

New Bedford Art Museum
608 Pleasant Street
New Bedford MA
02740

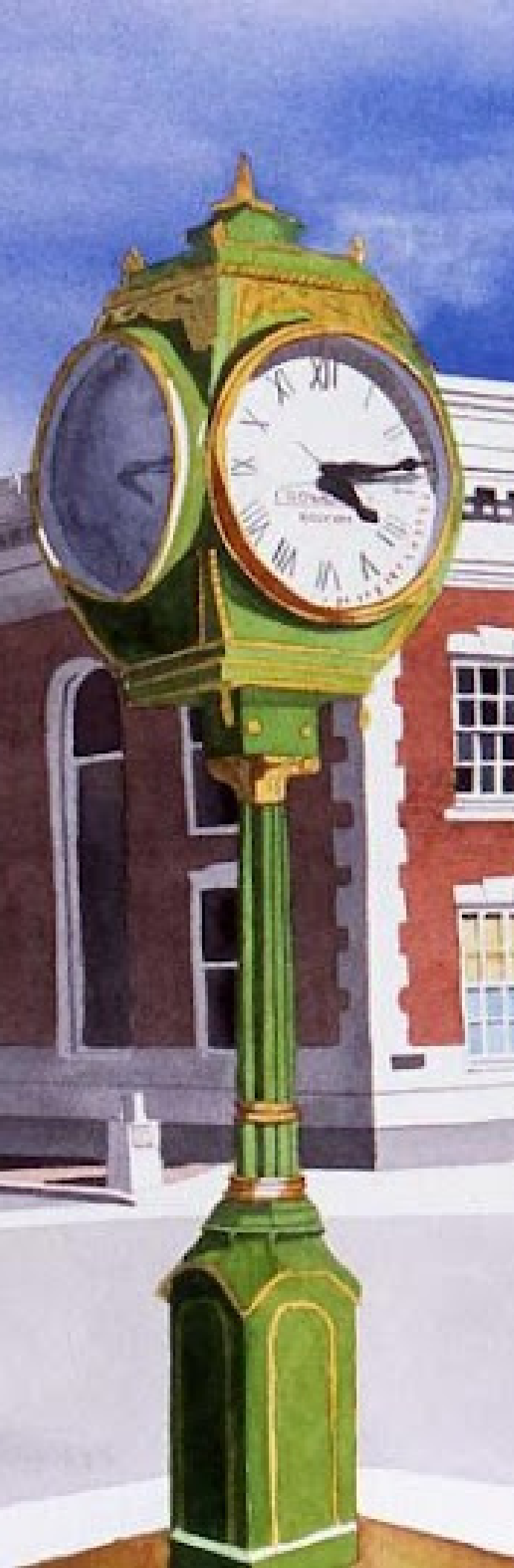
ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Consider becoming a member today and help us fulfill our mission to provide greater access to the arts in the New Bedford community. Visit newbedfordart.org to learn more about the perks of becoming a member and to see previews of our current and upcoming exhibitions.

NEW BEDFORD ART MUSEUM



Designed by
Hannah Saeed



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Letter from the Executive Director

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Executive Director of the New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks! Thank you to the Board of Directors for inviting me to lead the Museum and for welcoming me so warmly.

New Bedford is on the cusp of a cultural renaissance; it's an extraordinary time to be here and to begin the work of revitalizing the Museum post-pandemic. The arts are what sustained many of us in those strange and uncertain times, and now is the time to reinvigorate the Museum as a forum for ideas and a place to meet friends for great aesthetic experiences. As the world reimagines itself and rebuilds, the Art Museum offers a special place in our city to resume activities that affirm life, inspire us, and illuminate our humanity.

