Women in the Arts

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

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DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

We recently celebrated the first anniversary of our building's reopening from renovation.

Over the past year, just as we planned, this bold, top-tobottom renovation has enlarged NMWA's ability to share our mission. We have truly gained "Space to Soar" through a new art-making studio in the brand-new Logan Learning Commons, more gallery space, improvements to accessibility and technology, and numerous other enhancements.

This season, our reimagined exhibition galleries feature two powerful solo exhibitions by women artists whose work explores visibility, migration, and identity. Through January 12, *Suchitra Mattai: Myth from Matter* presents Mattai's multidisciplinary art—which blends textile and installation techniques with collage, painting, and sculpture—on our versatile second floor. Through March 23, in the brand-new exhibition space of the MaryRoss Taylor Galleries, *Samantha Box: Confluences* shares photography from two bodies of Box's work. Don't miss this chance to see their thought-provoking art.

In this issue, the Year in Review section shares highlights from our banner reopening year. You will read about our bold exhibitions, acclaim from the press, growing collection, and much more.

This year of change and growth would not have been possible without your partnership. Phenomenal donors like you—who enabled our Space to Soar capital campaign, exhibitions, and innovative programming—helped us achieve our ambitious goals for the renovation and reactivation of our historic building. Thank you for all that you do for NMWA.

WITH GRATITUDE,

Suman Fisher Stelling

Susan Fisher Sterling The Alice West Director

CHAMPION WOMEN THROUGH THE ARTS

MUSEUM INFORMATION 1250 New York Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20005

WEBSITE https://nmwa.org BROAD STROKES BLOG https://nmwa.org/blog

MAIN 202-783-5000 TOLL FREE 800-222-7270 MEMBER SERVICES 866-875-4627; member@nmwa.org SHOP 202-783-7994 LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER 202-783-7365; lrc@nmwa.org MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS 866-875-4627

HOURS Tuesday–Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Closed on Mondays and select holidays; Library open Tuesday– Friday and first Sundays, 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

ADMISSION

NMWA Members free, Adults \$16, D.C. residents \$13, Visitors 70 and older \$13, Visitors 21 and younger free, Visitors with disabilities plus one free

Free Community Days are the first Sundays and second Wednesdays of every month. WOMEN IN THE ARTS Winter/Year in Review 2024 December 2024 Volume 42, no. 4

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On the cover: Samantha Box, *Mirror #1* (detail), from the series "Caribbean Dreams," 2019; Archival inkjet print, 20 x 16 in.; Courtesy of the artist; © Samantha Box

fb.com/WomenInTheArts

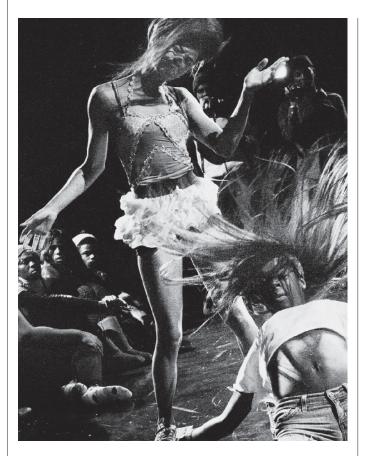
@WomenInTheArts

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"[Box] intentionally depicts her studio in the Bronx . . . as if showing a theater or film stage with props." PAGE 4



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In two thought-provoking bodies of photography, Box expresses the nuances and possibilities of identity. ORIN ZAHRA

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Required Reading: Powerful Artists' Books

Artists' books new to NMWA's collection explore history, identity, and meaning through innovative forms. JOVANNA ABDOU, ELIZABETH AJUNWA, KATE SENO BRADSHAW, DANI BROGDON, MARY MARGARET LEA, AND DOMINIQUE MANUEL



↑16 FY24 Year in Review: A New NMWA

The museum's major renovation and reopening sparked an unforgettable year of art and programs. ALICIA GREGORY AND NMWA STAFF

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Culture Watch

// EXHIBITIONS

ARIZONA

Meryl McMaster: Bloodline Heard Museum, Phoenix RM Through March 2, 2025 https://heard.org

In her first solo exhibition outside of Canada, McMaster reflects on her family histories, particularly those of her Plains Cree/Métis female forebears, across forty-eight photographs.

CALIFORNIA

Amy Sherald: American Sublime San Francisco Museum of Modern Art **D** Through March 9, 2025 https://sfmoma.org

The largest presentation of Sherald's work to date features a work from NMWA's collection and many more of the artist's iconic paintings, including portraits of Michelle Obama and Breonna Taylor.

GEORGIA

Georgia O'Keeffe: My New Yorks High Museum of Art, Atlanta RM Through February 16, 2025 https://high.org

In 1924, O'Keeffe lived in the world's tallest residential skyscraper and explored the urban landscape. This exhibition features paintings, drawings, and pastels from this formative time.



ARIZONA // Meryl McMaster, *Anima*, 2012; Digital chromogenic print, 36 x 36 in.; On view at the Heard Museum



<code>MISSISSIPPI</code> // Emma Russell, Star Quilt, 1978; Cotton blend, quilted, 77 x 77 in.; On view at the Mississippi Museum of Art

KANSAS

Coming of Age: Women Growing Older in American Art Wichita Art Museum RM Through March 23, 2025 https://wam.org

Artists including Agnes Tait and Elizabeth Layton explore the effects of ageism on women, while also celebrating the intersectionality of aging in American art.

MISSISSIPPI

Of Salt and Spirit: Black Quilters in the American South Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson **RM** Through April 13, 2025 https://msmuseumart.org

Fifty quilts on view, including works by Crossroads Quilters, Gwendolyn Magee, and Annie Dennis, illuminate the practices and impact of Black Southern quilters across generations.

NEVADA

Lynn Hershman Leeson: Of Humans, Cyborgs, and Al Nevada Museum of Art, Reno RM February 8–September 7, 2025 https://nevadaart.org

Hershman Leeson has probed new technologies and created work about cyborgs since the 1960s. Recent videos and technofemale personas include her newest alter-ego.

NEW YORK

Real Clothes, Real Lives: 200 Years of What Women Wore, the Smith College Historic Clothing Collection New-York Historical Society, New York City Through June 22, 2025 https://nyhistory.org

Through the clothing of ordinary women—house dresses, micro minis, modern suits, and fast-food uniforms—this exhibition traces women's roles over decades, across race and class.

// BOOKS



SPAIN // Gabriele Münter, Self-Portrait, ca. 1909–10; Oil on cardboard, 19 x 13 in.: On view at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid

WASHINGTON

Hayv Kahraman: Look Me in the Eyes Frye Art Museum, Seattle RM Through February 2, 2025 https://fryemuseum.org

Kahraman interrogates conditions of migration and immigration in the West in new paintings, large-scale sculptures, and an audio installation.

International

GERMANY

Yoko Ono: Music of the Mind Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf Through March 16, 2025 https://kunstsammlung.de

More than two hundred of Ono's instructions and scores, installations, films, music, and photography reveal her radical approach to language, art, and participation.

SPAIN

Gabriele Münter: The Great Expressionist Woman Painter Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid Through February 9, 2025 https://museothyssen.org

In this sweeping retrospective, including a work from NMWA's collection, Münter's paintings, drawings, prints, and photographs reveal her artistic complexity and rebellion.

