



ELIZABETH MYERS MITCHELL ART MUSEUM
BIENNIAL REPORT, 2022-24



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Changing Lives

Throughout our 35-year history, the Elizabeth Myers Mitchell Art Museum (/m) has brought beauty and inspiration to hundreds of thousands of Annapolis-area residents, tourists, and St. John's College students. High artistic standards and a steadfast commitment to our community have earned us the distinction of being the only nationally accredited art museum on a college or university campus in the State of Maryland. "Having the Mitchell Art Museum right here in Annapolis is very special," says Mayor Gavin Buckley.

The art world has changed a lot since we first opened our doors in 1989. For one thing, it has become larger, more international, and more demographically inclusive. Art and our knowledge of it has evolved too—as have St. John's students. When I was hired two years ago, my core questions were, "How much should we, the museum, change to meet the needs of our times?" and "How do we do that while celebrating what I see as the distinctive features of a St. John's education—namely, curiosity, conversation, and collaborative learning?" "How can we have a transformative impact?"

Tom Shapiro, an extraordinary consultant who specializes in academic museums, joined me last summer for a year of planning and questioning. We interviewed long-term stakeholders in an effort to understand who we are and who we could be. Then he and I used these inputs to write a five-year plan to guide the Mitchell through its own steady transformation.

Who, and what, are we becoming? An increasingly open, relevant, dynamic, and imaginative organization.

I want to thank everyone on and off campus who participated in this process. We have developed ambitious goals for the future and look forward to realizing them with you.



Peter Nesbett



TELL THE WALL
YOUR SECRETS!



LOVE WELL
HEPTA SIX
LACKO
MOTEL

TAX EVASION



HOLD HOLY YOUR HIGHEST HOPE
GOLDEN HORSE



EVERYTHING
GONNA BE
ARIGHT



5 FEET FROM HEAVEN

ALL ART IS



Hope





ACCOMPLISHMENTS

between July 31, 2022, and June 30, 2024

Public Programs

- Presented an astounding 11 exhibitions and 72 events in 17 months
- Welcomed dozens of internationally recognized artists, collectors, curators, and educators to campus for public talks
- Organized two fully bilingual exhibitions (English/Spanish)
- Received press coverage in *The Art Newspaper* (New York/London)

Student Opportunities

- Employed 19 students as hosts
- Revised the student training manual, and developed and implemented a new multi-year training program
- Integrated preceptorial learning into the museum's educational programs ("The Idea of the Art Museum")
- Led private tours to Andrew and N.C. Wyeth's studios, the National Gallery of Art, and Glenstone
- Connected students with off-campus summer art study (New York, France)
- Invited students to curate the annual SJC Community Art Show

Operational

- Reopened to great fanfare following a three-year building closure
- Revised museum's name, identity, and program philosophy
- Hired all-new staff
- Researched and wrote a five-year strategic plan (2023–28)
- Stayed open for the summer to welcome tourists to campus (new)
- Archived 35-years' worth of exhibition & business files
- Renovated and expanded the staff office

Previous pages:

People contributing to "The Open Museum," February 2023

A class visiting "The Speed of Time: Film/Video Art in the U.S., 1965–80," October 2023

Spanish protest songs in the exhibition: "Libreria Donceles," December 2023

EXHIBITIONS

In the 16 months between the museum's reopening in February 2023 and the June 30, 2024, fiscal year-end, we presented 11 exhibitions that ranged from the traditional to the experimental.

“The Open Museum” | February 17–March 26, 2023

An invitation to the community to write and draw on the museum's pristine white walls. The show asked, “How do I visualize my voice?” “What is my responsibility to others?” More than 1,500 people participated. Featured in *The Art Newspaper*.

“Love by Looking: Selections from the Alitash Kebede Collection of African American Art” | April 9–July 3, 2023

An idiosyncratic art collection from a pioneering Black dealer. Included works by 40 artists including Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, and Jacob Lawrence. Asked questions of family, friendship, and social change.