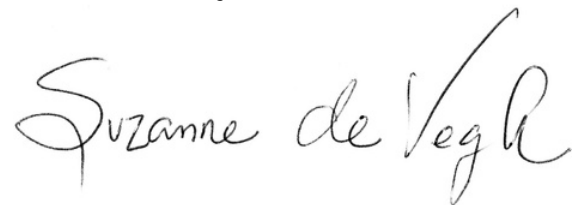
A long-time community anchor, the Art Museum will continue to showcase local art, the city of New Bedford's collection, and soon, cutting-edge contemporary art. In the short time I have been here, I have had the great fortune of finding many organizations willing to partner with the Museum in new and exciting projects.

We closed the year with a festive Winter Wonderland party featuring a duet of holiday favorites by former Broadway singers, Erin and Matt Ban, 7 "tiny dances" performed by regional and local artists curated by Ali-Kenner Brodsky and, amazing refreshments by Morton's Fork and desserts by cake artist Christopher Furtado-Ambar.

Thank you for this wonderful opportunity to contribute to the cultural life of New Bedford.

I look forward to the great things we will do together.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne de Vegh
Executive Director





Letter from the Board Chair

2022 was a busy year for the New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks. It was also a challenging year but one that reaffirmed the Museum's resilience and its deep commitment to the communities of New Bedford and the surrounding area. The lasting impacts of the COVID crisis continued to have an impact on our operations, and we also managed a major transition in the Museum's leadership and much of its staff. This report highlights both the successes of our exhibition and educational programming, and the challenges we faced and overcame.

Our former Executive Director, Ashley Occhino, left the Museum in January after five years of remarkable achievements, not the least of which was guiding us through the existential challenges posed to so many cultural institutions by the global pandemic. The Museum's Board began the lengthy process of a national search for a new executive director while our interim director, Robyn Weisel, worked to manage our continuing operations. We were very excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Suzanne de Vegh, just after Labor Day. Suzanne comes to us from New York City and brings with her extensive experience in the world of museums and higher education. She also brings an extraordinary vision for the Museum as a cultural institution and community resource.

2022 saw the Museum present eight exhibitions including our annual Members' Show, works by important regional artists, two collaborations with the City Collection at the New Bedford Public Library, a retrospective of our partnership with the artist-in-residency program at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, and a showcase of fibers as a significant medium in contemporary art practice. In addition, our educational programs, which serve both the youth and senior populations in many of our underserved communities, continued to bring art and creativity to people across New Bedford. This important programming was delivered throughout the year by the Artmobile, a hallmark of the Museum's commitment to community outreach.

(cont.)

Letter from the Board Chair

I'd like to close my note by underscoring the vision that Suzanne is implementing at the Museum. In brief, she is focusing with extraordinary energy on:

- Expanding and diversifying our exhibition planning to enhance the mission of showcasing contemporary art, regional and national, and doing so in the context of issues most relevant to New Bedford's diverse communities;
- Expanding our educational programs to include classes for all inside the Museum and in addition to our ongoing commitment to serving constituents across the city;
- Implementing evening programs at the Museum that include film, dance, music events and which have already brought audiences who haven't otherwise visited the Museum into the building;
- Solidifying our fundraising and development activities including pursuing corporate memberships, expanding and focusing our grant-writing activities, and revamping our fundraising events including our December Holiday party.

Suzanne's agenda points to a strong and exciting future for the Museum. The Board and I firmly support the initiatives she is implementing and with real optimism about growing contributions the Museum is making to cultural strength of our city and our communities.

Sincerely,



A. Lawrence Jenkins
Board Chair



Our Mission & Vision



Mission Statement

New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! is dedicated to engaging a diverse audience in relevant exhibitions, exemplary education, and creative experiences as a vital innovative center for the arts.

