With over 8,000 works, the Erie Art Museum's collection can pose a bit of a challenge when deciding what to highlight. Recently, a visitor asked about the works of Joseph Plavcan (1908–1981), a well known Erie artist and teacher. The brochure accompanying his 2008 Centennial Exhibition at the Museum recognized his work as a “reflection of 20th century changes and developments in art and in Erie.” With 40 of his works in our collection, Plavcan is a fitting starting point to highlight.

Plavcan painted Classroom in 1940. Its rich amber tones and strong forms resonate with American Scene painting, a mainstream social realist style depicting everyday life, popular during the Great Depression. The painting creates depth with three different scenes in elegant balance. Through the windows, we see a serene winter’s day, snow piling on cars, and bare branches. The most prominent scene is the classroom where we see the student on the right making eye contact with the viewer, while her colleagues are seen sketching among scattered statuary. The student in the center seems to physically hold the entire composition in place with his left hand. The final, and most striking scene, is the collection of empty pages. Although these students appear to be actively working on their projects, not one has put anything on paper. For me, it appears that Plavcan painted the blank pages to represent the potential of his young students.

In learning more about Plavcan, I started to view Classroom as a symbol of a long line of mentorship. Plavcan's teacher, George Ericson, aka Eugene Iverd, a Saturday Evening Post illustrator, was a significant influence. Plavcan would go on to offer support and encouragement to his students, just as Ericson had done for him. As an artist myself, what I connect with most is his mindset. He was interested in “how the mind perceives.” He was constantly involved in learning through observation, insisting his students draw from life. Plavcan taught for nearly 40 years and continued painting, exploring many styles. His commitment to education through observation parallels a critical part of the Museum's mission: to foster lifelong art learning.

This painting is currently on display in front of the entrance to the Collections Highlights exhibition. We welcome you to view this painting in person, and all the works we have on display. We invite you to come up with your own interpretations.

Laura Domencic, Executive Director
WHAT’S ON

December/January/February

FRAMING WORKSHOP SERIES: CUTTING A MAT

Learn how you can cut your own mats at home to fit new art into old frames. Topics covered include: how to select the right materials, what tools are needed, and how to lay out and cut your mat. Tools and materials provided. First in a new series of short workshops covering many aspects of fine art framing.

January 27th, 6-8 pm.
$40 for members, $50 for non-members

More information at:
ErieArtMuseum.org/class-list

TOUR THE MUSEUM

Interested in learning more about our current exhibits? Join us every Saturday at 1 PM for a guided tour. Register online at ErieArtMuseum.org/saturday-tours.

For group or class tours, call us or submit a tour inquiry on our website.

Can’t make it to the EAM? Check out our virtual tour online, and explore our exhibitions from the comfort of your own home.

SECOND SUNDAYS

Explore creativity, new mediums, and artistic process with your family each Second Sunday of the month! Admission is Pay-What-You-Wish.

More information at:
ErieArtMuseum.org/second-sundays

Join us for the following dates:
December 12th, 2-4 pm
January 9th, 2-4 pm
February 13th, 2-4 pm

Sponsored by:

WRITING WORKSHOP

Join songwriter/poet Todd Paropacic while discussing writing like a painter, channeling the imagination, and reciting with a steady hand. Each week of this four week workshop will focus on a different aspect or approach to poetry. Take one workshop or all four.

Join us every Wednesday in February:
February 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd. 5:30 to 7 pm.

Learn to vivify your compositions.

$20 per class for members.
$30 per class for non-members.

More information at
ErieArtMuseum.org/class-list
CALL FOR ARTISTS - 2022 SPRING SHOW

Mark your calendars to submit your work to the 99th annual Nicole & Harry Martin Spring Show! We welcome submissions from any and all artists living, working, or studying within 250 miles of the City of Erie, Pennsylvania. The call for online submissions will be open from January 1st - February 11th, 2022.

The Erie Art Museum, in partnership with the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Art Department, is excited to announce Jessica Hong as the Spring Show 2022 juror. Hong is the new Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Toledo Museum of Art, where she is responsible for broadening art historical narratives and shaping a dynamic collection and exhibition program.

More details can be found at: ErieArtMuseum.org/springshow

MADE BY THE LAKE: WOODWORKING BY REGIONAL ARTISTS

Karen Ernst, Fredy Huaman Malldui, Bryan Geary, Brian Millspaw, Todd Steffy, Brad Triana, and Ryan Zimmerman.

This exhibition of fine wood art objects presents an in-depth exploration into the craftsmanship of woodworking artists from, or currently based in, the Erie area. Their technical execution exemplifies the versatility of a material that is deeply intertwined with society.