- RM North American Reciprocal Museum benefits for NMWA members at the Explorer level and above
- See works from NMWA's collection



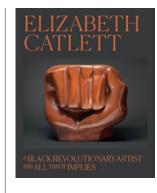
WASHINGTON // Hayv Kahraman, Look Me in the Eyes, No.1 (detail), 2023; Oil and acrylic on linen, 37 x 37 in.; On view at the Frye Art Museum, Seattle COURTESY OF THE ARTIST, JACK SHAINMAN GALLERY, NEW YORK; PILAR CORRIAS, LONDON; THE THIRD LINE, DUBAI; AND VIELMETTER LOS ANGELES; PHOTO BY GLEN CHERITON, IMPART PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF THE ICA SAN FRANCISCO



Babe in the Woods

In artist Julie Heffernan's debut graphic novel, Babe in the Woods: Or, The Art of Getting Lost (Algonquin, 2024), a young painter escapes the sweltering Brooklyn summer with her infant son and heads upstate for a hike. She is in the throes of new motherhood, disconnected from her husband, mourning the death of her mother, and frustrated with her conniving gallerist. With her baby strapped to her chest, she tunes into the colors and sounds of the forest while reflecting on her life. And then ... she gets lost. Heffernan's journey features her lush, surreal paintings layered with detailed illustrations in varying styles. This visual density mimics her tangled feelings as she searches for clarity, a way out. Heffernan punctuates the narrative with close readings of famous paintings, including Artemisia Gentileschi's Judith Beheading Holofernes (ca. 1620); her "revelations" propel her forward. The book reveals that a harrowing traipse into the unknown might help us find what we are looking for. "Wandering through landscapes, and then through paintings, that's what I love.... The simple act of making my way forward . . . allowed me the vistas I need for wondering."

// Alicia Gregory

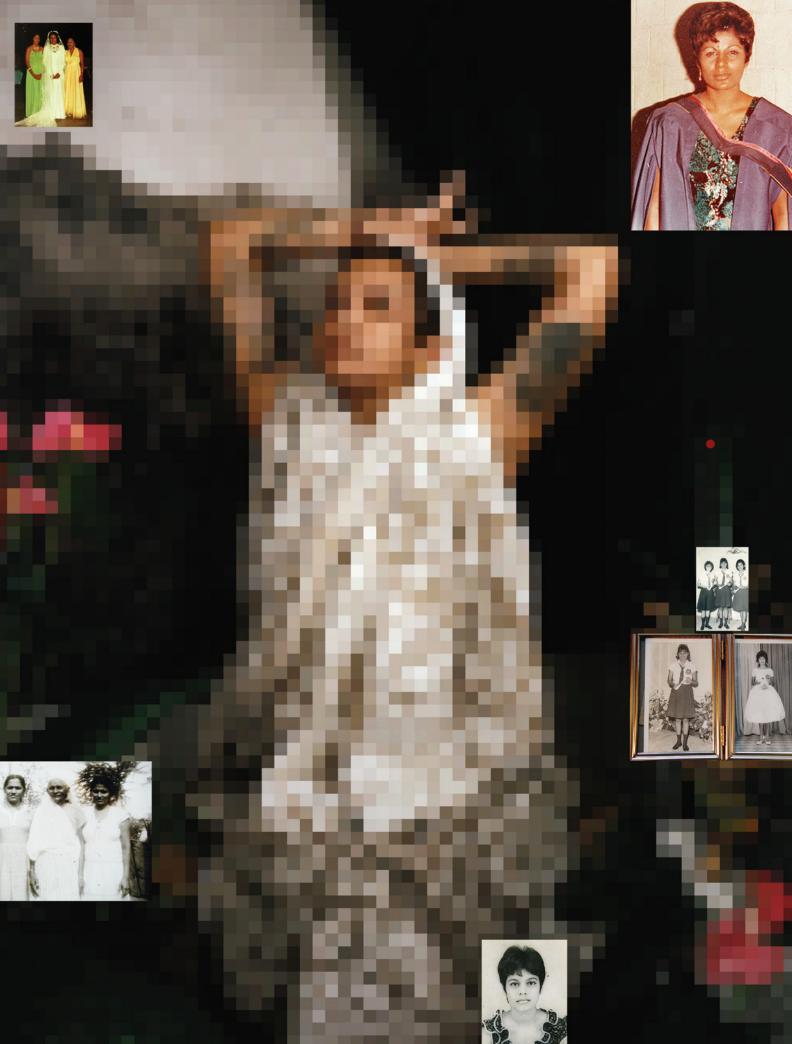


Elizabeth Catlett

Like the exhibition it accompanies, the catalogue *Elizabeth Catlett:* A Black Revolutionary Artist and All That It Implies (National Gallery of Art and Brooklyn Museum with the University of Chicago, 2024) is profound and comprehensive. As curator and catalogue editor Dalila Scruggs describes, Catlett (1915–2012) created art with three major throughlines: "Blackness, radicality, and political solidarity." In extensive imagery-of her early work, drawings, prints, sculpture, and more-alongside deeply researched texts by multiple contributors, this volume shares the story of Catlett's seventy-five-year artistic career. Essayists address her education, artistic approach, focus on Black women, and Leftist activism in the U.S. and in Mexico, where she spent most of her adult life, including years when the U.S. government barred her from entering the country in retribution for her activism. In Mexico, her work with the Taller de Gráfica Popular printmaking collective grew into her "transnational visual vocabulary ... around common struggles of marginalized populations" in the two countries. This catalogue documents the breadth of Catlett's exceptional life and

groundbreaking art.

// Elizabeth Lynch



One Kind of Story, from the series "Caribbean Dreams," 2020; Archival inkjet print, collaged with archival inkjet elements, 50 x 40 in.; Courtesy of the artist

Samantha

Confluences

On view through March 23, 2025

Orin Zahra

Samantha Box (b. 1977, Kingston, Jamaica) uses photography to question societal structures, while also expressing her post-colonial critique of the medium itself. She describes her work, now on view at NMWA, as "an articulation of the ways in which identity—and by extension, community, networks of care and survival, ideas of home and belonging—are formed within spaces of sociopolitical and physical liminality such as Blackness, queerness and diaspora."¹

Through her photographs, Box explores the shifting spaces of identity.

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The INVISIBLE Archive

Box began her body of work "The INVISIBLE Archive" in 2005, during an assignment as a student at the International Center of Photography, when she was asked to document a community. The project led her to Sylvia's Place, an emergency shelter for unhoused LGBTQIA+ youth located in the basement of the Metropolitan Community Church in the Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of Manhattan. Box's photographs signify the intense bonds between the young residents, who often faced discrimination based on race, gender, sexuality, and class.

Although these individuals' time at the shelter was short, their strong emotions—grief, joy, and inner conflict or resolve—are palpable in Box's photographs. In one work, a young woman named Cocco sits by her mother's gravestone. The pained expression on her face, handwritten notes on a flower bed, and a small sign that says "Happy Mother's Day" reveal the depth of her tragedy. As Box explains, her mother's death forced Cocco into the foster system, which she escaped, seeking refuge in the streets.²

Box aimed to avoid catering to an audience who did not know unhoused youth. Her images, powerfully bearing witness to young people's intimate and introspective moments, are devoid of the romanticism often associated with subject matter that has been exoticized or categorized as "other." Box's photographs are not meant to generate surface-level sympathy from viewers; instead, they became an archive *for* the community. As she continued working on the series over many years, Box grew to be a close friend of many of her subjects and a part of their chosen families.

While teaching at-risk transgender and nonbinary youth at New York City's Hetrick-Martin Institute in 2011, Box began

photographing the Kiki ballroom scene in the series "The Last Battle." Ballroom grew in the late twentieth century as an alternative to early twentieth-century drag balls, which excluded members of the Black and Brown LGBTQIA+ community. Around 2010, community members created Kiki as their own underground ballroom scene, which became a safe haven for many queer youth of color. Kiki houses focus on youth leadership, each one composed of a designated mother and father as well as children. They gather for monthly balls with competitions involving raucous performance-art battles as well as messaging of safe sex and STI testing.³

In these images, Box catches the youth mid-performance, surrounded by communal support. Energy and jubilation pulse throughout the photographs. The figures gesture toward one another, applaud fellow performers on stage, and pose with self-assurance. There is no sense of voyeurism, as the intended viewer is not an outsider looking in, but one who shares in the experiences of the scene. Performances take place in a multifaceted space that offers support and belonging.