Vision Statement

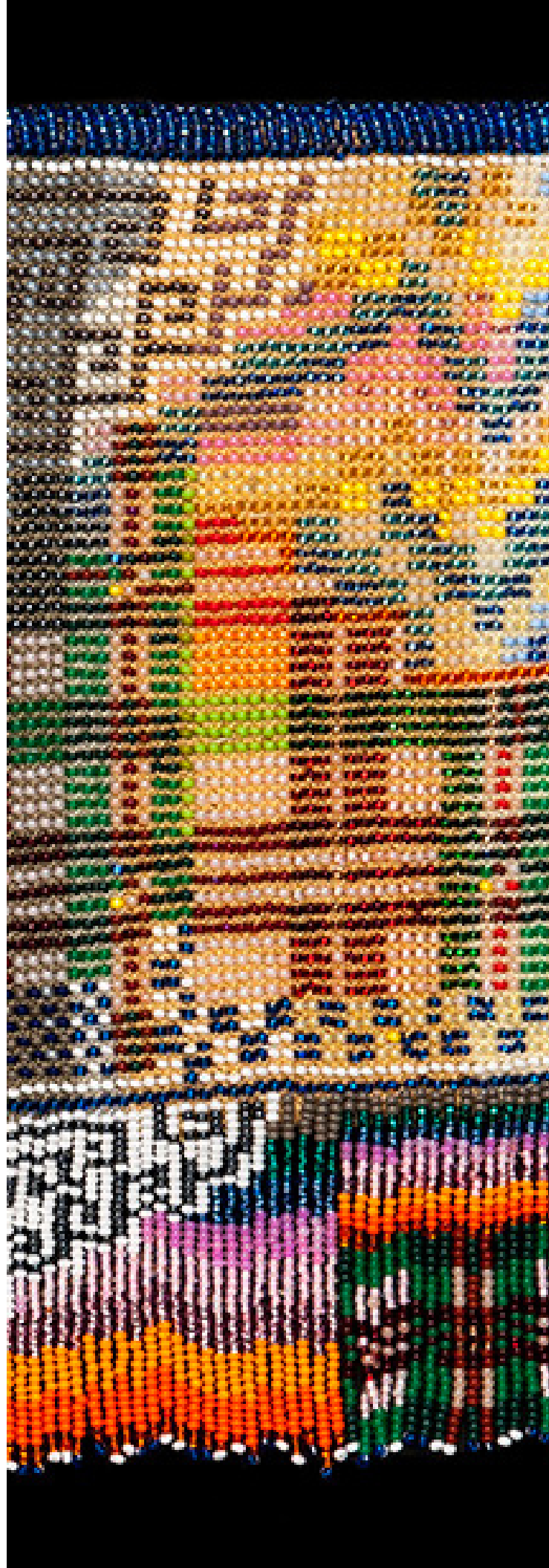
The New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! vision is to transform the community by inspiring all generations through art. The museum is committed to being a leading institution where people of all identities and diverse perspectives are welcomed into an artistic environment and where equity and inclusivity are fundamental values of the museum. The Museum seeks to have a staff that represents the New Bedford community, support collaboration with community organizations, host events, programs and exhibits that represent the city's multiplicity.

Equity Statement

New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! values the arts as a universal language and recognizes it is crucial to be an organization that integrates equity, diversity, inclusion, and access into everything we do. We strive to continually represent artists and serve an audience and community that reflects an appreciation and understanding of the broad spectrum of individual differences – cultural, racial, religious, socio-economic, or based on sexual identity, gender, physical, developmental or intellectual ability.

Our endeavors spark engagement through art and provide access to the arts for all people. This allyship and support spans across all Museum staff, Board, volunteers, programming, events, and media. We will hold ourselves accountable to do this important diversity, equity, inclusion, and access work by:

- Being transparent about the way we work and the way decisions are made
- Continuing regular workshops and training for Museum staff and Board
- Developing policies as tools for Museum-wide decision making in areas such as hiring, exhibition planning, and program development
- Continuing to revise our strategic plan to make sure that it reflects these initiatives
- Revising this Equity Statement on an ongoing basis and incorporating it into our strategic plan.



We understand that equity and inclusion work is difficult and we acknowledge that we will make mistakes as we learn and grow. We embrace the opportunity to keep learning and evolving and challenge everyone to do the same.

