



NATIONAL MUSEUM
of WOMEN *in the* ARTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spring Calendar of Events at National Museum of Women in the Arts

Programs and Exhibitions from March–June 2017

WASHINGTON—The National Museum of Women in the Arts ([NMWA](http://nmwa.org)) is pleased to present a wide range of exhibitions and programs, including an artist talk and gallery talks related to the exhibition *Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara*. In addition, the second season of the museum’s Women, Arts and Social Change initiative includes Fresh Talks exploring makers, the environment and superheroines.

The first Sunday of every month is a Community Day with free admission to the public. The information below is current as of January 2017. To find out more, visit the museum’s [online calendar](#).

ARTIST TALKS

[Artists in Conversation: Jami Porter Lara](#)

Thursday, April 6, 6:30–9 p.m.

Join artist Jami Porter Lara and guests in conversation over light refreshments. Porter Lara discusses her background, artistic process and philosophy, and works featured in *Border Crossing* during this informal and intimate in-gallery experience. Participants have ample time to explore the galleries, learn about Porter Lara’s work and engage in small-group conversations. \$25 general; \$15 members, seniors, students. Reserve online at

<https://nmwa.org/events/artists-conversation-jami-porter-lara>.



Artists in Conversation: Amy Sherald

Tuesday, May 9, 6:30–9 p.m.

Join Baltimore-based artist Amy Sherald and guests in conversation over light refreshments. Sherald discusses her background, artistic process and philosophy, and works featured in the museum's 30th-anniversary collection rotation during this informal and intimate in-gallery experience. Through her portraits, Sherald explores the ways people construct and perform their identities in response to political, social and cultural expectations. Sherald won the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery's 2016 Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition and is an Artist in Residence at the Creative Alliance in Baltimore. This intimate program provides ample time for participants to explore the galleries after hours, learn about Sherald's work and engage in small-group conversations. Reservations required. \$25 general; \$15 members, seniors, students. Reserve online at <https://nmwa.org/events/artists-conversation-amy-sherald>.



FRESH TALK PROGRAMS

Ann Hamilton and Emily Pilloton—How can makers change the world?

Wednesday, March 29, 7–8:30 p.m., followed by Catalyst, a cocktail hour with a topic and a twist, 8:30–9:30 p.m. Exhibition galleries open to attendees 5–6:45 p.m.

Ann Hamilton, an internationally renowned visual artist and self-described maker, joins **Emily Pilloton**, designer, builder, educator, author and founder of the nonprofit design agency Project H Design, to talk about the relevance of hands-on learning and how the experience of making things can inspire the next generation of innovators and creative change makers. \$25 general; \$20 members, seniors, students; price includes museum admission and Catalyst. Shop booths featuring local makers before and after the Fresh Talk. Reservations required. Reserve online at <http://nmwa.org/events/ann-hamilton-emily-pilloton>.



How can the arts inspire environmental advocacy?

Sunday, May 21, 4:30–6 p.m., followed by Sunday Supper, 6–8 p.m. Exhibition galleries open to attendees before program.

Artists across disciplines and around the globe are creating works in response to climate change and other environmental issues. Can the arts communicate scientific evidence in ways that inspire advocacy or change attitudes and behaviors? Joining the conversation are **Ruth Little**, associate director, Cape Farewell; **Miranda Massie**, director of the Climate Museum, New York; **Jacqui Patterson**, director, Environmental and Climate Justice Program, NAACP; and **Laura Turner Seydel**, chairperson, Captain Planet Foundation. Moderated by **Kari Fulton**, award-winning environmental justice advocate and new-media journalist based in Washington, D.C. \$25 general; \$20 members, seniors, students; price includes

museum admission and Sunday Supper. Reservations required. Reserve online at <http://nmwa.org/events/fresh-talk-how-can-arts-inspire-environmental-advocacy>.