Caribbean Dreams

After nearly two decades focusing on documentary works, in 2018 Box shifted to a studio practice for her ongoing project "Caribbean Dreams." This series continues her exploration of liminal spaces, this time with herself as subject. Her early still lifes recall the lush tableaux of seventeenth-century Dutch painting and the imperial expansion of the so-called Dutch Golden Age, as Box connects the exploits of colonialism with sumptuous, ripened fruit, family heirlooms, and vintage photographs. For the artist, the Caribbean "doesn't have a shape or form"; instead, it "exists everywhere, appears everywhere."⁴ *Mirror #1* (2019) sees Box looking at her reflection in the mirror. Placed in front of her like one of her still-life arrangements are a tin cake box, bouquet of lilies, and cup of tea. She intentionally depicts her studio in the Bronx as the setting, as if showing a theater or film stage with props, her camera equipment openly visible. Although Box reflects on the ways in which conceptions about the Caribbean were born from colonial imaginings, her images also mirror her personal experiences. As the daughter of an Indian Trinidadian mother and Black Jamaican father, Box is acutely aware of being shaped by the diaspora. The family's migration from the artist's native Jamaica to central New Jersey added yet another layer to her diasporic identity.

In One Kind of Story (2020), Box surrounds an image of herself with photographs of her maternal relatives, including her mother, grandmother, and great-aunt. A pixelated image of the artist draws our eyes toward the center of the composition. She sits with raised arms, in a pose modeled after the nineteenth-century photograph Young Indian Woman (ca. 1890–96) by Félix Morin, a French photographer, who operated a studio out of Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago. Such historical images were used as postcards for white tourists.

Box's still-life images highlight the capitalist enterprise of colonialism in the Caribbean, weighed down with the histories of enslaved peoples and forced servitude. Visible product stickers and grocery receipts allude to the transactional relationships of colonialism. Encompassing many aspects of her identity—Black, queer, immigrant—Box's self-image-making acts as an antidote to the historical weaponization of the camera toward the "other" by colonial powers.

The Space Between

Through her photographs, Box explores the shifting spaces of identity, expressing possibilities that unsettle the dominance of the white heteronormative gaze. For the artist, these spaces of slippage become generative sites of self-exploration, provocative inquiry, and creative discovery.

// Orin Zahra is associate curator at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. This text is adapted from the author's essay "Samantha Box: Spaces of Slippage," in *Samantha Box: Confluences* (Des Moines Art Center, 2024).

Samantha Box: Confluences is organized by the National Museum of Women in the Arts in partnership with the Des Moines Art Center. The exhibition is generously supported by the members of NMWA.

Notes:

1. Samantha Box quoted in James Prochnik, ed., "Featured Photographer: Samantha Box" in *NYC Photo Community*, Issue 105 (February 25, 2022), https://www.nycphotocommunity.com/ nyc-photo-community-featured-photographer/samantha-box.

2. Open Society Foundations, *Moving Walls 18: Invisible Homeless LGBT Youth: Samantha Box* (2011), https://www.movingwalls.org/moving-walls/18/invisible-homeless-lgbt-youth.html.

3. Anja Matthes and Sony Salzman, "In the Kiki Ballroom Scene, Queer Kids of Color Can Be Themselves," in the *Atlantic* (November 7, 2019), https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2019/11/ nyc-kiki-community/599830.

4. Box quoted in Vicente Cayuela, "Samantha Box: 'Caribbean Dreams: Constructions," in *Lenscratch* (July 1, 2023), https://lenscratch.com/2023/07/samantha-box-caribbean-dreams.



Female figure performance, The HMI Awards Ball, from the series "The Last Battle," 2014; Archival inkjet print, 17 x 22 in. sheet; Courtesy of the artist





Required Reading

Powerful Artists' Books

Jovanna Abdou, Elizabeth Ajunwa, Kate Seno Bradshaw, Dani Brogdon, Mary Margaret Lea, and Dominique Manuel

Through paper, clay, puzzles, and poetry, several artists' books in NMWA's Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center (LRC) unify form and meaning. In the works highlighted here—all new to the LRC's collection—artists delve into history, memory, identity, and more. These works expand the LRC's world-class holdings and demonstrate the versatility and power of artists' books.

Ul'nigid'

Artist **Rhiannon Skye Tafoya** (b. 1989) describes *Ul'nigid'* (2020) as a "demonstration of love and remembrance, wherein each technical process portrays both strength and delicacy." Tafoya created the work to share memories of her maternal grandmother, Martha Reed-Bark, and to explore methods of intertwining her contemporary artistic practice with traditional techniques.

Ul'nigid' is a "moveable book structure" that, when opened, mimics a Cherokee river-cane basket, with handmade paper

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Opposite: Rhiannon Skye Tafoya, *Ul'nigid*', 2020; Artist's book with woven paper, letterpress printing, and handmade paper case, $11 \times 11 \frac{1}{4}$ in. (closed); NMWA, Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center

Right: IBe' Bulinda Crawley, *11033*, 2022; Artist's book with clay and letterpress and silkscreen printing on handmade paper, $6 \times 11\% \times 1$ in. (sleeve); NMWA, Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center

woven in a pattern of Tafoya's design. The basket cradles an accordion pamphlet of five letterpress-printed poems that Tafoya addresses to her son, sharing her grandmother's essence through stories of love, language, and lineage. The front cover features imagery of Tafoya's grandmother and the work's title in the Cherokee syllabary and English (*Ul'nigid*' is translated as "strong"). Readers are welcomed into remembrance and asked to deconstruct the rigid identities forced upon Indigenous artists.

11033

11033 (2022), by **IBe' Bulinda Crawley** (b. 1959), tells the story of Mary Morst, a Black woman sentenced to eighteen years in the Virginia State Penitentiary in 1921 for the murder of her husband. Pregnant at the time of her imprisonment, she later gave birth to twins while behind bars. The structural core of this work, a clay silhouette of a pregnant woman, is confined by black bars depicted on its cover. Archival



Crawley sheds light on the broader erasure of Black women's experiences, offering a powerful meditation on resilience, justice, and memory.



BULINDA CRAWLEY; COURTESY OF THE WOMEN'S STUDIO WORKSHOP

DIBE'

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documents, including newspaper clippings and pardon applications, are interwoven with fictional text by Crawley. Pages are crafted from handmade flax and abaca paper shaped to match the silhouette. Through Morst's narrative, Crawley sheds light on the broader erasure of Black women's experiences from the historical record, offering a powerful meditation on resilience, justice, and memory.

She Feels Your Absence Deeply

In *She Feels Your Absence Deeply* (2021), **Golnar Adili** (b. 1976) explores memory, identity, and family ties through an interplay between form and narrative. Wooden cubes, reminiscent of children's puzzle books, hold fragments of her father's photos, letters, and documents between 1979 and 1981. During this time, Adili's family migrated from the U.S. back to their native Iran, with her father later escaping the country due to fear of political persecution.

Audiences are invited to arrange the cubes to construct a visual story, while reflecting on the intricate relationship between personal and collective histories. One image that appears, Adili's mother's eyes, carries the emotional weight of absence and longing. Once the assembling, disassembling, and reassembling is complete, the fabric-covered portfolio



Above: Kelly Taylor Mitchell, *Between Starshine & Clay*, 2021; Artist's book with handmade paper, hand embroidery, screenprinting, and letterpress, $13\frac{1}{2} \times 11 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; NMWA, Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center

Below: Delita Martin, *This Side of Night*, 2023; Artist's book with relief, lithography, intaglio, and silkscreen prints, acrylic, and gold leaf on paper, $21\% \times 16\% \times 1$ in. (case); NMWA, Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center



box closes, and a printed airplane ticket contains the stories as they await their next unraveling.

Between Starshine & Clay

In *Between Starshine & Clay* (2021), artist **Kelly Taylor Mitchell** (b. 1994) explores the concepts of "spiritual technologies" and ancestral histories. This unbound book is crafted from Mitchell's own handmade cotton-and-kudzu paper. Suffused with color and employing a range of techniques—hand embroidery, screenprinting, and letterpress with a polymer plate—Mitchell's work is rich in texture and meaning. The title is drawn from Lucille Clifton's poem "won't you celebrate with me" (1993), while Mitchell's own poetry is interwoven throughout the pages. This book functions not only as a work of art, but also as a vessel for the private ritual performances through which Mitchell connects with her familial and ancestral heritage.