Land Acknowledgment Statement

We would like to acknowledge that the land we live, work, learn, and commune on is the original homelands of the Wampanoag and Massachusetts Nations. We acknowledge the painful history of genocide and forced removal from this territory, and we honor and respect the many diverse Indigenous peoples still connected to this land on which we gather.

EXHIBITIONS

Members Exhibition

December 4, 2021 - May 8, 2022

Juror: Stephanie Haboush Plunkett, Deputy Director and Chief Curator of the Norman Rockwell Museum

Each year, New Bedford Art Museum puts out a call to members inviting them to submit their artworks to be considered for the show, and each year the museum is excited to see what its community has been making.

Nancy Whitcomb's Dog Eat Dog World was awarded Best in Show. Susan Gilmore's Blustery was the first runner up and Dora Atwater Millikin's Nantucket Light Ship was the second runner up. The honorable mention and staff pick were Susan Costa's Red Bag and Elizabeth Stanton's Waiting on Citrus to Ripen, respectively.

This year's members who passed juries include Adrian Tio, Allen Constant, Barbara McDowell, Bill Popik, Brittany Grimes, Carol Scavotto, Carole Constant, Chip Davenport, Corinna Raznikov, Danya Bichsel, Deb Smook, Denn Santoro, Dora Atwater Millikin, Elizabeth Stanton, Emmett Barnacle, Eric Lintala, Helen Bryant, Iwona Lapczyk, JP Powel, Jane Bregoli, Jane O'Hara, Jill Law, Jim Sears, Judith Klein, Keith M. Francis, Kendra J. Conn, Kim Barry, Kristina N. Occhino, Lelia Stokes Weinstein, Lynne Byers, Marty Keating, Mary N. Hurwitz, Mia Pelletier, Milton H. Brightman, Morgan Spaulding, Nancy Whitcomb, Ray Genreux, Robert Dunn, Ron Fortier, Roy Rossow, Skip Treglia, Susan Costa, and Susan Gilmore.



In Residence: NPS AIR + CAIR Alumni Exhibition

June 9, 2022 - November 13, 2022

New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park proudly presented IN RESIDENCE: NPS AIR + CAIR ALUMNI EXHIBITION. Both the Art Museum and the National Park Service have hosted local creatives in their Artist-In-Residence programs and were honored to invite alumni to showcase their works in a group exhibition at NBAM/ArtWorks!. The programs offer local artists space, time, and resources to develop their work and are designed to create access points for artists and community members to engage more deeply with our collective stories.

Alumni Artists:

Amy Araujo
Iva Brito
Dan Borelli
Fitzcarmel LaMarre
Wanda C. Medina
Sandra Santos
Carl Simmons
Dawn Spears
Deana Tavares
Andrew Tedesco





One Whale Makes Seven Shores Prosperous

February 11, 2022 - June 6, 2022

From the Collection of the New Bedford Free Public Library

Traditional Japanese whaling was a community enterprise that created wealth and work for coastal towns in Japan during the whale's migratory season. The bounty of food and other goods made from a whale was a big boon to the local economy, exemplified by the proverb *Nanaura tairyō hanjo no zu* or "One whale makes seven shores prosperous." This whaling scroll from the library's collection includes beautiful illustrations of the whales, tools, and methods used to hunt whales in Japan during the 18th century.

Joe Banda

April 30, 2022 - September 11, 2022

Joe Banda was born and raised in Bristol Connecticut. After struggling through high school academically and socially, he eventually went on to study fine art and illustration at Delaware College of Art and Design and Montserrat College of Art earning a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art. During the ups and downs of college and a few failed career choices, Joe discovered his love for painting. Combining the tight rules of illustration with the loose nature of non-objective painting; Joe discovered a happy medium, where he could truly express himself. Joe now resides in Beverly, Massachusetts with his wife and daughter.



