



## 85th Anniversary Season 2020 – 2021 *About the Exhibitions*

### **FALL EXHIBITIONS: August 25 – October 25, 2020**

#### ***ReTooled: Highlights from the Hechinger Collection***

*ReTooled* is an engaging and thought-provoking look at the unexpected subject of tools, through more than 40 inspiring paintings, sculptures, works on paper and photographs. The exhibition consists of four sections that dynamically frame the themes of this collection into accessible categories: Objects of Beauty; Material Illusions; Instruments of Satire; and Tools: An Extension of Self. *ReTooled* celebrates the prevalence of tools in our lives with art that magically transforms utilitarian objects into fanciful works that speak of beauty, insight, and wit.

Providing a dynamic entry point into the rich themes, materials and processes of 20<sup>th</sup> century art, *ReTooled* profiles 28 visionary artists from the Hechinger Collection, a tool-inspired collection of diverse 20<sup>th</sup> century art acquired by John Hechinger, Sr., leader of a renowned Mid-Atlantic regional hardware store chain. Some of the major artists featured in the exhibition include Arman, Richard Estes, Howard Finster, Red Grooms, Jacob Lawrence, Fernand Léger and H.C. Westermann; photographers Berenice Abbott and Walker Evans; as well as pop artists Jim Dine, Claes Oldenburg, and James Rosenquist. Some of the artists represent tools with reverence to accentuate their purity of design. Others transform and distort tools to highlight their tragic obsolescence in a technological age. But all of the works remind us that tools embody the can-do spirit that defines America and the quest to improve our quality of life.

This exhibition is curated by Jared Packard-Winkler and organized for tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington D.C.

#### ***Stories: BIPOC Artists from the CMA Collection***

The work of BIPOC – Black, Indigenous, and People of Color – artists in the last century has reflected the struggle of Native Americans and Black Americans to receive the legal protections, rights, and privileges afforded to white Americans. Through their work, every BIPOC artist represented in this exhibition presents a complex statement on their own experience and perception of race in the United States. With selections from the CMA Collection, including works by Dean Mitchell and Romare Bearden, we hope that viewers will see themselves and the country reflected in art, as these artists draw attention to the nation's successes and failures in the search for equity, healing, and growth.

#### ***Approaching the Shift – Drawings by Judith Brandon***

*Approaching the Shift* focuses on several of Judith Brandon's large-scale drawings, rooted in emotion. About the works chosen for the exhibition, the Rocky River-based artist says, "The shifting world of 2020 is flooding our conscious and unconscious lives. The economic world doesn't know whether to be open or closed, and the emotional world is reacting with fear to a pandemic and to social upheavals. Within each of us is the ability to change the way we view our circumstances, and when we do, it begins to change the environment around us." Each piece of Brandon's nature- and emotion-fused work begins with scribed elements on cotton rag paper. The scribed lines become geometry, text, and framework that initially define each piece. Colored washes of inks and dyes become an abstract underpainting. Washes saturate the paper, flowing through the incised lines, enhancing them, and creating the emotional framework. Pastels, charcoal, razors and graphite are all used to create top layers of imagery defining the final subject.

#### ***Industry, Invention, and Progress***

*Industry, Invention, and Progress* highlights the progressiveness of America and its innovations throughout history. Depicted in this exhibition are laborers, railroads, automobiles, coal yards, and more. City life and suburban life are compared and contrasted alongside the heavy influences of manufacturing. These themes are detailed through various styles of art, such as Realism. Included in this exhibit are artists from the CMA Collection such as Lawrence Blazey, Arnold Boedeker, Emerson Burkhart, Carl Gaertner, and more. In addition are items on loan from Hoover Historical Center and William McKinley Presidential

Library & Museum. All pieces join together to create a cohesive look at how important the industrial revolutions and advancements are to our current day.

### **WINTER EXHIBITIONS: November 27, 2020 – March 7, 2021**

#### ***Dancing in the Light: Masterworks from the Age of American Impressionism***

This CMA original exhibition event features works of American Impressionism, 1878 – c. 1930, highlighting the uniquely American medium of watercolor. *Dancing in the Light* features paintings and works on paper borrowed from private collections, museum collections, and CMA's own collection to tell the story of American Impressionism from its beginnings in France to the shores of America – and why it is still relevant and approachable today as one of the finest artistic periods. A full-color catalogue will accompany the exhibition.

“Several works from major artists held in private collections will be featured in this exhibition, some rarely exhibited,” said Guest Curator James Keny of Keny Galleries in Columbus, Ohio, which is well known for its expertise in Ohio art and American Impressionism. “It is one of the most major shows to address the immensely popular subject of American Impressionism in a mid-western venue in several decades, and the first to showcase a comprehensive survey of American Impressionism highlighting the numerous masterpieces owned by Ohio collectors and regional institutions.”

Some the preeminent American masters represented will include: Robert Blum, Theodore Butler, William Merritt Chase, Ralph Curtis, Childe Hassam, Winslow Homer, Jane Peterson, Edward Potthast, Maurice Prendergast, John Singer Sargent, Alice Schille, William Sommer, John Henry Twachtman, and James McNeill Whistler.

Major museums represented include: The Butler Institute of American Art, Cincinnati Art Museum, The Cleveland Museum of Art, Columbus Museum of Art, Dayton Art Institute, Flint Institute of Art, Huntington Museum of Art, Toledo Museum of Art, and Westmoreland Museum of Art.

Keny has guest curated over a 20 museum exhibitions devoted to aspects of American Impressionism. Contributions to the catalogue and the exhibition are from Dr. William Robinson, a world-renowned art historian and expert on the American Impressionism period, currently the Senior Curator of Modern European Painting and Sculpture, 1800 – 1960, at The Cleveland Museum of Art and adjunct professor of art history at Case Western Reserve University. Robinson organized the 2015/2016 Cleveland exhibition of *Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse*, to much international acclaim.

