



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION

## WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION NEWSLETTER

### **Art Collection Curator/Coordinator Report**

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this report for the Wayne State University Art Collection (UAC). My tenure began in 2017, following the retirement of Sandra Schemske. As we embark on a new year and the next chapter of the UAC, I would like to thank Sandra for the significant contributions she made in the building and the preservation of the UAC, but most importantly for transforming this program into one that is now respected for its high standards of excellence in best collection practices. We would not be here today without her.

This has been an exciting year for the UAC. The UAC Committee has been working on a new Strategic and Disaster/Recovery Plans that will emphasize more rigorous standards of care for the collection. In addition to the care and preservation of the collection, our goal is to begin to fill in some collection gaps to include under-represented artists, which will help build the collection to reflect the rich diversity of the university campus and the broader community. This year we have been awarded two grants which will help support these two initiatives.

Grace Serra, Dec. 2018



Farah Al Qasimi, *Living Room Vape*, 2016

## KNIGHT ARTS CHALLENGE GRANT *FARAH AL QASIMI* ***BETWEEN TWO WORLDS: ARAB AMERICANS IN DETROIT***

Saudi-American artist Farah Al Qasimi, best known for producing photographs that shape the perception and identity of Arab Americans, will live and work amongst Detroit's Arab American Community and create a new body of work that will become part of the University Art Collections, thanks to the support of the Knight Foundation. This grant will also provide Wayne State University the opportunity to collaborate with the Arab American National Museum, who will serve as a conduit between the artist and the Arab American community in this region, as joint partners to lectures and workshops.

It is our intention to intentionally build the collection and to bring awareness to the richness of contemporary Arab American art and culture and its impact on America. The artwork created and events are designed to shed light on Arabic art and culture and to deconstruct stereotypes associated with this diverse and wide ranged ethnic culture in Detroit, America and around the globe.

Farah Al Qasimi is an artist and musician who studied photography and music at Yale University, where she earned her Bachelor and Master Degrees. Her experience of living in two worlds breathes through the colors and textures of her stunning images. Born in the United Arab Emirates and living in the United States, Ms. Al Qasimi challenges audiences to reconsider the role of identity and culture, following these themes as she move between Arab communities in the Middle East and the United States.



To help make this project a reality, click the link below:

1. Choose designation: **University Art Collection**
2. Other designation or note about gift: **Knights Art Challenge Match – Account 444914**

**DONATE TO OUR MATCHING GRANT**

*OR*

Mail Checks to: Gift Processing, 5700 Cass Avenue, Suite 1200, Detroit, MI 48202

Please include note that your gift should go to the **University Art Collection, Knight Art Challenge Match –**

**Account 444914**

*OR*

Call: 313 577-2263

## CAPS AWARD AND ASSESSMENT

**CAP**  
Collections Assessment  
for Preservation

The Collections Assessment for Preservation grant program that is designed to help museums, and other public collections, improve the care of their collections by providing support for a conservation assessment of the organization's collections and buildings. This program has provided the University Art Collection the opportunity to work with a highly skilled and experienced team of assessors, Barbara Heller (collections assessor) and Michael Henry (building assessor).

Barbara Heller, a long-time friend to the University Art Collection, is the director and conservator of special projects at the Detroit Institute of Arts, where she has worked since 1976. Heller served as Chief Conservator until she assume her current role in 2009. Her conservation training began at the Palazzo Pitti, in Florence, Italy, where she worked as a painting conservator. She also holds certificates from the Getty Leadership Institute and credentials from Olivet College, University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and Harvard University.

Michael C. Henry, P.E., A.I.A., P.P., is principal engineer/architect and founding partner of Watson & Henry Associates where he has practiced for the past thirty-three years. Henry consults to institutions, cultural heritage stewards and architects/engineers throughout the United States and in India, Cuba, Mexico, Brazil and Tunisia. His areas of expertise are sustainable environmental management and monitoring for museum collections and archives; investigation, monitoring, analysis and assessment of historic buildings; preservation of significant historic structures, especially unconventional or technically challenging buildings; and engineered stabilization of large museum objects.

Heller and Henry are currently identifying preventive conservation priorities for the UAC. The final assessment report will help the university prioritize its collections care efforts for the coming years.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (FAIC) developed this new program to provide museums with collections conservation assessments. The FAIC supports conservation education, research, and outreach activities that increase understanding of our global cultural heritage. The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 123,000 libraries and approximately 35,000 museums. The grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. We are extremely grateful for the support of the IMLS and FAIC.