The Triumphs of Alexander

July 1, 2022 - November 17, 2022

From the Collection of the New Bedford Free Public Library

Louis XIV, King of France from 1643 to 1715, was known for surrounding himself with the brightest minds of his time, including Politicians, Artists, Musicians, and Writers. Among these was Charles Le Brun, who Louis XIV commissioned to paint a series of grand pictures depicting the triumphs of Alexander the Great, with whom the Sun King felt a sense of kinship.

Charles Le Brun had been a painter in the royal service since 1647, but after the king commissioned this series and was presented with the first of the paintings, he was elevated to Premier Peintre du Roi (First Painter of the King).

Comfort & Displacement: The Art of Richard Neal

November 17, 2022 - February 26, 2023

Recent abstract paintings and wall hanging sculpture by Richard Neal. Organized by our independent guest curator, Don Wilkinson. Curator's statement:

"Richard Neal's paintings and assemblages do not fit into any neat category. The work hovers in that nexus between the representational and the abstract, flirting with both but married to neither. It is tumultuous and yet somehow reserved. It is 'all-up-in-your-face' dramatic while it leans in and whispers to the patient viewer.

The work that I selected for this exhibition was created over several years and while I did not consciously seek out a common narrative, one made itself manifest. Throughout the work, backcountry shacks, suburban houses, apartment buildings and skyscrapers unrelentingly take center stage. But none of those structures read as happy homes. Not anymore.

The exhibition is called 'Comfort and Displacement' as this selection of work evokes a palpable sense of loss. The abodes appear abandoned, the towers are tumbling, the boulevard in 'Big City' borders on the post-apocalyptic.

Comfort can rapidly evaporate. Slow or sudden displacement-- brought about by divorce, abandonment, foreclosure, gentrification, terrorism, war or a hundred other reasons-- is part of the human condition.

Neal's work forces us to confront that discomfiting thought and take notice."



Lemuel Eldred: Whale Ships at Wharves, Painter's Prints of a Bygone Era

December 1, 2022 - February 19, 2023

Mentored in the studio of William Bradford, Lemuel Eldred was a Fairhaven artist, well known for painting marine and desert scenes, and later as a printmaker.

As the whaling industry drew to a close at the end of the 19th century, Eldred captured the return of the ships as they docked in New Bedford for decommissioning.

Eldred's preferred technique for this potentially sentimental subject was etching because he strongly felt it to be the best vehicle for direct expression.

Elegiac and elegant, Eldred's prints faithfully capture the retired vessels' quiet majesty resting at their final destination, in the city in which they originated, the city that for a time lit the whole world.

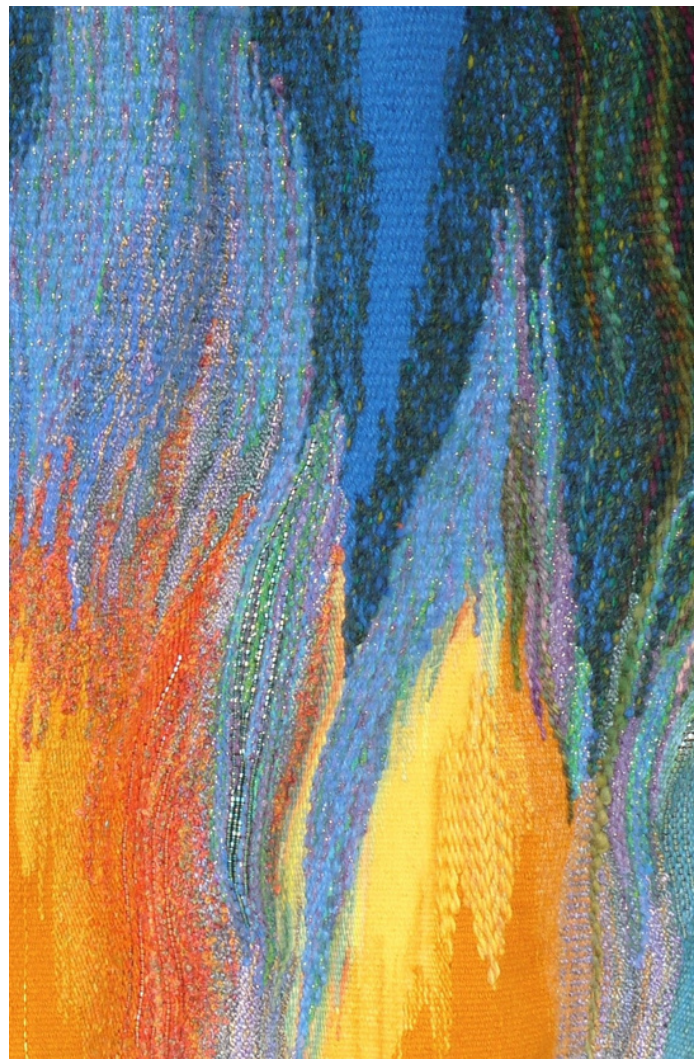
Yarn/Rope/String: Fiber Art Now Juried Exhibition

