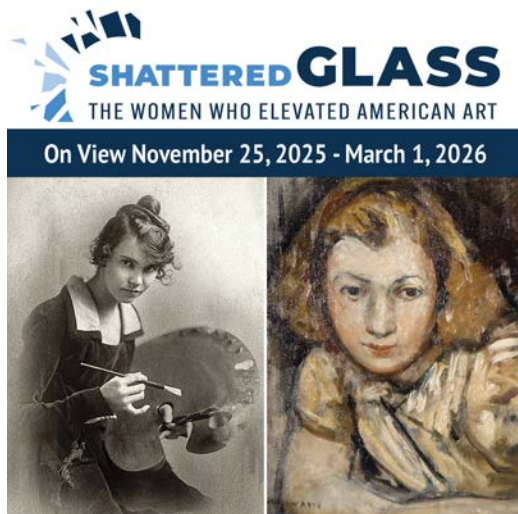




MEDIA RELEASE

Canton Museum of Art Announces Major Exhibition Event – *Shattered Glass: The Women Who Elevated American Art*

Opening November 25, 2025, Filling the Museum Galleries
in Celebration of America 250 and CMA's 90th Anniversary



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (September 5, 2025, Canton, OH) — The Canton Museum of Art (CMA) is proud to announce a major original exhibition event, ***Shattered Glass: The Women Who Elevated American Art***, to both commemorate the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America and as a signature exhibition for the Museum's 90th Anniversary. The exhibition will be on view from November 25, 2025 - March 1, 2026. Filling of the Museum's galleries, the exhibition showcases American women artists from the past 250 years who made a lasting impact on the art world – remarkable women who faced adversity due to not only their gender, but also race, sexuality, economic status, family, and life challenges. Featuring more than 100 major works and inspiring stories from nearly 80 artists, the Canton Museum of Art has worked with museums and private collections nationwide, and drawn from its own Collection, to assemble a showcase of art never before experienced in one exhibition. Audiences can learn more and plan their visit at: www.CantonArt.org/shattered-glass.

"*Shattered Glass* is a curatorial labor of love and a remarkable gathering of art and artists, which reflects CMA's commitment to artistic excellence and compelling storylines," said Max Barton II, CMA's Director and Chief Executive Officer. "Celebrating the Museum's 90th Anniversary and America 250, *Shattered Glass* is filled with untold stories that will connect with audiences and draw them inside history, American art, and inspiring accomplishments. We are thrilled to bring this exhibition experience to Canton, both for our community and our cultural visitors."

Shattered Glass is sponsored by Visit Canton and ArtsInStark, through a Major Arts Event grant supporting cultural tourism; The Timken Foundation; The Hoover Foundation; Ohio Humanities;

1001 Market Avenue North • Canton, Ohio 44702 • Tel: 330.453.7666 • www.cantonart.org

Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums

America 250-Ohio; the Ohio Arts Council; and is presented with support from the CMA Volunteer Angels, generous supporters of the Canton Museum of Art, as well as Innis-Maggiore Ad Agency, the Canton Museum of Art Exhibition Endowment at Stark Community Foundation, and Downtown Canton Partnership.

Inside the *Shattered Glass* Exhibition:

Traditional art history has relegated many women into obscurity by rendering their contributions as “less than” those of their male counterparts. It wasn’t until the late 1800s that women were granted access to a state funded artistic education. Even then, it was another 90 years before they were permitted to study the nude in a classroom setting, providing their male contemporaries with a stark advantage in the study of the human form. Meanwhile, the American Civil War, abolition of slavery, and the beginning of the women’s suffrage movement were all taking place in the United States. Women were almost exclusively omitted from any scholarly art publications until the 1970s when the feminist movement began to gain traction in the United States.

The artists in *Shattered Glass* have all fought for their right to create art alongside male contemporaries and while doing so, revolutionized the field. This exhibit shines a light on these remarkable artists and their enormous contributions. Among the artists represented are:

- Margaret Bourke-White (1904 – 1971), a commercial photographer who later became the first American female war photojournalist. She was with Patton’s Third Army in 1945 and documented the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp;
- Selma Burke (1900 – 1995), a sculptor and member of the Harlem Renaissance movement, her portrait of President Franklin D. Roosevelt created in 1944 inspired the design found on the dime;
- Audrey Flack (1931 – 2024), a painter, sculptor, and a pioneer of photorealism who reshaped the rules of art creation in the middle of the twentieth century;
- Wanda Gág (1893 – 1946), an artist, illustrator, printmaker, and author best known for the children’s book, *Millions of Cats*, which is the oldest American picture book still in print;
- Anne Goldthwaite (1869 – 1944), Painter and printmaker, advocate for women’s rights and equal rights, she was part of the painting event held during the 1932 Olympic Games;
- Claude Hirst (1855 – 1942), Claudine, a Cincinnati-born painter of still life, used a male pseudonym to disguise her gender as an artist and now renowned for her trompe-l’oeil watercolor technique;



Coerora, 1904. Emily Sargent. Sargent House Museum.