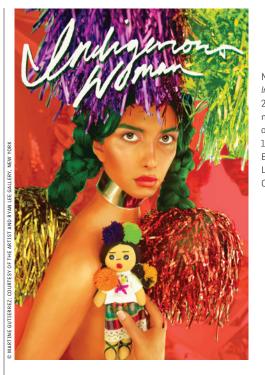
This Side of Night

Delita Martin (b. 1972) evokes twilight in *This Side of Night* (2023) through a layered, blue-and-black color palette, a wide range of print techniques, acrylic paint, gold leaf, and original poetry. Here, Martin depicts a liminal space between the waking and spiritual worlds that she refers to as the "Veilscape": not a dream world, but rather, in Martin's words, an "intangible reality." It is within this safe space that Black women, in particular, can be free from worldly oppression, rebuild their identities, and connect with ancestors.

Martin's visual vocabulary includes recurring themes she describes blue as the color most evocative of the spiritual realm and birds as symbols of ancestral spirits. This approach enables Martin to highlight many different Black narratives, individual and shared, across the world of the Veilscape. Oversized, color-saturated pages allow for an immersive journey through this soulful work.

Indigenous Woman

Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Elle . . . and *Indigenous Woman*? At first glance, *Indigenous Woman* (2018), by multidisciplinary artist **Martine Gutierrez** (b. 1989), might look like another exclusive fashion magazine. One may even mistake it for *Interview*, the celebrity and pop-culture-focused serial founded by Pop artist Andy Warhol. However, beneath its glossy exterior lies a multifaceted artist's publication that explores themes of indigeneity, race, class, and gender. "This is not a magazine about fashion, lifestyle, or celebrity. Fashion is a good veneer for making people look at what otherwise might make them feel uncomfortable," states Gutierrez in the magazine's editorial.



Martine Gutierrez, Indigenous Woman, 2018; Artist's magazine with photooffset lithography, 16 ½ x 11 in.; NMWA, Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center

"This is not a magazine about fashion, lifestyle, or celebrity. Fashion is a good veneer for making people look at what otherwise might make them feel uncomfortable."

// MARTINE GUTIERREZ

Indeed, the spreads and ads in *Indigenous Woman* subvert Western, binary beauty standards to create space for inclusive, anticolonial representations. Gutierrez designed, styled, photographed, modeled for, and edited the complex magazine. She draws on her Mayan heritage and experience as a multicultural trans woman to create work that investigates identity—interrogating how it is formed, performed, and perceived.

Take a Look!

NMWA'S LRC is open Tuesday to Friday and each first Sunday of the month, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To enjoy these artists' books and much more from the library's awe-inspiring holdings, ask a staff member for assistance.

// Jovanna Abdou is fall 2024 intern, Elizabeth Ajunwa is director of the Library and Research Center, Kate Seno Bradshaw is digital researcher, Dani Brogdon is reference and technical services librarian, Mary Margaret Lea is fall 2024 intern, and Dominique Manuel is digital asset manager at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

Calendar

// EXHIBITIONS

Suchitra Mattai: Myth from Matter Through January 12, 2025

Samantha Box: Confluences Through March 23, 2025

In Focus: Artists at Work Through April 20, 2025

Uncanny February 28–August 10, 2025

Online exhibitions:

Revisit favorite NMWA exhibitions and more at https://nmwa.org/ whats-on/exhibitions/online.

// **KEY**

- F Free
- M Free for members+ Free for members and one guest
- A Free with admission
- R Reservations required at https://nmwa.org
- No reservations required
- E Exhibition-related program
- Virtual/online program (Please note that the time zone for all online programs is Eastern Time)

Automated speech-to-text transcription is enabled during most virtual programs. To request additional access services, please check the online calendar for contact information or email accessibility@nmwa.org. Two weeks' notice is appreciated but not required.



Suchitra Mattai, *a shadow, a doubt*, 2022; Gouache and vintage book pages on wood cradle board, 16 x 16 in.; On view in *Suchitra Mattai: Myth from Matter*

Daily / Weekly / Monthly

For museum admission, advance online reservations are suggested.

Free Community Day

FIRST SUNDAYS & SECOND WEDNESDAYS 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // **F M R** The first Sunday and second Wednesday of each month, NMWA offers free general admission. Enjoy current exhibitions and the collection galleries. Advance registration is recommended, with limited walk-up availability.

Open Studio

FIRST SUNDAYS & SECOND WEDNESDAYS 10 A.M.-4 P.M. // **F M O** During Free Community Days, visit the museum's new studio for drop-in art-making activities. All ages welcome; children twelve and younger require adult supervision.

Collection Highlights Tour

DAILY 2-2:45 P.M. & FIRST SUNDAYS 11–11:45 A.M. // **M A O** During these interactive, docent- or staff-led talks, look closely and discuss artworks from NMWA's collection. Join as often as you like—content varies.

Gallery Talk

MOST WEDNESDAYS 12-12:45 P.M. // **F M O E** Conversational, thematic staff-led talks highlight several works on view. Join as often as you like content varies.

NMWA Nights

SELECT WEDNESDAYS 5:30–8 P.M. // **R** On the third Wednesday of most months, join a creative after-hours experience! Peruse the galleries, grab a cocktail, make art, and enjoy a performance or talk.

Art Chat

SELECT FRIDAYS 5-5:45 P.M. // FMREV

On select Fridays, jump-start your weekend with art! Join NMWA educators online for informal 45-minute chats about selected works from NMWA's collection and exhibitions.

December

12/27 Art Chat

FRI 5–5:45 P.M. // **F M R E V**

January

1/5	Free Community Day		
SUN	10 A.M5 P.M. // F M R		

1/5 Open Studio

- SUN 10 A.M.-4 P.M. // **F M O**
- 1/8 Free Community Day
- WED 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // F M R



Natalie Cheung, Intermediaries: 67 Hours, 2022; Cyanotype photogram on paper, 42 x 80 in.; Create your own cyanotype alongside the artist in a Firsthand Experience workshop on January 11 13

1/8 Open Studio

WED 10 A.M.-4 P.M. // F M O

- 1/8 Gallery Talk: Suchitra Mattai
- WED 12-12:30 P.M. // **F M O E**

1/8 Artist Talk: Suchitra Mattai

WED 6-7 P.M. // **F M R E V**

Mattai joins Assistant Curator Hannah Shambroom and Senior Educator Adrienne L. Gayoso in an online conversation about her practice and current NMWA exhibition.

1/11 Firsthand Experience: Cyanotypes

SAT 11 A.M.-3 P.M. // R

Learn about the history, science, and art behind the photography technique of cyanotypes—and create your own with artist Natalie Cheung. Learners ages thirteen and older are welcome to join for hands-on making, conversation, and discovery. \$25 general/\$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/\$20 members.

1/15 Gallery Talk: In Focus

WED 12-12:30 P.M. // **F M O E**

1/15 NMWA Nights

WED 5:30-8 P.M. // R

Enjoy NMWA's late-hours series with cocktails, artmaking, and more. \$25 general/\$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/\$20 members. Free for members at the Explorer level and above. All members can purchase tickets if the event is sold out.

1/22 Gallery Talk: Collection Sampler

WED 12-12:30 P.M. // **F M O**

1/24 Art Chat

FRI 5-5:45 P.M. // **F M R V**

1/29 Gallery Talk: Collection Sampler WED 12-12:30 P.M. // F M O

- 1/29 Fresh Talk: Photography and Advocacy
- WED 6-8 P.M. // R

Join us for a conversation between filmmaker Kristen Lovell and photographer Samantha Box as they discuss the power of film and photography to amplify the stories of marginalized communities. Followed by a salon-style cocktail hour. \$25 general/\$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/\$20 members.