[Who are the new superwomen of the universe?](#)

Wednesday, June 14, 7–8:30 p.m., followed by Catalyst, a cocktail hour with a topic and a twist, 8:30–9:30 p.m. *Exhibition galleries open to attendees 5–6:45 p.m.*

For much of comics history, women characters were introduced as plot devices for leading male characters with disheartening regularity. A new wave of superheroines is entering the comic universe, leading the fight for justice and dispelling traditional stereotypes in fiction and beyond. Speakers include **Janelle Asselin**, former writer for Comic Alliance and founder of Rosy Press; **Carolyn Cocca**, author of *Superwomen: Gender, Power, and Representation*; **Ashley Woods**, illustrator and graphic novelist, and artist for the Stranger Comics series “NIOBE: She is Life”; and others to be announced. \$25 general; \$20 members, seniors, students; price includes museum admission and Catalyst. Reservations required. Reserve online at <http://nmwa.org/events/fresh-talk-who-are-new-superwomen-universe>.

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

[#5WomenArtists Scavenger Hunt](#)

Daily in March

Can you name five women artists? This scavenger hunt challenges players to explore NMWA’s collection by looking closely at works on view and using the museum’s online and on-site interpretive resources. Whether you’re a first-time visitor or a regular, follow the prompts to discover artists featured in the collection and snap a picture. Share your answers on Instagram, tag @WomenInTheArts and include #5WomenArtists. Win a prize if your photo is chosen to be featured by @WomenInTheArts! Free. No reservations required.

Wikipedia Edit-a-thon 2017

[Art+Feminism: Women in the Arts Workshop](#)

Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Celebrate Women’s History Month and help us improve Wikipedia articles about women artists. In honor of Women’s History Month, NMWA is organizing its fifth annual edit-a-thon focused on improving Wikipedia entries related to notable women artists and art-world figures. Training for new editors and refreshments provided. This event is part of the larger Art+Feminism global initiative to help improve Wikipedia’s gender imbalance. A 2010 Wikimedia survey found that less than 13% of contributors are women. The lack of female participation has contributed to the absence of notable women on Wikipedia. Registration required. For a schedule and more information, visit <https://nmwa.org/events/wikipedia-edit-thon-2017>.

FILMS

Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital

[Kivalina—Washington, D.C., Premiere](#)

Sunday, March 19, 3–5 p.m.

Screenings are presented in partnership with the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation’s Capital, the world’s premier showcase of environmentally themed films. [Kivalina](#) (U.S., 2016, 61 min.) is a candid portrait of an Inupiaq Eskimo tribe living on an island disappearing into the ocean. Weaving together observational storytelling and cinematic imagery, director Gina Abatemarco presents an evocative and rare portrait of one of the last surviving Arctic cultures. Conversation and reception follow the

screening. Free; includes museum admission. Reservations required. Online registration will be available on the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital [website](#) in mid-February.

Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital

[KONELINE: our land beautiful—Washington, D.C., Premiere](#)

Wednesday, March 22, 6:30–9 p.m. *Exhibition galleries open to attendees before program.*

Screenings are presented in partnership with the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital, the world's premier showcase of environmentally themed films. An art film with politics, drama and humor, *KONELINE: our land beautiful* (Canada, 2016, 96 min.) explores different ways of seeing—and being. It is a bold experimental film from Nettie Wild, one of Canada's leading documentary filmmakers.



Conversation and reception follow the screening. Free; includes museum admission. Reservations required. Online registration will be available on the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital [website](#) in mid-February.

MUSIC

[Shenson Chamber Music Concert: Lydia Brown, piano](#)

Wednesday, April 19, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Artistic Director Gilan Tocco Corn welcomes pianist Lydia Brown. Brown performs “William Bolcom Cabaret Songs” with stars of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, which boasts one of the most comprehensive training programs for opera singers, coaches and directors in the United States. Praised by the *New York Times* as “intensely expressive,” Brown has performed notable venues across the country and has prepared several U.S. operatic premieres, including *Émilie* by Kaija Saariaho; *Faustus, the Last Night* by Pascal Dusapin; and the New York premiere of Elliott Carter’s *What Next?* Free.