December 8, 2022 - March 12, 2023

The Fiber Art Now Yarn/Rope/String exhibitions were designed to encourage innovative use of fibers that artists incorporate into new and exciting works of art. The jurors for the 2021 and 2022 exhibitions in print had this to say about the expanse of this expressive niche of fiber art:

Yarn/Rope/String 2021 juror María-Elisa Heg, Curatorial Fellow at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, said:

“Yarn/Rope/String features a selection of arresting pieces that showcase some of the best craftsmanship in fiber today. Whether grappling with the uncertainties of the age or deep in exploration of



material and process, these pieces grab on and ask you to look closer, and for longer. Selecting from so many excellent submissions was no easy task, a sign of exciting things to come in the field. Above all, the works in Yarn/Rope/String prompt delight, wonderment, and contemplation through their skillful execution.”

-crafthouston.org

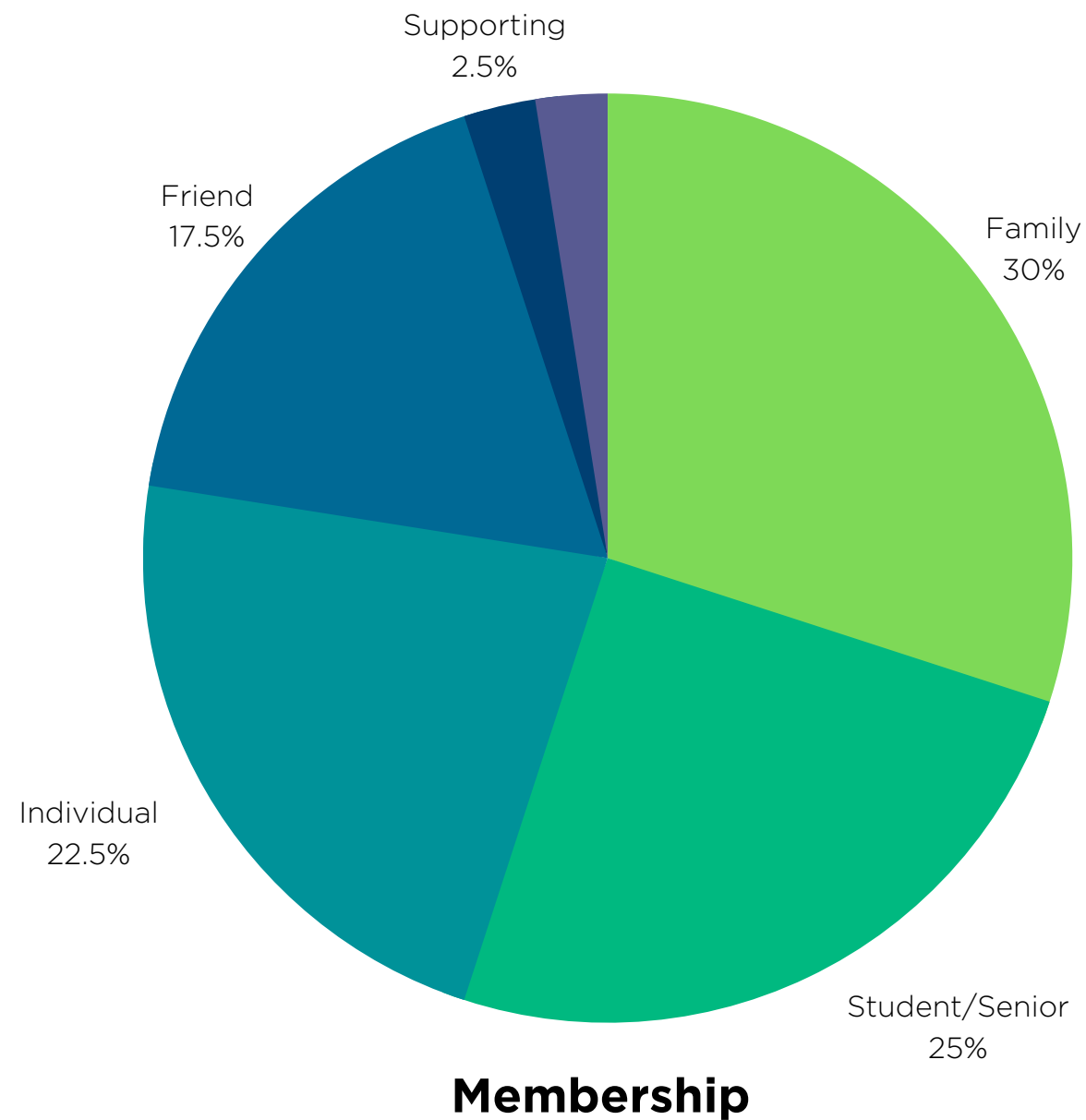
Yarn/Rope/String 2021 juror and tapestry artist Micala Sidore stated, “It is terrific to see how many people choose fiber as a means to express themselves. Not all the work displays the same level of ability—it never does. But it testifies to the engagement of the makers. I seek work that makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up. The last of these criteria is what tells me that I am seeing something that is special.” Over the past 40 years, Sidore has given talks, published more than 45 articles, and exhibited her own work in North America, Australia, and Poland. She is the author of *The Art is the Cloth* (Schiffer Books, 2020).

-hawleystreet.com