February

- 2/2 Free Community Day
- SUN 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // F M R
- 2/2 Open Studio
- SUN 10 A.M.-4 P.M. // F M O
- 2/5 Gallery Talk: Samantha Box
- WED 12-12:30 P.M. // **F M O E**
- 2/5 Curator's Perspective: Samantha Box
- WED 6-7 P.M. // M R E V In this members-only virtual presentation, Associate Curator Orin Zahra shares behind-the-scenes insights into Samantha Box: Confluences.
- 2/12 Free Community Day
- WED 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // F M R

2/12 Open Studio

WED ~ 10 A.M.-4 P.M. // F~M~O

2/12 Gallery Talk: Collection Sampler

WED 12-12:30 P.M. // F M O



Explore the museum after hours during NMWA Nights on January 15, February 19, and March 19

// **KEY**

- F Free
- ${\bf M} \quad {\rm Free \ for \ members}$
- + Free for members and one guest
- A Free with admission
- R Reservations required at https://nmwa.org
- **o** No reservations required
- E Exhibition-related program
- Virtual/online program (Please note that the time zone for all online programs is Eastern Time)

2/12 Fresh Talk: Hunter Harris and Peyton Dix

WED 6-8 P.M. // R

Writers Hunter Harris and Peyton Dix bring their wit and insight from the podcast "Lemme Say This" to NMWA, examining the portrayal of women in media, film, and literature. Followed by a salon-style cocktail hour. \$25 general/\$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/ \$20 members.

2/19 Gallery Talk: Collection Sampler

WED 12-12:30 P.M. // F M O

2/19 NMWA Nights

WED 5:30-8 P.M. // R

Enjoy NMWA's late-hours series with cocktails, artmaking, and more. \$25 general/\$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/\$20 members. Free for members at the Explorer level and above. All members can purchase tickets if the event is sold out.

2/26 Member Preview Day: Uncanny

WED 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // M + R E

Join us for a special preview of *Uncanny*, featuring unearthly, enigmatic, and psychologically tense works that give form to women artists' powerful expressions of existential unease. Museum only open to members. Tours throughout the day.

- 2/26 Gallery Talk: Samantha Box WED 12-12:30 P.M. // F M O E
- 2/28 Opening Day: Uncanny FRI 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // A M + E
- 2/28 Art Chat: Samantha Box FRI 5-5:45 P.M. // F M R E V

March

- 3/2 Free Community Day
- SUN 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // **F M R**
- 3/2 Open Studio
- SUN 10 A.M.-4 P.M. // F M O
- 3/5 Gallery Talk: Collection Sampler
- WED 12-12:30 P.M. // F M O
- 3/8 International Women's Day
- SAT 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // **F M R E V** Mark International Women's Day with NMWA through a series of online programs. Check the website soon for speakers and details.

3/8 Firsthand Experience: Pinhole Pics

SAT 11 A.M.-3 P.M. // R

Learn about the history of pinhole cameras and how artist R. C. Barajas uses this tool to make surreal, ethereal photographs. Participants create their own lens-less camera, capture images, and develop photographs. Learners ages thirteen and older are welcome. \$25 general/\$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/\$20 members.

3/12 Free Community Day

WED 10 A.M.-5 P.M. // **F M R**

3/12 Open Studio

WED 10 A.M.-4 P.M. // F M O

3/12 Gallery Talk: Collection Sampler

WED 12-12:30 P.M. // F M O

3/16 Creative's Keynote: Sandra Jackson-Dumont

SUN 6-8 P.M. // R

In this talk, Sandra Jackson-Dumont, director and CEO of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, shares her vision for promoting diversity and inclusion in the arts through storytelling. Followed by a salon-style cocktail hour. \$25 general/\$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/\$20 members.

3/19 Gallery Talk: Collection Sampler

WED 12-12:30 P.M. // **F M O**

3/19 NMWA Nights

WED 5:30-8 P.M. // R

Enjoy NMWA's late-hours series with cocktails, artmaking, and more. \$25 general/\$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/\$20 members. Free for members at the Explorer level and above. All members can purchase tickets if the event is sold out.

3/24 Fresh Talk: Defining Success

MON 6-8 P.M. // R

Join us for a conversation exploring the many definitions of success with entrepreneurs from the food industry Jill Nguyễn, founder of the D.C. bakery and cake workshop Capitol Jill Baking, and Bricia Lopez, co-owner of Guelaguetza, a Oaxacan restaurant and market in Los Angeles. Followed by a salon-style cocktail hour. Presented in partnership with Regarding Her. \$25 general/ \$22 students, seniors, D.C. residents/\$20 members.



Sandra Jackson-Dumont, director and CEO of the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, features in the March 16 Creative's Keynote program



Justine Kurland, *Raft Expedition*, 2001; Chromogenic color print, 30 x 40 in.; On view in *Uncanny*; Mark your calendar for Member Preview Day on February 26

3/26 Gallery Talk: Collection Sampler

WED 12-12:30 P.M. // **F M O**

3/26 Environmental Film Festival

WED 6 P.M. // **F M R**

Join us for a film screening in partnership with the Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital. Check the website for details.

3/28 Art Chat: Uncanny

FRI 5-5:45 P.M. // **F M R E V**

// Education programming is made possible by the A. James & Alice B. Clark Foundation, with further support provided by Sarah Kennedy, the Leo Rosner Foundation, the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, and the Elinor Coleman and David Sparkman Fund. Additional funding is provided by the Harriet E. McNamee Youth Education Fund and William and Christine Leahy.

The Women, Arts, and Social Change public programs initiative is made possible through leadership gifts from Denise Littlefield Sobel and the Davis/Dauray Family Fund, with additional support provided by Anne N. Edwards, the Revada Foundation of the Logan Family, and the Susan and Jim Swartz Public Programs Fund.

FY24 Year in Review

A New NMWA

July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024

// FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD & THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members and Friends of NMWA,

As we reflect on the recent year at NMWA and reopening from our ambitious renovation, we have so much to be grateful for and proud of.

Up to the moment we reopened our doors in October 2023, we were busy preparing the building for visitors. With the support of more than 1,100 capital campaign donors, we achieved the goals of our Space to Soar campaign and welcomed crowds of thrilled guests. A year later, the beautifully renewed and re-envisioned building provides a springboard for our future.

Our warmest, most enthusiastic thanks go to the extraordinary friends who supported the renovation. As you will read in these pages, the exhibitions and programs of the recent year brought our plans to life: from large-scale sculpture in *The Sky's the Limit*, in an installation that would not have been possible before the renovation, to an immersive theater that showed off our technological upgrades, to a refurbished Mars Performance Hall, to a totally re-envisioned fourth floor with our new Logan Learning Commons. *New Worlds: Women to Watch 2024* continued a longstanding series with our national and international outreach committees, some of our most committed and dynamic partners. Meanwhile, visitors flocked to programs such as NMWA Nights, pursued research in the library, attended hands-on workshops in the Susan Swartz Studio, and so much more.

As we enthusiastically embark on a new chapter, our advocacy for gender equity in the arts always continues. Thank you for sharing our belief in NMWA's mission and bright future!

Winton S. Holladay Chair of the Board

Susan Fisher Sterling The Alice West Director After a two-year, top-to-bottom renovation, the museum's transformed building opened to the public on Saturday, October 21, 2023. To ring in the occasion, the open-house weekend featured celebratory events including poetry, music, dance, and art-making. Over the opening days, our new Visitor Services team greeted more than 2,250 guests—who were awed by the reimagined space—and the weekend's energy set the tone for a lively, busy year of art and programs.

Year at a glance:

- NMWA's reopening garnered press coverage by more than 350 outlets, including the New York Times, Washington Post, Vanity Fair, People, and special segments on PBS NewsHour, CBS Sunday Morning, and NPR.
- 56,755 people visited the museum between October
 2023 and June 2024, a 101% increase from before the
 COVID-19 pandemic and renovation.
- Visitors loved the museum's technological enhancements. A new touchscreen table in the collection galleries invites guests to discover connections between artworks across time, medium, and geography. Visitors used it to view artworks more than 15,000 times.
- More than 7,100 audience members enjoyed education programs such as tours, talks, workshops, and art-making.