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## RECENT GIFTS TO THE UNIVERSITY ART COLLECTION



### **The Best of Detroit Art**

A substantial gift of art has recently been made by Dennis Nawrocki, an esteemed faculty member and staunch supporter of the arts in Detroit. This remarkable collection of art work, amassed over the last 50 years, represents some of the most important and interesting Detroit artists, many from the famed "Cass Corridor." The collection of 45 works of art, accompany an earlier gift of 35 pieces donated in 2014, includes works by Michelle Andonian, Cay Bahnmler, Ivin Ballen, Phillis Bramson, Glen Booth, Betty Brownlee, Hillary Burnett, Sue Carman-Vian, Jim Chatelain, Kathy Clifford, Caroline Court, Rose DeSloover, Pam Freund, Brenda Goodman, Dennis Jones, Brian Kritzman, Mike Lash, Ron Leax, Kathryn Bracket-Luchs, Michael Luchs, Gordon Newton, Kurt Novak, Eric Mesko, Robert Mirek, Patricia Otto, John Piet, Nancy Pletos, John Rowland, Robert Sestok, Dan Simas, Gilda Snowden, Victoria Stoll, Bryant Tillman, Carol Vitale, Paul Webster and Marie Woo.



## **Stanley Rosenthal**

Kathlyn Rosenthal, the wife of Stanley Rosenthal, has made a generous gift of 16 large-scale watercolors and prints by the late artist. Stanley Rosenthal (1942-2015) was a beloved faculty member who began teaching at Wayne State University in 1969 and remained a member of the James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History for 46 years. Rosenthal won numerous national and regional awards as a printmaker and a painter, and served as chair of the Michigan Water Color Society, president of the Michigan Association of Printmakers and artist/advisor to the Graphic Arts Council of the Detroit Institute of Arts. The highlight of his long career came in 2013, when he received WSU's prestigious Murray E. Jackson Scholar in the Arts Award, which culminated in a solo exhibition in Nov. 2014 titled "Memories - the Murray Jackson Award Exhibition and 50 year Retrospective."

Stanley Rosenthal, *Jay Noren (Former President)*, 2011, 40 x 26 in. Gift of Kathlyn Rosenthal.



Estate. Photo by Tim Thayer.

## **Snowden Family Gift**

Gilda Snowden (1954-2014) is one of Wayne State's most prestigious alumna and a nationally celebrated Detroit artist. In an effort to maintain and preserve Snowden's legacy, her family has created the Snowden Foundation, which is managed by her husband, daughter and sisters.

The Snowden Estate recently gifted five large-scale assemblages that the artists created in the 1970s and 1980s; in addition to two earlier works gifted in 2017. This work will provide a more comprehensive look at the artist's wide ranged repertoire of painting styles and her link to the famed Cass Corridor. Snowden received her BFA and MFA from Wayne State University, and is considered one of the most important second-generation Cass Corridor artist.

Gilda Snowden, *Untitled*, c. 1987, 48 x 43 in. Gift of the Gilda Snowden

## **Margi Weir**

This important and relevant work, by artist Margi Weir, addresses the significant issue of gun violence. The work was installed in Wayne State's David Adamany Undergraduate Library in conjunction with the humanities conference "Civility Incivility." Weir is an associate professor of painting and drawing at WSU. Her work calls upon figurative arrangements seen in antiquity and presented in a tapestry-like fashion to create interesting patterns with sociopolitical and ecological themes.

Weir earned her MFA in painting from the University of California at Los Angeles; her MA in painting from New Mexico State University; her BFA in painting from San Francisco Art Institute; and her BA in art history from Wheaton College, Massachusetts. She has won numerous awards for her work, including a 2016 Best of Show award at the Las Vegas Contemporary Art Center and a 2015 Best of Show award in the Human Rights Exhibition, South Texas College, and McAllen, TX.



Margi Weir, *We Are All Targets (in a World that Worships Guns)*, 2017, 51 x 51 in. Gift of the artist.



