tell stories from the past, questioning what is going on in the present, and provides a glimpse of what could be.

My Mothers’ Garden, Acrylic, Fabric Paint, Gold Marker, African Fabric on Unstretched Canvas, 2020

What’s Coming Up

Behind the Scenes with Béatrice Lebreton
Your exhibition is called: “Living Her Truth: Transcending Boundaries.” What made you choose that particular name for the exhibition?
I think we are born into stereotypes and expectations. In order to find myself and connect with my own identity, I had to break and dispel racial and ethnic stereotypes. Still, I had to define my own concepts of femininity and beauty. These ideas are translated and transformed in all of my works. Humans tend to have a need to categorize in order to understand. Because of this, some groups are marginalized, and others are glorified, depending on the identity of the storyteller. My identity is made of several layers. Being bi-racial with multi-heritage lineage, others often questioned the authenticity of my identity. Maturity gave me the power to create a new name for myself, and to quit allowing stereotypical, social constructs to guide my perceptions. I learned to define me in the likeness of my own reality. **Boundaries are borders and borders became the doors to be opened.** The title of the exhibit indicates that I do not feel the pressure anymore to conform to the familiar and to typecasts. Today, I unabashedly and unapologetically choose the scripts of my stories.

What do you hope the audience walks away with after encountering the exhibition?
I hope the audience will be inspired and empowered. Visual information is significant in shaping opinions: for this reason, I aim to create positive images that can help people gain a self-identity of respect, dignity and love. My art is quite personal, it holds my thoughts, my secrets, my experiences. It is through my art that I share it with the hope that the viewers will connect to it and perhaps find a reflection of who they are or want to be in their own life. I want the audience to realize there is still much beauty in this somewhat crazy world and that everything you need is embodied within you. I wish that the imagery will encourage the viewer’s engagement and interpretation.

Lastly, do you have any advice for anyone desiring a career as an artist?
My advice is simple: Above all, stay true to yourself, as you have a unique voice. Enjoy the journey. Compete only with yourself. Be tenacious. Accept criticism but gauge its helpfulness to you and your creative journey. Further, do not dismiss small achievements: they are part of the progress toward a final goal. **Create, create, create!**

Sponsored by:

Douglass Bennett, Kevin & Susan O'Connell, Jeffrey & Neala Eastman, A to Z Law, Greg & Heather Yahn, Susan Black & Barry Weller, Michael Butler - SEIU PSSU 668, Theodore & Georgiana Ely
I wonder which art museum I should give to on Erie Gives Day?

All gifts made to the Erie Art Museum on August 10th receive a prorated match from the Erie Community Foundation.