Yarn/Rope/String 2022 juror Michael F. Rohde has been weaving since 1973. His work is in the permanent collections of the George Washington University Museum, The Textile Museum in Washington, DC; the Mingei Museum in San Diego, California; the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles in San Jose, California; the Ventura County Museum of Art in Ventura, California; the Racine Art Museum in Racine, Wisconsin; and The Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. “It is always a special privilege to be given the chance to see a large body of work, but a challenge to select only a few,” said Rohde. “Some of the things I looked for and found include excellence in craftsmanship, new ways of expressing ideas with fiber, and occasionally work that addressed what happens outside of the studios yet impacts us all. Not all works embodied all criteria. This led to a selection that was diverse and hopefully with some things that are new to each of us.”

-michaelrohde.com

Year in Numbers



Community Reach

Total Gallery Attendance: **1,110**

Events & Class Attendance: **797**

Social Media Followers: **11,264**

Teen Artists Supported: **9**

Number of Programs & Events: **38**

Staff

Suzanne de Vegh

Executive Director

Marisol Rosa

Education & Audience Engagement Manager

Lisa Letts

Operations Manager

Devin McLaughlin

Lead Art Educator

Taylor Hickey

Art Educator

Hannah Saeed

Social Media Liaison/Website Coordinator

Grace Holleran

Gallery Assistant

Yasmin Zandomenico

Gallery Assistant

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Janine Grinnell

MPH, MPA. Vice Chair

A. Lawrence Jenkins

Peter Covill, Treasurer

Gig Lang

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Howe Allen

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