### **Gretchen Maricak Estate Gift**

A planned gift of more than 50 works of art were received by the estate of Gretchen Maricak. A licensed architect, Maricak has worked in the firms of Minoru Yamasaki and Harvey Ferrero and as an architectural consultant. She received her B.S in Architecture from Lawrence Technological University in 1976, and a Masters in Art from Wayne State University in 1993. Gretchen was a member of the Board of Directors of the Friends of Birmingham Museum and a member of the Birmingham Museum Board and the Birmingham Historic District Study Committee. Maricak served on the faculty of Lawrence Technological University's College of Architecture and Design from 1977–2016.

Gretchen Maricak, *Medusa Concrete Mixing Plant*, 1969, 28 x 28 in. Gift of the Maricak Estate.

### **A very special thank you for the generous donations of art received in 2018:**

- Donald & Christine Diehl for the gift of the Robert Wilbert watercolor titled "Night Snow," 1960
- Margaret Evageline for the gift of the Hunt Slonem painting titled "Untitled (Cockatoo Monsoon)," 2016
- Lincoln Motor Company for the gifts of the Adam Shirley sculpture, Eric Toffkin sculpture, Norwood Viviano installation and the Jae Won Lee sculpture
- Gordon Newton for the gift of the Cay Bahmiller sculpture titled "Mei-Mei," 2000-2003
- Michelle Perron for the gift of the Michael Luchs painting "Untitled (Rabbit)," circa 1975
- Steven T. and Linda Plochocki for the Evelyn Barchorski-Bowman sculpture commission of Madame Curie, 2018
- Merle Scheibner for the gift of the two Friedenreich Hundertwasser "Good Morning City" prints, 1970
- Hunt Slonem for the gift of the Margaret Evageline painting titled "Osha Vishy #1," 2002
- Jon Strand for the work on paper titled "The Apotheosis of Water, Part IX," 2018

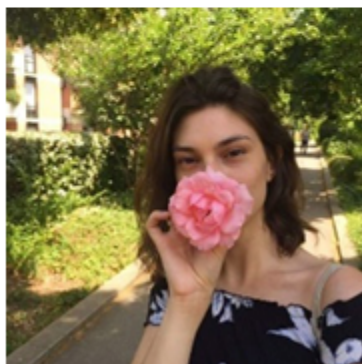


Robert Wilbert, *Night Snow*, 1960, 27.75 x 19.75 in. Gift of Donald & Christine Diehl. Photo by Tim Thayer.

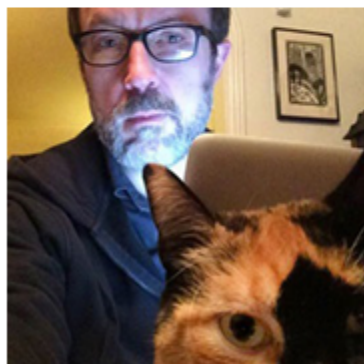
## **Research Team**

Danielle Cervera Bidigare (Undergrad), Sean Bieri (Undergrad), Nina Fiorucci (Grad), Kathryn Goffnet (Grad) and Isabelle Lauerman (Grad) are recipients of the Dean's Scholarship Activity Award to support the activity of research and writing on works in the UAC.

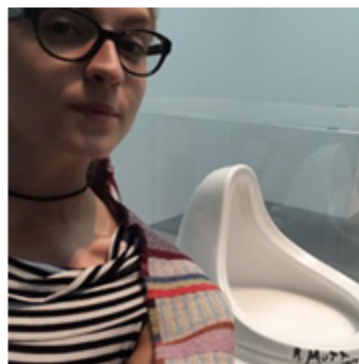
Over the past year, we have had an amazing team of student research assistants who have been researching and writing about works in the collection, as we prepare to put the first 100 works online. I am tremendously grateful to this group of talented young people who bring energy and excitement to our office. The efforts of their labor will soon be available on UAC website!



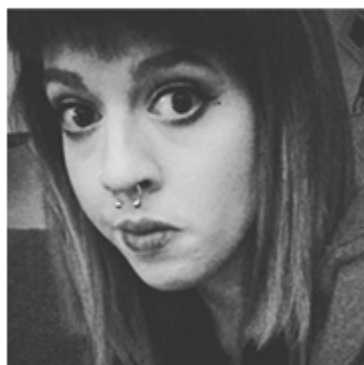
Danielle Cervera Bidigare  
(Undergrad)



Sean Bieri (Undergrad)



Nina Fiorucci (Grad)



Kathryn Goffnet (Grad)



Isabelle Lauerman (Grad)

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