On view from January 14th through March 13th, 2022.

OUT OF MANY – STORIES OF MIGRATION

The Documentary Works
Brian Cohen, Scott Goldsmith, Nate Guidry, Lynn Johnson, Annie O’Neill

Out of Many: Stories of Migration is a series of exhibits, events and conversations centering around the work of five photographers working out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This exhibition features the faces and experiences of multiple generations of migrants and immigrants, and their descendants. With original, contemporary photography and essays, Out of Many uses Pittsburgh’s story as a lens through which to examine the broader American immigration and migration experience.


Funding for Out Of Many is generously provided by: Opportunity Fund; Elizabeth Firestone Graham Foundation; The Fisher Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation; Hillman Foundation; and The Heinz Endowments.
TIME TRAVEL

David King is a painter from Cleveland, Ohio who focuses on translating photographic images into vibrant works. Inspired by a treasure of 50+ year old family movie reels, this series combines unrelated figures from multiple photos to invent otherworldly narratives.

On view now through February 27th, 2022.

Sponsored by: Thrive Therapy Space, King Communications, Marquette Savings Bank, Presque Isle Printing Services, LLC, and HBK & HBKS

FUTURE MEMORIES

John Eric Steiner is a multimedia artist who relies on the language of cinema to create dreamlike moments. His work reflects on modern life as we experience being the first generation of humans on both sides of the camera simultaneously. Future Memories is a series of videos, installations and objects that merge old and new media, exploring our complicated relationship with technology.

On view through February 27th, 2022.

Sponsored by: Sheraton Erie Bayfront Hotel and MenajErie Studio.

SORROW/FULLNESS

Sue Amendolara, Renee Zettle-Sterling, Adrienne M. Grafton.

Sorrow/Fullness: A Reflection on Mourning explores the process of loss and grieving from the perspective of three artists specializing in metalsmithing. The work offers a wide range of materials in sculpture, jewelry, and wearable art.

On view through December 22nd.

Sponsored by: Counseling and Assessment Services, LLC, Burton Quinn Scott Cremation and Funeral Services, and Edinboro University in celebration of ART 100

LIVING HER TRUTH

Béatrice Lebreton’s paintings use the rich vocabulary of her blended cultural heritage, drawing inspiration from traditional African motifs and cosmology. She interprets these symbols with a modern eye to convey the spiritual potential of Africa’s cultures to contemporary viewers, forging a visual link between the past and the present.

On view now through May 8th, 2022.

NPAA BIENNIAL

On view through December 22, 2021

Congratulations to Juror Award Winners:

Best in Show
Best in Mixed Media
Deborah Sementelli Hoenes
Gesture in Thread

Best in Painting
Thomas Ferraro
Coast to Coast

Best in Photo
Gary Cardot
Lower Parade Street, Erie, Pa.

Juror’s Honorable Mention
Rachael J. Burke
Arboretum #1

Best in Sculpture
Kathe Umlauf
What’s Up?

Juror’s Honorable Mention
Bryan Toy
Make Peace

Staff Spotlight: Averie Shaughnessy-Comfort

EAM welcomes Averie Shaughnessy-Comfort as our new Director of Development! Averie is an administrative nonprofit professional with a passion for fundraising, community engagement, and professional development. Since 2017, Averie has served as the Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums, a membership organization focused on continuing education and professional development for museum and industry professionals.

Averie is originally from the Pittsburgh area but has also lived in Maine and upstate New York. Averie and her partner moved to Millcreek just over 2 years ago. When not at the Museum, Averie enjoys baking various types of breads, exploring parks and the outdoors, and singing in the Erie Philharmonic Chorus.
Listen to music, shop, eat, and visit your favorite local galleries.

Join us next time! February 25th, 2022.

More information at: ErieArtMuseum.org/events-gallery-night

Sponsored by:
MUSEUM HOURS
Thursdays: 2 pm - 8 pm
Fridays: 2 pm - 8 pm
Saturdays: 10 am - 5 pm
Sundays: 1 pm - 6 pm

On the Cover:
John Eric Steiner, *Mary*, Vintage Four Color Print, Monitor, 2021

The Erie Art Museum receives general support from Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority.

Quarterly, a publication of the Erie Art Museum, 20 East 5th Street, Erie, PA 16507, is published four times a year.

Join us for a series of small concerts on the first Thursday of each month through April!

*Take a tour of the galleries and enjoy drinks at 5 pm. Stay for live music from 6-8 pm.*

**Upcoming performances include:**

*December 2nd* - Smilo and The Ghost  
*January 6th* - Steve Trehoske Trio  
*February 3rd* - Jess Royer

Sponsored by:

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