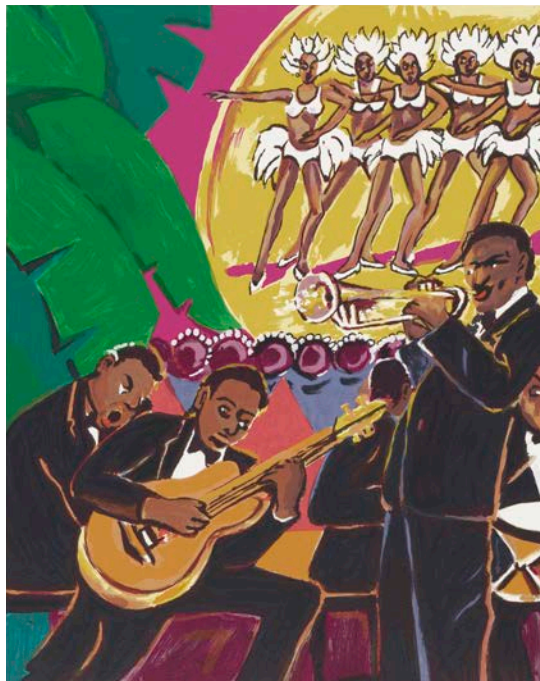
- Maria Martinez (1886 – 1980), a ceramicist who revitalized blackware pottery made by the Santa Clara Pueblo makers and instrumental in the perception of traditional ceramics as fine art rather than just functional table settings;
- Georgia O’Keeffe (1887 – 1986), the Modernist painter best known for her interpretations of the natural world through expressive colors, shapes, and forms; and
- Emily Sargent (1857 – 1936), sister of the famed portrait artist John Singer Sargent, whose own work in watercolor was never exhibited in her lifetime.

Alongside works from the CMA Collection, other museums represented include:

- Akron Art Museum (OH)
- The Broad (CA)
- Brooklyn Museum (NY)
- Butler Institute of American Art (OH)
- Cincinnati Art Museum (OH)
- Columbus Museum of Art (OH)
- Corita Art Center (CA)
- Dayton Art Institute (OH)
- Farnsworth Art Museum (ME)
- Kalamazoo Institute of Arts (MI)
- Mattatuck Museum (CT)
- Minneapolis Art Institute (MN)
- Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts (AL)
- Saint Louis Art Museum (MO)
- Sargent House Museum (MA)
- Spelman College Museum of Fine Art (GA)
- University of Arizona Museum of Art (AZ)
- Art Museum of WVU (WV)
- Walker Art Center (MN)
- And more!



An Interesting Book, 1890. Claude Hirst. Canton Museum of Art Collection.



Untitled (Dancers and Band), 1996. Lois Mailou Jones. Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Spreading the Themes of *Shattered Glass* Across Canton / Stark County

CMA’s arts and culture partners are presenting related exhibitions and programs that elevate and amplify the themes in *Shattered Glass* – before, during, and after the *Shattered Glass* exhibition. Some of the remarkable related events and exhibitions to explore include:

National First Ladies Library & Museum

Related Exhibit & Speaker Event: [**The Eras Exhibit – 250 Years of First Ladies’**](#)

[**Progress and Power**](#). In celebration of America 250, this exhibit showcases the many

contributions of First Ladies, who have overcome obstacles to advance the causes of women, education, poverty, and more. In February 2026, the Museum will host a Shattered Glass-themed Third Thursday Night Out with the Canton Museum of Art, featuring a special guest speaker who will discuss barrier-breaking First Ladies.

- **Exhibit on View Now through April 2027**
- **Third Thursday Night Out with the First Ladies – February 19, 2026**

Stark Library

[An Evening with Marlee Matlin : Speaking of Books Author Series](#)

Stark Library presents Marlee Matlin as part of the Dr. Audrey Lavin Speaking of Books Author Series. Marlee Matlin received worldwide critical acclaim for her film debut in *Children of a Lesser God* for which she received the Academy Award for Best Actress. In addition to her film, TV, and stage work, Marlee has also penned three novels for children, as well as her *New York Times* best-selling autobiography, *I'll Scream Later*. Marlee's journey is an inspiration to everyone, regardless of the barriers they face.