“The Prints of Rockwell Kent” | April 9 –June 5, 2023

A survey of work by one of the *great* illustrators of the 20th century, featuring images from *Beowulf* and Kent's excursions to Greenland.

“SJC Community Art Show” | May 3–12, 2023, Mellon Hallway

An annual tradition that features art from students, tutors, and friends of the college. This year the show was curated by four students. Two student prizes were awarded: The Baird Prize and the Polity Prize.

“José Guadalupe Posada: Legendary Mexican Printmaker” | July 21–October 1, 2023

This survey, presented in association with HOLA (Hispanics and Latin Americans of Anne Arundel County) featured dozens of broadsides and zines by the commercial pre-Revolutionary artist who influenced the course of modern Mexican and Chicano art. The show asked, “What is an artist?” Presented in Spanish and English.

“Librería Donceles: A Project by Pablo Helguera” | October 14, 2023–April 5, 2024

An installation that took the form of a Spanish-language used bookstore and event space. The show asked, “What are the bounds of art?” Presented in Spanish and English, in association with the Organization of Hispanics and Latin Americans in Anne Arundel County (OHLA).

“The Speed of Time: Film/Video Art in the U.S., 1965–80” | October 14–December 10, 2023

Six artworks by pioneers of film and video art, including Nam June Paik and Joan Jonas. The fundamental question asked was how the introduction of these media impacted the way artists think about time in art.

“Polly Apfelbaum: Sampling a Sampler Sampling” | January 20–April 21, 2024

A floor installation commissioned by the Mitchell Art Museum consisting of 35 fabric samples that the artist purchased in New York’s Garment District. The exhibition asked, both literally and figuratively, “Why do we look down on art?” *BMoreArt*, Baltimore’s on-line art magazine, listed it among its “Best Weekly Art Openings.”

“SJC Community Art Show” | April 19–May 5, 2024, Mellon Hallway

A student-curated iteration of this annual tradition.

“Two Art Books: Louise Bourgeois and Fischli/Weiss” | April 24–September 8, 2024, Greenfield Library

Two extraordinary, zine-like artbooks by three internationally celebrated artists that attempt to make sense of the human experience in vastly different ways.

“Some Light Reading (A Summer Exhibition)” | May 4–July 7, 2024

Texts and artworks that explore the idea of illumination, as an artistic, scientific, and philosophical concept. Among the questions the exhibition posed were, “What illuminates?” and “How do we collaborate with nature?”

SCHOOL EVENTS

We presented 23 activities for the benefit of students, the polity, parents, and alumni, including concerts, field trips, receptions, tours, and workshops.

Concert: Dr. Funkenstein's Psychedelic Garage Funk Experience (student band), February 17, 2023

Concert: Jazz Coalition, February 19, 2023

Party: Graduate Institute Pizza Party, February 23, 2023

Concert: Baby in the Bitch Seat (student band), February 24, 2023

Workshop: Linoleum Printing, February 25, 2023

Event: BVG Breakfast in the Museum, March 25, 2023

Film Screening: Johnnies of Color, March 24, 2023

Event: BVG Lunch in the Museum, March 25, 2023

Exhibition Tour: with Collector Alitash Kebede, April 7, 2023

Event: Tai Chi with Collector Alitash Kebede, April 7, 8, and 9, 2023

Exhibition Tour: Reunion Weekend, September 29, 2023

Lunch Conversation: Marina Isgro, Curator, Hirshhorn Museum, October 11, 2023

Exhibition Reception (Polity only): October 13, 2023

Exhibition Tour: Family & Friends Weekend, October 27, 2023

Field Trip: National Gallery of Art, November 12, 2023

Field Trip: Glenstone, December 3, 2023

Exhibition Tour: BVG, February 23, 2024

Field Trip: Brandywine River Museum and Wyeth Studios, March 2, 2024

Workshop: Knit-a-Thon, March 30, 2024

Exhibition Tour: Graduate Institute, April 5, 2024

Exhibition Tour: Accepted Students Day, April 6, 2024

Concert & Reception: Spoken Taboo (Student Band), May 9, 2024

Reception: Caritas Society, May 16, 2024

PUBLIC & COMMUNITY EVENTS

We presented 49 public events including book discussions, concerts, conversations, exhibition tours, field trips, film screenings, lectures, receptions, and workshops.