Reservations required. Reserve online at

<https://nmwa.org/events/shenson-chamber-music-concert-lydia-brown>.



[Shenson Chamber Music Concert: Susanna Phillips, soprano](#)

Wednesday, May 24, 7:30–9:30 p.m.

“The Woman’s Experience” includes the Washington, D.C., premiere of William Harvey’s *Speaking for the Afghan Woman*

Artistic Director Gilan Tocco Corn welcomes soprano Susanna Phillips. Alabama-born soprano Phillips, recipient of the Metropolitan Opera’s 2010 Beverly Sills Artist Award, continues to establish herself as one of today’s most sought-after singing actors and recitalists. This past winter Phillips returned to the Metropolitan Opera for a ninth consecutive season, starring as Clémence in the Met premiere of Kaija Saariaho’s *L’Amour de Loin* conducted by Susanna Mälkki, as well as reprising her acclaimed role as Musetta in Puccini’s *La Bohème*. Other



performances include her Zurich Opera debut as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* and a turn as Cleopatra in Handel's *Giulio Cesare* with Boston Baroque and Martin Pearlman. Free. Reservations required. Reserve online at <https://nmwa.org/events/shenson-chamber-music-concert-susanna-phillips>.

IN THE GALLERIES

Lunchtime Gallery Talks

Wednesdays, March 1–June 28, 12–12:30 p.m.

These bite-size lunchtime talks are offered most Wednesdays. Museum staff members facilitate interactive conversations, encouraging visitors to look closely and investigate the mediums, techniques and overarching themes of special exhibitions and works from the museum's collection. Free. No reservations required.

[3/1](#): *Bold Broadsides and Bitsy Books*

[3/8](#): *Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara*

[3/15](#): *Chromatic Scale: Prints by Polly Apfelbaum*

[3/22](#): *New Ground: The Southwest of Maria Martinez and Laura Gilpin*

[3/29](#): *Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara*

[4/5](#): *Chromatic Scale: Prints by Polly Apfelbaum*

[4/12](#): *Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara*

[4/19](#): Collection Selections

[4/26](#): Collection Selections

[5/3](#): *Chromatic Scale: Prints by Polly Apfelbaum*

[5/10](#): Collection Selections

[5/17](#): *From the Desk of Simone de Beauvoir*

[5/24](#): Collection Selections

[5/31](#): Collection Selections

[6/7](#): Collection Selections

[6/14](#): Collection Selections

[6/21](#): Collection Selections

[6/28](#): *Revival*



Free Community Days

Sundays, [March 5](#), [April 2](#), [May 7](#), and [June 4](#), 12–5 p.m.

The first Sunday of every month is a Community Day at NMWA, with free admission to the public. Take this opportunity to explore current exhibitions as well as the museum's newly reinstalled collection. Free. No reservations required.

[Slow Art Day](#)

Saturday, April 8, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Break out of your typical “go, go, go” routine and join a movement! Slow Art Day is an international event encouraging people of all ages to visit museums and look at art slowly. Participants look at five works of art for 15 minutes each and then meet over lunch to talk about their experience. Simple by design, the goal is to focus on the art



and the art of seeing. Museum staff will be present to provide you with artwork suggestions and questions to consider. Free with admission. Reservations recommended; for a full schedule and more information, visit <http://nmwa.org/events/slow-art-day>.

Drop-In Tour: Collection Selections

Sunday, June 4, 1–2 p.m.

Attend a free, docent-led drop-in tour exploring highlights from the museum’s collection. Free. No reservations required.

Conversation Pieces

Most days, 2 p.m.