#### ***In the Garden: Nature's Beauty from the CMA Collection***

*In the Garden* features works from the CMA Collection that encourage you to immerse yourself within each piece and take your mind on a journey through flora and fauna. It also calls to a peaceful pastime in our culture and is therefore more relatable to our everyday lives. The botanical theme has always been popular – from Patricia Tobacco Forrester's vibrant, larger-than-life flowers to Gifford Beal's sea of people at a garden party, the garden has always prevailed in art.

#### ***Whiskey Painters of America***

The Whiskey Painters of America is the most unique and exclusive miniature painting society in the world with a set limit of 150 members. The WPA was started in the late 50s and chartered in 1962. It started in Akron, Ohio, with a small group of professional artists belonging to the Akron Society of Artists, and one individual in particular, Joe Ferriot, artist and owner of a local manufacturing firm. His 4" X 5" miniature paintings, created after dipping a brush into watercolor and then dipping the brush into alcoholic spirits, became a sought-after commodity. This exhibition will feature a series of miniature watercolors by active members and WPA founding artists, including: Joe Ferriot, Arnold Boedecker, Russell Colley, Bob Wolfe, Don Settle, Larry Quackenbush, Louie Mong, Marc Moon, John Pike, and Myron Winder.

#### ***Ceramics for the Anthropocene***

Portland, Oregon-based artist Dennis Meiners uses his ceramics work to capture imaginative moments and to inspire thinking about society's impact on the environment and our fragile ecosystems. From whimsical teapots to massive vessels, his work has been featured all around the country, including solo shows at the National Museum of Ceramic Art in Baltimore, and the Renwick Gallery at the Smithsonian.

## **SPRING EXHIBITIONS: April 10 – July 3, 2021**

### ***Mort Künstler: “The Godfather” of Pulp Fiction Illustrators***

Featuring the work of one of the most prolific illustrators of the twentieth century, this exhibition includes more than 80 original paintings that graced the covers of American magazines, books, and weeklies in the 1950s and 60s, with dramatic scenes portraying daring heists, POW escapes, and the deep anxieties and desires that gripped the national during the Cold War Era. This exhibition also explores Künstler’s collaboration with Mario Puzo, resulting in the first visual character studies of “The Godfather” Corleone family. Vivid, provocative, and boldly kinetic, this exhibition offers museum visitors an action-packed odyssey through a classic American cultural landscape. Today, the artist is best known for his carefully researched, highly detailed scenes from American history including the American Revolution and the Civil War. His work is held in multiple museum and private collections around the country. This exhibition is curated and organized by The Heckscher Museum of Art and organized for tour by International Arts & Artists, Washington D.C.

### ***Tomorrow – An Unknown Quantity: The Artwork of WWII POW Lee Kessler***

Born and raised in Canton, Ohio, Lee Kessler grew up with a passion for art and aviation. He joined the Army Air Corps with the onset of World War II where he flew 18 missions in Europe before being shot down over Wilhelmshaven, Germany, on his 19th raid. He was a POW for the remainder of the war in Stalag XVII B in Krems, Austria. After surviving the forced marches he was liberated by Patton’s 3rd Army and found solace in art and family. The exhibition will feature a series of Kessler’s drawings, sketches, and watercolors alongside stories of his life before, during, and after the war. This exhibition is in partnership with the MAPS Air Museum.

### ***We’ve Got Issues: Watercolors by Myra Schuetter***

Internationally known watercolor virtuoso Myra Schuetter tackles tough experiences with her work. She frequently use personal experiences, societal and political issues and their broader meaning as inspiration, and she considers her paintings therapeutic because every painting tells a story. Her work has been displayed at numerous exhibits and is a part of many collections at the Evansville Museum of Arts and throughout the United States. Her painting “Under the Stairs” even found its way to the Art in Embassies exhibit at the U.S. Mission in Berlin from 1987-91.

### ***Collection Gems: Celebrating 85 Years of CMA***

This unique exhibition is curated and presented by the Volunteer Angels of the CMA, a group dedicated to the Museum’s artistic excellence and fostering art appreciation for all. Members of the group have selected their favorite artworks from the CMA Collection and share their stories of why the piece(s) are a favorite of theirs and what stories they evoke. The Museum will invite visitors and the public to share their own, personal stories of CMA, from memories of the Museum’s exhibitions, collection, and classes to reflections on the impact of the arts in our community and in their lives. Everyone will be encouraged to submit their own stories, photos, and videos on social media, to be shared on the CMA website and social platforms with the hashtag #CantonArtStory.

### **Helpful Links at [cantonart.org](http://cantonart.org)**

- What to Know Before You Go: [“Visiting CMA with COVID-19 Precautions”](#)
- [Hours and Admission](#)
- [Reserve Timed Entry Tickets](#)
- [Digital Canton Museum of Art Magazine](#) – Featuring the latest exhibitions (available on opening date)
- COVID-19 in Ohio: Stay informed and up-to-date at [coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://coronavirus.ohio.gov).

### **About the Canton Museum of Art**

The Canton Museum of Art is recognized for powerful original exhibitions and national touring exhibitions focused on American art – and making the discovery and exploration of art accessible to all. The Museum’s education outreach programs, classes, and workshops serve thousands of students of all

ages. CMA's collection focuses on American works on paper, primarily watercolors, and contemporary ceramics. Founded in 1935, CMA is one of three museums in Stark County accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and serves more than 45,000 visitors each year. CMA celebrates its 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the 2020 – 2021 season. Visit [cantonart.org](http://cantonart.org) to learn more.

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