- **November 6, 2025 | 6:30 pm | Canton Palace Theatre**
- **Tickets available Thursday, October 16 at 10 am**

Canton Ballet

New Ballet: Canton Ballet, now in its 60th Anniversary Season, is creating a new ballet featuring the major themes of the *Shattered Glass* exhibition. Choreographed by internationally renowned dancer and choreographer Zarina Stahnke, this piece will premiere November 22, 2025, alongside CMA's Art Inspires Gala and *Shattered Glass* preview.

Massillon Museum

Related Exhibit: At the Massillon Museum, *Play Like a Girl* will document Massillon's – and Stark County's – first female flag football team through photographs and oral histories collected during the inaugural season in Spring 2025. Massillon Museum will be the storyteller of this historic moment in high school football history.

- **Opening February 2026**

McKinley Presidential Library & Museum

Related Exhibit & Speaker Event: The McKinley Museum will present *The Woman Behind the Lens: Frances Benjamin Johnston and the American Presidency*, an exhibition of the female pioneer of photography and unofficial White House photographer during William McKinley's presidency, who *Shattered Glass* of her own in the male-dominated field. A special "Women at Work" program from Director Kim Kenney and CMA Curator Christy Davis will explore the jobs and careers women have held within the context of American history.

- **Exhibition Opening February 2026**
- **Curator Talk: "Women Who Work" — Date TBD, Canton Museum of Art (Free)**

Several related programs and educational events to be announced closer to the exhibition premiere include monthly Curator Talks in the galleries, Drop-In Art-Making Events themed to the exhibition, and CMA School of Art workshops.

Groups wishing to arrange a private tour of the exhibition with a tour guide, or a specialty tour with an Art Experience Workshop, should contact CMA's Education Director at 330-453-7666, x 114. Group tours are free, workshop charges apply. Visit CantonArt.org/tours to learn more.

Museum Hours

The Museum is open Tuesday – Thursday, 10am – 8pm; Friday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm; and Sunday, 1 – 5pm. CMA is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Museum members are admitted free. CMA regular admission is: \$8 Adults; \$6 Seniors (60+) and Students with ID;

Children 12 & under are free. We offer free admission every Thursday, courtesy of support from PNC Foundation. We are also a Blue Star Museum and Museums for All participant for free or reduced admission. Please inquire at the Patron Services Desk or visit CantonArt.org for details. For membership information, visit CantonArt.org/membership.

About Canton Museum of Art

As one of Ohio's premier art museums, the Canton Museum of Art is recognized for powerful, original exhibitions focused on American art and its influences, hosting more than 50,000 visitors each year and making the exploration of art accessible to all. The Museum's education, outreach programs, and School of Art classes bring art and creative spark to thousands of students of all ages, while its art therapy program promotes health and well-being. CMA's acclaimed Collection focuses on American works on paper, primarily watercolors, and contemporary ceramics. The CMA Shop, featuring curated local and regional artisan-made gifts, is open during regular Museum hours. Founded in 1935, CMA celebrates its 90th Anniversary in 2025. Visit CantonArt.org and follow the Museum on Facebook® and Instagram® for updates.

CMA operating, exhibition, education programs, and marketing support provided in part by: ArtsInStark, The Hoover Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Ohio Arts Council, Ohio Humanities, PNC Foundation, Stark Community Foundation, and Visit Canton.

#

For high-resolution media images or more information, contact:

Max R. Barton II, Director & CEO

E-mail: max@cantonart.org

Image Credits:

Page 1 (left to right)

- Portrait of the artist Wanda Gág, photographer unknown, c.1918, public domain

- *Girl in Window* (detail), c. 1912. Anne Goldthwaite (1869 – 1944). Oil on canvas, 14 ½ x 18 in. Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts.

Marilyn (Vanitas), 1977. Audrey Flack (1931 - 2024). Oil over acrylic on canvas, 96 x 96 in. The University of Arizona Museum of Art; Purchased with funds provided by the Edward J. Gallagher, Jr. Memorial Fund. © 2025 Audrey Flack.

Page 2:

Coerora, 1904. Emily Sargent (1857 – 1936). Watercolor on paper, 21 x 17 in. Sargent House Museum.

Page 3:

An Interesting Book, 1890. Claude Hirst (1855 - 1942). Watercolor on paper, 10 ¼ x 14 ¼ in. Canton Museum of Art Collection | Purchased with funds from the Doran Foundation, in memory of Edward A. and Rosa J. Langenbach.

Untitled (Dancers and Band), 1996. Lois Mailou Jones (1905 – 1998). Color Screenprint, 20 5/8 x 16 ¾ in. Minneapolis Institute of Art | The Ethel Morrison Van Derlip Fund, P.98.1.3.6.