Ceremony: Museum reopening, February 17, 2023

Reading Group: Umberto Eco's "Open Work" with Tutor Matthew Linke, February 26, 2023

Talk: Temple University Museum Director Robert Blackson, March 1, 2023

Exhibition Tour: VisitAnnapolis staff, March 2, 2023

Exhibition Tour: ArtFarm staff, March 3, 2023

Reception: Members, March 5, 2023

Exhibition Tour: Annapolis Film Festival staff, March 8, 2023

Exhibition Tour: Historic Annapolis staff, March 10, 2023

Exhibition Tour: US Naval Academy Museum staff, March 14, 2023

Exhibition Tour: CovingtonAlsina staff and clients, March 16, 2023

Talk: Sarah Rifkey, Curator, ICA Richmond, March 19, 2023

Conversation: Alitash Kebede and Bradley Brown, April 8, 2023

Concert: Nag Champa Art Ensemble, April 8, 2023

Film Screening: *Richard Hunt: Sculptor*, April 9, 2023

Exhibition Tour: Ginger Cove Retirement Home, April 13, 2023

Exhibition Tour: Rockwell Kent, April 22, 2023

Book Group: Lucille Clifton's Poetry with Darlene Taylor, April 30, 2023

Reception: Community Art Show, May 3, 2023

Exhibition Tour: May 6, 2023

Exhibition Tour: Peer Learning Partnership, AACC, June 4, 2023

Exhibition Opening Reception, Community Picnic, and Concert: July 21, 2023

Lecture: "The Legacy of Posada from the Revolution to the Present," July 21, 2023

Exhibition Tour: August 6, 2023

Exhibition Tour: August 20, 2023

Game Day: Posada's Game of the Goose, August 26, 2023

Film Screening: *Que Viva Mexico!*, September 2, 2023

Lecture: Álvaro Enríquez, September 8, 2023

Workshop: Make Your Own News, September 9, 2023
Film Screening: *Pan's Labyrinth*, September 16, 2023
Workshop: Make Your Own News, September 23, 2023
Film Screening: *Coco* (2017), October 1, 2023
Conversation: Marina Isgro, Curator, Hirshhorn Museum and Peter Nesbett on early video art, October 11, 2023
Event: Librería Donceles at Day of the Dead, Maryland Hall, October 28, 2023
Exhibition Tour: November 16, 2023
Exhibition Tour: November 30, 2023
Workshop: Cuentacuentos/Storytellers with Gabriela Galván, December 8, 2023
Workshop: Printing, Meaning, and Translation with Mayra Cecilia Palafox, December 8, 2023
Concert: El Club De Protesta, December 9, 2023
Reading: Teen Poetry with OHLA, December 13, 2023
Film Screening and Discussion: Eames' *Powers of Ten* (1977) screening and discussion moderated by Dean Suzy Paalman, January 24, 2024
Exhibition Tour: Polly Apfelbaum, February 11, 2024
Conversation: Polly Apfelbaum in Conversation with Jenny Cawood, February 24, 2024
Conversation: Third Spaces with Carmen Montoya and Manuela Reyes Restrepo, February 14, 2024
Reception: New Annapolitans, February 22, 2024
Film Screening and Discussion: Harry Smith's *Untitled Animation of Seminole Patchwork* (1965–66) screening and discussion with tutor Sarah Benson, February 28, 2024
Exhibition Tour: March 30, 2024
Exhibition Tour: June 15, 2024
Poetry Reading: Maggie Benshaw, Annapolis Poet Laureate, June 22, 2024
Film Screening: *It's Such a Beautiful Day* (2012), June 30, 2024

Next page:

Visitors enjoying "Polly Apfelbaum: Sampling a Sampler Sampling," February 2024



GOING FORWARD

As we set out on the path described in our new strategic plan, we are guided by the following core principles, mission & vision statement, and annual priorities.