There's No Place Like Home

The renovated building expanded NMWA's gallery space, adding structural capabilities and updated technology to enable impressive inaugural exhibitions. In the first-floor Teresa Lozano Long Gallery, the immersive video installation *In Focus: Artists at Work* greets visitors and introduces NMWA's mission through the stories of eight contemporary women artists in



Visitors marvel at art in *The Sky's the Limit*, including works by Petah Coyne (left), Yuriko Yamaguchi (top), and Ursula von Rydingsvard (back)



NMWA's collection. In short, powerful videos, Ambreen Butt, Sonya Clark, Colette Fu, the Guerrilla Girls, Graciela Iturbide, Delita Martin, Rania Matar, and Alison Saar describe their artistic practices in their own words, affording viewers an intimate understanding of the work. In May, the video series, which is also available on YouTube, was named a 2024 Webby Awards Honoree, reaching an even wider audience.

Contemporary sculpture took center stage in **The Sky's the Limit**. Visitors were enthralled by large-scale works that dangled from the ceiling and cascaded down walls. This dramatic exhibition would not have been possible in the building before its renovation: new infrastructure allows curators more flexibility in planning installations. *The Sky's the Limit* debuted several collection works never before exhibited at NMWA, including a 164-foot-long abstract photograph by Mariah Robertson, a sparkling, subtly shimmying sculpture by Beatriz Milhazes, and a showstopping chandelier by Joana Vasconcelos that combines crocheted wool and Murano glass.

On the fourth floor, within the Gloria and Dan Logan Learning Commons, the brand-new MaryRoss Taylor Galleries featured three exhibitions focused on key strengths in NMWA's collection:

- Hung Liu: Making History presented Liu's poignant "weeping realist" portraits, through works on paper and major paintings.
- Holding Ground: Artists' Books for the National Museum of Women in the Arts highlighted nine new works by celebrated book artists.
- Impressive: Antoinette Bouzonnet-Stella featured a

fascinating series of twenty-five classical prints by the seventeenth-century French artist.

Visitors enjoyed the brand-new galleries—more space dedicated to NMWA's mission—as well as the breadth of these exhibitions.

In the third-floor galleries, the ongoing collection installation **Remix** presents familiar favorites and neverbefore-exhibited works. A joyous life-sized sculpture by Niki de Saint Phalle, *Pregnant Nana* (1995), greets visitors as they enter. The new floor plan features extended sightlines and open niches: gallery-goers can catch a long-distance glimpse of Deborah Butterfield's large-scale horse sculpture *Big Horn* (2006); spend time with arresting portraits by Delita Martin, May Stevens, and Gwen John; and delve into NMWA's wide-ranging collection of photography by Rania Matar, Berenice Abbott, and Yevonde, among many others. Guests enjoy discovering connections among artworks in thematic groupings, in some cases anchored by a medium and in others by a shared hue or idea.

Meanwhile, thirteen other NMWA works traveled to special exhibitions around the world, sharing the museum's holdings with new audiences. Lavinia Fontana's *Portrait of Costanza Alidosi* (ca. 1595) featured in exhibitions at the National Gallery of Ireland, Art Gallery of Ontario, and Baltimore Museum of Art. Louise Abbéma's painting *A Game of Croquet* (1872) traveled to Musée Marmottan Monet in Paris, in an exhibition—coinciding with the summer Olympics in Paris—that explored the visual history of sports.

Rooted in Place

Throughout the inaugural year, visitors enjoyed innovative programs and events connected to NMWA's mission and exhibitions. The building's revamped spaces not only hosted returning signature programs—they also inspired exciting new offerings that amplify the voices of artists.

A key addition from NMWA's renovation is the brandnew Susan Swartz Studio. This flexible classroom features sinks, movable tables, storage for art supplies, and technology for presentations. Audiences and museum educators alike enjoyed using the space to try out hands-on workshops, new programs, lectures, and more. A new Open Studio series engages visitors with drop-in art-making during Free Community Days. Nearly 1,600 guests attended sixteen sessions—making buttons, watercolor paintings, felt bowls, beaded pins, and other creations—inspired by works in the museum's collection.

The studio also enabled a reinvigorated schedule of Firsthand Experience workshops, a longstanding, popular series. Across four events, artists Adjoa Burrowes, Jamila Felton, Robin Ha, and Jen White-Johnson taught learners how to make zines, decorative papers, artists' books, and monotypes. One participant said, "I felt welcome as a beginner to a great experience where I actually made art. The instructor,

"Even for a correspondent with a keen interest in feminist art history, NMWA's inaugural shows are a revelation."

SARAH CASCONE FOR ARTNET

educators, and fellow attendees were very helpful."

Educators and docents brought NMWA's art and exhibitions to life via engaging tours:

- New daily drop-in tours engaged **1,066** people.
- More than 4,190 guests attended Collection Highlights Tours and exhibition tours. Of these, thirty-four tours were for school and youth groups comprising 771 children and 113 chaperones.

A new program series, The Bigger Picture, combined in-depth lectures with conversations in the galleries. These programs explored art from the sixteenth century to today through the museum's collection: Seventy-two participants joined across five programs.

The **Women, Arts, and Social Change** (WASC) public programs initiative also debuted new series and restarted signature favorites, welcoming more than 3,320 audience members across eighteen events. Creative's Keynote, a new

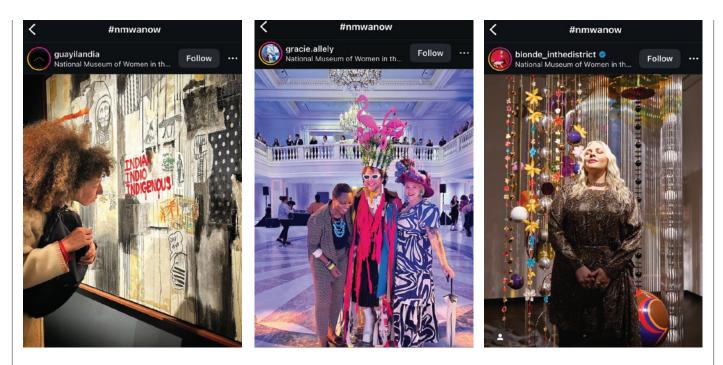
Opposite, clockwise: D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser; NMWA Trustee Gina F. Adams; Board Chair Winton Holladay; Board President Susan Goldberg, NMWA Director Susan Fisher Sterling; and Larry Di Rita of Bank of America of Greater Washington, sponsor of the public Grand Reopening day, cut the ribbon to open NMWA to visitors

On NMWA's public reopening day, six museum staff members (including Social Media Specialist Paris Valladares, left) got NMWA-inspired tattoos from artist Bibi Abelle

The collection installation features the "Create Connections" interactive touchscreen kiosk, where visitors can discover common threads among diverse works of art

Right: In *The Sky's the Limit*, Mariah Robertson's 164-footlong photograph *9* (2011) looped and draped through the gallery





guest-speaker program celebrating high-achieving artists and creatives, featured British art historian Katy Hessel in November and curator Cecilia Alemani in March. Alemani talked about her experience curating the 2022 Venice Biennale, which included an unprecedented number of women and nonbinary artists. Discussing recent strides and struggles in efforts to advance gender equity in the arts, she said, "We should be grateful for the work that museums [like NMWA] do for our society." Guests enjoyed the programs in NMWA's upgraded, completely refurbished Mars Performance Hall, which features plush seats and state-of-the-art technology.

The popular Fresh Talk series returned with three forward-thinking conversations. "Digital Futures" featured artists and creators who specialize in digital art and currency. "Conscious Creators," in tandem with NMWA's annual Makers' Market, focused on ethical production and sustainability by artists, business owners, and creators. "Influence and Collecting" featured collectors discussing gender equity in private and public collections.

January brought the debut of a lively and popular new monthly late-hours series, NMWA Nights, which features activities and activations throughout the museum. Each evening featured a guiding theme, appearances and events from community partners, music, art-making, creative cocktails and mocktails, and spotlight conversations in the galleries. In total, more than 1,860 attendees enjoyed the lively energy of each sold-out event. Partnerships and highlights—drag kings, DJs, a pop-up library, a clothing swap, and more—have surprised and delighted NMWA Nights attendees.