Join us for 30-minute “conversation pieces” most days at 2 p.m. These brief experiences spotlight two works on view. Check in at the Information Desk to learn more. Free with admission. No reservations required.

READING GROUPS

Reading Group: At the Existentialist Café: Freedom, Being, and Apricot Cocktails by Sarah Bakewell

Sunday, March 5, 1–3 p.m.

Following a viewing of *From the Desk of Simone de Beauvoir*, participate in a moderated discussion about Simone de Beauvoir’s circle of French Existentialists, the foundation of their philosophy and the historical and social context in which it developed. This enjoyable book weaves together biography, personal perspective and accessible explanations of philosophical principles. Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *From the Desk of Simone de Beauvoir*. Free. Reservations Required. Reserve online at <https://nmwa.org/events/reading-group-existentialist-café>.

Reading Group: The Woman Destroyed by Simone de Beauvoir

Sunday, May 7, 1–3 p.m.

Reading group, “The Woman Destroyed” by Simone de Beauvoir
Following a viewing of *From the Desk of Simone de Beauvoir*, participate in a moderated discussion about Simone de Beauvoir’s short story “The Woman Destroyed” from the collection *The Woman Destroyed*, which includes three stories of complex women constrained by their circumstances. Presented in conjunction with the exhibition *From the Desk of Simone de Beauvoir*. Free. Reservations Required. Reserve online at <https://nmwa.org/events/reading-group-woman-destroyed>.

SPECIAL EVENTS

30th Anniversary Gala

Friday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.

Join co-chairs Amy Baier, Kristin Cecchi, Jamie Dorros and Board President Cindy Jones as NMWA kicks off its 30th-anniversary year with an extraordinary black-tie gala! The evening promises to be a party befitting this important milestone birthday and celebrating the museum’s extraordinary collection and inspiring founder. Proceeds benefit the museum’s exhibitions and programming, allowing us to champion women artists past, present and future from around the globe. Please contact gkaufman@nmwa.org for ticket pricing, sponsorship opportunities and more information.

WORKSHOPS

Teacher Program: Making Connections

Thursday, March 23, 5–7:30 p.m.

Join fellow educators to make connections at NMWA! Learn about great women artists through interactive gallery experiences; explore the new thematic installation of the museum’s collection and special exhibitions *Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara* and *New Ground: The Southwest of Maria Martinez and Laura Gilpin*; develop and share classroom connections; and engage with museum educators and colleagues. Appetizers and drinks will be served. \$10. Reservations required. Reserve online at <https://nmwa.org/events/teacher-program-making-connections>.

EXHIBITIONS ON VIEW MARCH THROUGH JUNE

[Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara](#)

February 17–May 14, 2017

Albuquerque-based Jami Porter Lara (b. 1969) uses a millennia-old process to make pottery resembling a ubiquitous icon of modern life—the plastic bottle. While visiting a remote area along the U.S.–Mexico border, Porter Lara found the remains of ancient pottery as well as plastic bottles discarded by migrants moving through the region. Intrigued by this juxtaposition, she began to reconceptualize the plastic bottle. Porter Lara’s art blurs the line between what we see as natural and manufactured, illuminating the bottle as a precious object—a vessel that carries life-sustaining water. Through this lens, she exposes the porous nature of many types of “borders,” including the permeable boundary between art and rubbish.

Border Crossing is organized by the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The exhibition is made possible by the Clara M. Lovett Emerging Artists Fund, with additional support provided by the Judith A. Finkelstein Exhibition Fund.



[New Ground: The Southwest of Maria Martinez and Laura Gilpin](#)

February 17–May 14, 2017

Contemporaries and friends, potter Maria Martinez (ca. 1887–1980) and photographer Laura Gilpin (1891–1979) brought the American Southwest into focus as a culturally rich region that fostered artistic expression. Martinez’s bold adaptation of an ancient black-on-black pottery design technique reflected Pueblo artistic traditions and also appealed to the modernist sensibility. Gilpin was one of the first women to capture the landscape and peoples of the American West on film. Organized by the Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma, this exhibition features 26 significant works by Martinez and 48 platinum, gelatin silver, and color print photographs by Gilpin. It explores the way these two artists worked from the 1930s to ’70s to shape the image of a modern Southwest.