Core Principles

- Embrace the timeless and the timely simultaneously
- Approach visual culture as an essential aspect of meaning-making
- Uplift the St. John's College student and polity experience
- Bolster the college's reputation
- Embrace a diversity of viewpoints, subjects, and audiences
- Build philanthropic momentum towards long-term sustainability

Mission & Vision

Inspired by St. John's College's culture of inquiry, the Elizabeth Myers Mitchell Art Museum (/m) serves students and the greater Annapolis public by asking questions about the human experience through art and with extraordinary artists. We seek a future in which the visual arts are fully integrated into the intellectual and emotional fabric of our lives.

Annual Priorities

Years 1–2: Enhance the Student Experience

- *Inspire students with imaginative exhibitions and educational programs relevant to them; create social activities around these programs to help drive participation*
- *Provide students access to leading art professionals through lectures, lunchtime conversations, and workshops*
- *Empower students year-round by making them proud stewards of the museum; support them as museum hosts and tour guides; provide them insight into curatorial processes*

- *Organize field trips to art museums in Baltimore, DC, and Philadelphia; establish paid summer internship opportunities*
- *Transform /m's small gallery into a flex space for classes, workshops, film screenings, pocket-exhibitions, and a growing library of books*

Years 2–4: Collaborate with the Community

- *Start an artist-scholar program with opportunities for public engagement, including off-campus activities (e.g., at the public library)*
- *Begin publishing and distributing “notebooks”—philosophical texts on art-related subjects*
- *Engage local residents, Annapolis students, and tourists through a variety of in-gallery experiences*
- *Secure reaccreditation from the Alliance of American Museums*
- *Launch summer museum academy for area high-school students, in collaboration with DC's Duke Ellington School of the Arts*
- *Launch redesigned website with more dynamic content; increase marketing and promotion to area residents and tourists; pitch stories about exhibitions to regional newspapers and national art press*

Year 5: Assess Programs & Revise Strategic Plan

STAFF

Full Time

Peter Nesbett, Director

Jenny Cawood, Manager of Artistic Inquiry

Part Time (Student Employees)

Sachi Ajmera (GI25), Museum Host

Semyon Andruschenko (A26), Museum Host

Aryasatya Anindita (A26), Museum Host

Linda-Cecilia Bellamy (A24), Museum Host

Emma Bradshaw-Cunningham (A25), Museum Host

Allyson Brink (A24), Museum Host

N Bucca (GI25), Museum Host

Faith Chang (A25), Museum Host

Kaleth Cushman (A26), Museum Host

Hannah Glick (A24), Museum Host

Annelise Ivanescu (A24), Museum Host

Sewi Jung (A26), Museum Host

Kelly Kane (A25), Museum Host

Celina Li (A27), Museum Host

Yukyeong Seo (A24), Museum Host

Dohyun Song (A24), Museum Host

Anastasios Tatakos (A25), Museum Host

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Maya Wolfe (A26), Museum Host

PART-TIME COLLEGE SUPPORT

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Laura Clausen, Web Developer

Alexandra Cornwell, Accountant

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Diane Ensor, Campus Reservations Manager
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Haley Ford, Assistant Director of Development
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Anna McLeod, Assistant Director of Finance
Carmita Thomas, Mail Room
Amy Web, Web Tech Specialist
Rick West, Collegewide Director of Advancement Services

VOLUNTEERS

Faculty Advisory Committee

Sarah Benson, Tutor (2023–4)
Nathan Dugan, Assistant Dean (2023)
Samuel Webb, Tutor (2023–4)
Stella Zhu, Tutor (2023–4)
Zeinep Kyzy, Student (2023–4)

Board of Advisors

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Chip Bohl, Emeritus (through 2023)
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James W. Cheevers, Emeritus
Kathy Clatanoff
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Laura T. Ricciardelli
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Melissa Yanowitz

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CovingtonAlsina, Annapolis
Richard Groenendyke
JM Kaplan Fund
Maryland State Arts Council
PNC Bank
Joshua Rogers

*Between January 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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