In the beautifully redesigned **Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center** (LRC), staff welcomed nearly 4,000 visitors to browse the collections, including 25,000 books "I was thrilled to have participated in workshops led by so many professional artists, along with the phenomenal staff from NMWA, who were so generous in sharing their knowledge."

PARTICIPANT, VIRTUAL EDUCATOR SUMMER CAMP

and print resources. The busy year featured scholarship and public engagement:

- Twenty-eight people booked special research visits, and the LRC fulfilled 191 reference requests.
- The collection continued to grow with 160 new acquisitions, including books, zines, artists' books, and other publications.
- Curated book displays celebrate special exhibitions and the collection.

The public engaged with library resources through tours and special programs. LRC staff hosted special tours for visitors from the Smithsonian Advisory Board, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art, Museo Nacional de Arte de Cataluña, the District of Columbia Library Association, and George Washington University, among others. During the reopening celebrations, women writers from Ars Poetica wrote personalized typewriter poems for attendees. Programs throughout the year featured *Holding Ground* book artists, and a pop-up collaboration with Black Art Library was a highlight of February's NMWA Nights event.

Laying It All Online

NMWA's digital platforms amplified our art and programs to audiences near and far. In the recent year:

- The website received 1.2 million visits from 860,400 users, a more than 60% increase from the previous year.
- The percentage of digital users from Washington, D.C., increased by 287% as local audiences planned their visits.
- NMWA's social media posts received 8.7 million impressions across Instagram, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter).
- NMWA's Instagram account gained 18,451 followers, and the museum's new TikTok account garnered 50,000 views across fifteen videos.

Guests and partner institutions alike joined in for a celebratory social media campaign, #NMWAnow. Upon the museum's reopening, NMWA held a photo contest inviting visitors to post images using the hashtag, which is now an evergreen tag for patrons to share their visits. Additional social media collaborations included partnerships with the National Gallery of Art, *Life* magazine, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New-York Historical Society, and International Spy Museum. Meanwhile, the museum's popular virtual programs refined in recent years and beloved by far-flung NMWA fans—continued to welcome participants from around the world. Highlights included programs tailored to educators as well as broad audiences:

In July 2023, 265 educators attended the museum's fourth annual Virtual Educator Summer Camp.
 Campers represented twenty-two states, Washington, D.C., and seven countries including Australia, Bahrain, Bermuda, Canada, Mexico, Qatar, and Spain. Across six sessions, educators and guest artists introduced participants to historical and contemporary women artists and enjoyed experimental making and close looking.



Above: Who is . . . Leon Trotsky? NMWA's Frida Kahlo painting, *Self-Portrait Dedicated to Leon Trotsky* (1937), was the subject of a question on *Jeopardy!* in June 2024

Right: In the brand-new Susan Swartz Studio, guests gather, learn, and make art during NMWA Nights events, workshops, and Open Studio sessions



"It's hard to think of a finer example of the museum's execution of its...role as the first museum in the world solely dedicated to championing women through the arts than *New Worlds*."

BRIAN P. KELLY FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



At the May NMWA Nights event, a guest explores a *New Worlds* gallery with art by Alexis McGrigg (background) and Rajyashri Goody (foreground)

- Audiences adored NMWA's longstanding Art Chat series, which held seventeen events with 470 total attendees.

In 2024, NMWA's **#5WomenArtists** campaign focused on disability activism and advocacy in the arts. The museum's social media channels featured local organizations centering accessibility, collection artists who have experienced a form of disability, and artists who engage in disability activism. Local photographer Sophie Lasher took over NMWA's Instagram account to tour the museum from the perspective of a visitor with autism and ADHD. On the blog, art historians who research accessibility in art history and design shared their work. The 2024 #5WomenArtists campaign reached an estimated 33 million people, with 626,000 interactions and 3,911 mentions.

A Whole New World

In April, *New Worlds: Women to Watch 2024* opened to great fanfare. It was the largest iteration of the signature exhibition series, a dynamic collaboration between NMWA and its national and international outreach committees. *New Worlds* featured twenty-eight women artists from around the globe whose works envisioned new realities, responding to a world transformed by a global pandemic, advocacy for social reform, and political division.

Programming convened artists and engaged our audience to illuminate the exhibition:

- Six virtual artist panel discussions, open exclusively to members, featured twenty-four *New Worlds* artists. Nearly 400 members attended the programs.
- At a NMWA Nights bash in May, attendees wore costumes inspired by the exhibition's theme.

Over the two-day committee conference coinciding with the exhibition's opening, 110 representatives from twenty-five of the museum's thirty-one national and international outreach committees came together at NMWA. Members toured *New Worlds* and the newly renovated building; exchanged ideas during panels focusing on programming, fundraising, and advocacy; networked with each other and NMWA stakeholders; and attended receptions at the residences of the French and British ambassadors. The formal conference program concluded with the opening reception of *New Worlds*.

Thank you!

Members and donors made our reopening year an exciting success. More than 11,000 generous supporters—from all fifty U.S. states and twenty countries—helped usher NMWA into its new era. We were thrilled to host nearly 1,200 guests during seven members-only events in the building, and we welcomed 800 more via virtual programs. During this banner year, we were proud to see that we kept the support of 3,000 charter members, who have sustained the museum for more than thirty years, as we welcomed more than 1,300 new supporters.

As we move forward with the momentum of this groundbreaking year, we are grateful for your partnership. Your support means so much in shaping NMWA's bright future and ensures that there will always be a place for champions of gender equity in the arts.

// Alicia Gregory is assistant editor at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Staff members across the institution contributed to this report.

Financial Statements

Statements of Financial Position	FY24	FY23
Assets		
Cash	\$ 12,269,797	\$ 13,869,053
Other current	4,837,978	3,758,886
Total current assets	17,107,774	17,627,939
Net property and equipment	67,002,922	57,386,105
Investments	108,238,977	94,587,499
Net Pledges Receivable	3,400,410	2,464,030
Total Assets	\$ 195,750,083	\$ 172,065,573
Liabilities and net assets		
Payables accruals and deposits	\$ 2,410,748	\$ 6,795,201
Long term liabilities	33,232,838	11,006,064
Total liabilities	35,643,586	17,801,265
Net assets	160,106,497	154,264,308
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 195,750,083	\$ 172,065,573
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>~ 193,730,063</u>	ş <u>172,000,075</u>
Statements of Activities	FY24	FY23
Support and revenue:		
Grants and contributions	\$ 54,943,102	\$ 21,495,800
Membership Income	1,475,051	1,189,372
Earned Income	2,102,962	533,058
Net Investment Income	5,209,472	6,046,994
Total support and revenue	63,730,587	29,265,224
Expenses:	00,100,001	20,200,221
Program services	9,767,816	7,190,729
Supporting services	8,109,857	3,775,244
Cost of sales and auxillary activities	494,746	703,698
Total expenses	18,372,419	11,669,671
Change in net assets before other item	45,358,168	17,595,553
Forgiveness of Debt	40,000,100	
	45,358,168	17,595,553
Change in net assets		
Net assets, beginning of year	154,264,308	136,668,755
Net assets, end of year	\$ 199,622,476	\$ 154,264,308
Statements of Cash Flows	FY24	FY23
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Cash received from donors	\$ 54,943,102	\$ 23,285,936
Cash received from program fees and earned income	701,430	329,970
Cash received from membership and dues	1,959,737	1,405,101
Cash payments to employees	(7,066,779)	(4,221,921)
Cash payments to vendors	(28,533,542)	(36,780,803)
Net cash (used) or provided by operating activities	22,003,948	(15,981,717)
	22,003,946	(13,901,717)
Cash flows from investing activities	1/ /0/ /00	(01.010.00())
Cash received from investment income	14,484,498	(21,316,664)
Cash payments for investment costs	(414,516)	(198,590)
Net cash (used) or provided by investing activities	14,069,982	<u>(21,515,254)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Cash received from borrowing	33,308,418	8,427,900
Cash payment of bond fees		
Net cash (used) or provided by financing activities	33,308,418	8,427,900
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	69,382,348	(29,069,071)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	13,869,053	42,938,124
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 83,251,401	\$ 13,869,053
		<u> </u>

Highlights from the Past Year

// Virginia Treanor, M.G. Vallacchi, and Kathryn Wat

During NMWA's landmark reopening year, nearly one hundred acquisitions strengthened the museum's collection. In addition to the selections featured here, highlights include photographs by Berenice Abbott, Renee Cox, Ann Hamilton, Marta María Pérez Bravo, and Gillian Wearing; works on paper by Corita Kent and Nellie Mae Rowe; a painting by Hung Liu; and a sculpture by Deborah Butterfield. These works of art, donated by longtime patrons and new friends, will delight visitors and bolster NMWA's programming in the months and years to come.