New Ground is organized by the Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Initial support for the exhibition was provided by Philbrook Exhibition Series Sponsors (2011–2013), in particular the Raymond and Bessie Kravis Foundation. The presentation of *New Ground* at the National Museum of Women in the Arts is made possible by the generous support of the Judith A. Finkelstein Exhibition Fund.



[Chromatic Scale: Prints by Polly Apfelbaum](#)

March 10–July 2, 2017

Polly Apfelbaum’s printed images embody both precision and freedom, generated by her spontaneous and immediate methods of



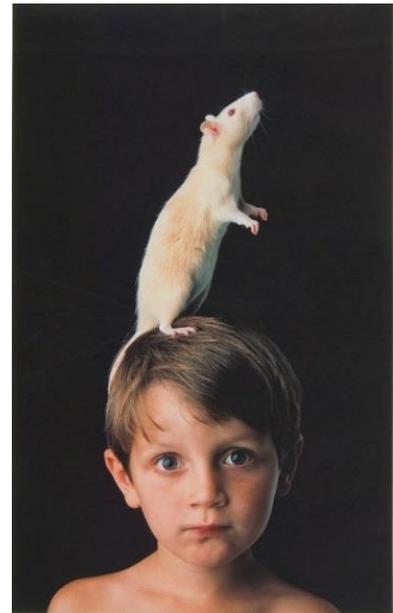
production. Apfelbaum (b. 1955, Abington, Pennsylvania) is best known for her large-scale installations and “fallen paintings,” compositions of dyed synthetic fabrics that she places directly on the floor. The performative aspect of these installations carries over to her “intuitive but structured” printmaking process, which incorporates interchangeable wood blocks and gradient inking. Apfelbaum’s striking colors and bold abstract shapes—alternately geometric and organic—reference Minimalist and Pop art. Featuring prints in NMWA’s collection along with complementary loans, *Chromatic Scale* takes a focused look at Apfelbaum’s print work, a part of her oeuvre that has not been extensively studied, and examines how the artist extends the conventional boundaries of color and technique.

Chromatic Scale: Prints by Polly Apfelbaum, presented in the Teresa Lozano Long Gallery of the National Museum of Women in the Arts (NMWA), is organized by the museum and generously supported by the Judith A. Finkelstein Exhibition Fund and the members of NMWA.

Revival

June 23–September 10, 2017

Offering a new look at the nature of spectacle, this exhibition presents contemporary sculptors and photo-based artists whose arresting aesthetics and intense subject matter spur the viewer into a transcendent encounter with the art object. Works by Louise Bourgeois, Petah Coyne, Lalla Essaydi, Maria Marshall, Alison Saar, Sam Taylor-Johnson and other global artists create immersive, mesmeric environments. Artists in this exhibition explicitly embrace the illimitable scale and effect of their mediums to animate deep-rooted ideas about fear, strength and love. They favor figurative or highly allusive imagery, yet each artist centers her work on the unconscious, ferreting out the unspoken through disquieting referents including fragmented bodies and peculiar creatures. Inspired by NMWA’s institution-wide focus on contemporary women artists as catalysts for change, *Revival* illuminates how women sculptors, photographers and filmmakers regenerate their mediums to profound expressive effect.



Bold BroadSides and Bitsy Books

November 21, 2016–March 17, 2017, in the Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center

Open Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. and 1–5 p.m.

From the public nature of broadsides to the intimacy of a tiny handmade book, the Library and Research Center at the National Museum of Women in the Arts revels in contrasts of delightful collection items. The “Dead Feminists” broadside series by Chandler O’Leary and Jessica Spring presents eye-catching, hand-lettered typography, inventive inks and intricate designs profiling international feminist heroes. A selection of 16 miniature artists’ books by 13 different artists demonstrates a variety of intricate, hand-held craft, meant to be easily carried and privately enjoyed.



[From the Desk of Simone de Beauvoir](#)

January 6–June 2, 2017, presented by NMWA’s Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center

Consider the influence of Simone de Beauvoir’s writing in an interpretation of her Paris studio alcove. This installation invites visitors to reflect on Beauvoir’s impact, not only in her time and not only as a feminist, but in our own time and in the areas of literature, philosophy and popular culture. A zealous writer, speaker and lover of all sensations life had to offer— what does Beauvoir say to you?



From the Desk of Simone de Beauvoir is organized by the museum and generously supported by the Heather and Robert Keane Family Foundation and the French-American Foundation—United States, with additional support provided by an anonymous donor and Susan Shaffer Rappaport. Furniture provided by Miss Pixie’s, Washington D.C.

Education programming is made possible by the Leo Rosner Foundation with additional support provided by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Wells Fargo, the Harriet E. McNamee Youth Education Fund, William and Christine Leahy, and the Junior League of Washington.

The Women, Arts, and Social Change public program initiative is made possible through leadership gifts from Denise Littlefield Sobel, Lorna Meyer Calas and Dennis Calas, the MLDauray Arts Initiative, and the Swartz Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Bernstein Family Foundation, Marcia and Frank Carlucci, Deborah G. Carstens, the Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund, and The Reva and David Logan Foundation.

The Shenson Chamber Music Concert Series is made possible by support from Fred M. Levin and Nancy Livingston and The Shenson Foundation in memory of Drs. Ben and A. Jess Shenson.

VISITOR INFORMATION

HOURS: Museum hours are 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon–5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day

LOCATION: 1250 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, two blocks north of Metro Center

ADMISSION: Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for visitors 65 and over and students, and free for NMWA members and youths 18 and under. Free Community Days take place on the first Sunday of each month.

WEBSITE: nmwa.org

PHONE: 202-783-5000

SOCIAL MEDIA: [Broad Strokes Blog](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

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Images

Jami Porter Lara photo © Jessamyn Lovell

Chris Kojzar, Photograph of Amy Sherald; Courtesy of the artist

Left: Ann Hamilton photo by Michael Mercil, Right: Emily Pilloton photo by Project H

Photo still from *KONELINE: our land beautiful*

Susanna Phillips: Photo by Dario Acosta

Photo by Dakota Fine

Photo by Dakota Fine

Jami Porter Lara, *MHB-3SBR-0916CE-01*, 2016; Pit-fired clay, 16 x 8 in. diameter; Courtesy Central Features Contemporary Art; Photo by Addison Doty

Laura Gilpin, *A Navaho Costume of the 1880s at Window Rock Fair*, 1951; Gelatin silver print, 9 1/2 x 7 1/2 in.; Eugene B. Adkins Collection at Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, and Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, University of Oklahoma, Norman; © 1979 Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas

Polly Apfelbaum, *Night Flowering*, 2009; Woodblock print on handmade paper, 15 x 15 in.; Gift of Steven Scott, Baltimore, in Honor of National Museum of Women in the Arts Chief Curator Kathryn A. Wat and the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the National Museum of Women in the Arts; Photo by Lee Stalsworth; © Polly Apfelbaum

Maria Marshall, *Future Perfect*, 1998; Iris print, 56 x 39 in.; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Gift of Heather and Tony Podesta Collection, Washington, D.C.

Chandler O'Leary and Jessica Spring, *Song of Aloha*, 2016; Image courtesy of the Library and Research Center, National Museum of Women in the Arts

Bettina Flitner, *Simone de Beauvoir in her studio, rue Schoelcher 12 bis, Montparnasse, Paris, March 1986*; Photograph; ©bettinaflitner.de