Alice Austen

One of the earliest women photographers to work outside of the studio and in the public eye, Alice Austen (1866–1952) photographed people in her hometown on Staten Island and, later, on the streets of New York City. She learned the principles of photography, including how to process glass plate negatives, from an uncle who taught chemistry at Rutgers University. She also traveled widely, photographing the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 and the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo in 1901.

Austen spent fifty-six years in a loving relationship with her partner Gertrude Tate, until they were evicted from their home after the stock market crash in 1929. Today, that home, Clear Comfort, is the The museum's collection grew by 97 works during the recent year: 87 photographs, 4 prints, 3 drawings, 1 painting, 1 sculpture, and 1 mixed-media work.

site of the Alice Austen House, a museum and nationally designated site of LGBTQ+ history. *Egg Stand Group* (1895) is part of a recent gift of twenty-five works by Austen to enter NMWA's



collection, enabling the museum to share her art and her story.

L. C. Armstrong (b. 1954) is known for large-scale imaginary

landscapes with luminous colors and enormous, looming flowers. With saturated hues and dramatic shifts in scale, her twelve-foot-wide triptych *Sunset Over Sea of Bliss* (2001) depicts



Alice Austen, *Egg Stand Group*, 1895 (printed 1970s); Gelatin silver print, 10 ¼ x 13 ¾ in.; NMWA, Gift of Arthur B. Kennickell

L. C. Armstrong, *Sunset Over Sea of Bliss*, 2001; Acrylic, bomb fuse, and resin on linen on wood panel, 48 x 144 in.; NMWA, Gift of Tara Rudman



a characteristic dream-like setting. Here, an awe-inspiring sunset is dominated by colossal flowers, while minute human figures blissfully swim in a distant sea.

In startling contrast to the calming view, the flowers' stems appear as jagged, dark lines, which Armstrong creates using bomb fuse. Carefully, she arranges gunpowder and lights it on fire, burning the surface of the painting to leave unruly lines. This juxtaposition highlights her desire to address the detrimental impact of humans on the natural world. Armstrong covers these paintings in resin to achieve a high shine, evoking the influence of the Southern California–based "finish fetish" movement.

Clare Rojas

In the early 2000s, Clare Rojas (b. 1976) was part of the Mission School, a group of street art- and folk art-inspired artists working in and around San Francisco's Mission District. Combining flat planes of color with vivid patterns reminiscent of quilt work and paper-cutting, Rojas's narrative paintings and prints focus on a range of feminist themes, including gender stereotyping.

In Boundary Lines (2009), the artist tweaks conventional ideas about feminine gentility. The demurely styled figure in the center of the image is enticed by the red poppies just outside the arc of blue lines at her feet. Yet she suspends her right hand, refraining from reaching out further. Rojas notes that the composition exemplifies her strong instinct for self-protection: "Poisonous people, poisonous imagery, poisonous poison. You're just trying to protect yourself from it . . . no matter how alluring it may seem."

// Virginia Treanor is senior curator, M. G. Vallacchi is curatorial assistant, and Kathryn Wat is deputy director/ chief curator at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.



Clare Rojas, Boundary Lines, 2009; Color aquatint, spitbite aquatint, and sugar-tint etching on paper, $43\frac{1}{2} \times 35$ in.; NMWA, Gift of Steven Scott, Baltimore, in memory of his graduate professor Dr. Elizabeth Johns

Supporting Roles

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* Deceased (all lists as of October 15, 2024)

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NMWA's national and international outreach committees share the museum's mission and champion women artists in their regions. The museum has committees in the following locations, and we recognize the leaders of these groups for their special partnership.

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> NMWA staff cheer for the museum's reopening



Museum Events

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Opening Reception for Suchitra Mattai: Myth from Matter

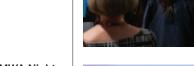
1. NMWA Trustee Anjali Gupta, Suchitra Mattai, and Manisha Kapani

2. NMWA Director Susan Fisher Sterling welcomes attendees to the exhibition

3. Mattai leads a tour in the galleries

4. Amanda Minami and Suchitra Mattai

5. A guest enjoys Mattai's immersive installation siren song (2022)













Highlights from NMWA Nights

6-7. During the September event, spoken word poetry by performers including Alexa Patrick and Tatiana Figueroa Ramirez activated the museum

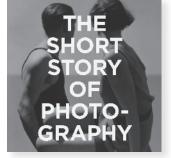
8-10. October's program responded to Suchitra Mattai: *Myth from Matter*, as guests enjoyed gallery talks; Capital Stitch Co.'s Meredith Artyukhina did a live embroidery demonstration; and attendees took part in a weaving activity led by Tyler Sanville of Tyler Makes Things

Museum Shop



Suchitra Mattai: Myth from Matter Exhibition Catalogue

This fully illustrated catalogue features Mattai's powerful art alongside an essay by critic Aruna D'Souza and a conversation with the artist. Softcover, 112 pages. \$27.95/Member \$25.16



The Short Story of Photography

An innovative introduction to photography, this book explores fifty key works from the early nineteenth century to recent digital photographs. Flexibound, 210 pages. \$19.99/Member \$17.99

The Creative Act: A Way of Being

Music producer Rick Rubin explores artistry and its impact on human existence, offering an easy-to-follow path to creativity. Hardcover, 432 pages. \$32/Member \$28.80



"Don't Let the Bastards Get You Down" Mug A not-so-subtle reminder on your morning cup. 12 oz., ceramic. \$18/Member \$16.20



The Street Photography Challenge

Fifty cards offer prompts with tips, tricks, and ideas for snapping great images in everyday environments. \$16.99/Member \$15.29





Tamara de Lempicka Socks Step up your style with socks featuring Tamara de Lempicka's bold and elegant artwork *Arums* (1935). Made of 83% cotton, 15% polyamide, 2% elastane. Fits women's U.S. shoe size 6 to 9. \$15/Member \$13.50



Samantha Box: Confluences Exhibition Catalogue

In this illustrated exhibition catalogue, essays accompany imagery from two major bodies of Box's photography. Softcover, 134 pages. \$35/Member 31.50

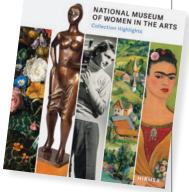
Men to Avoid in Art and Life

This book pairs images of fine art with modern captions that cheekily epitomize the spirit of mansplaining. Hardcover, 96 pages. \$14.95/Member \$13.45



National Museum of Women in the Arts: Collection Highlights

The museum's new collection catalogue explores the breadth of NMWA's holdings, drawing connections among more than 180 works and sharing new essays by more than fifty artists and scholars. Hardcover, 264 pages. \$60/Member \$54



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WOMEN IN THE ARTS

1250 New York Avenue NW Washington, DC 20005-3970

// COMING SOON



February 28-August 10, 2025

Unearthly, enigmatic, and psychologically tense, the works in *Uncanny* give form to women artists' powerful expressions of existential unease. This exhibition surveys the use of the uncanny from the Surrealist movement to the present. Artists subvert gender stereotypes and explore feminist issues through disquieting spaces, fantastical figures, and technology that appears eerily human.

Gillian Wearing, *Me as Meret Oppenheim*, 2019; Gelatin silver bromide print, 63 ¼ x 48 ½ in.; NMWA, Gift of Tony and Trisja Podesta Collection; Courtesy of the artist, Maureen Paley, London, and Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York/ Los Angeles

