

volunteer vistas

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BY
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ARTS OF
GLOBAL AFRICA
GALLERY:
EXPANDED AND
REINSTALLED

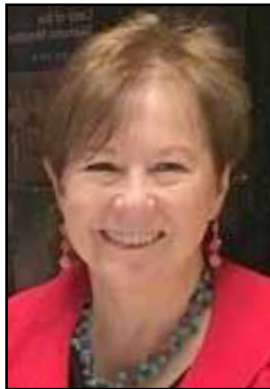
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AUTUMN 2017

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Prudence Bradley
NMVO President

I am absolutely thrilled about the Newark Museum renaissance, and I hope you are too! The progress on the Washington Street entrance and the relocated African and Mediterranean classical galleries is noticeable.

The newly installed mural by abstract painter Odili Donald Odita is stunning! I was able to get a peek at the new special exhibition space. It is truly amazing how open and airy it is. If you haven't yet seen the changes, please stop by.

I am eagerly anticipating the opening of *The Rockies and the Alps: Bierstadt, Calame, and the Romance of the Mountains* exhibit, which will

inaugurate the new *Changing Exhibition Gallery* this coming spring in March, 2018.

Volunteers have welcomed Souleo, the new Manager of Public Programming. He has introduced some phenomenal new programming for *Second Sundays* and *Late Thursdays*. (See page 4). You will love volunteering at these newly-conceived events.

The ever popular *Hot Chili and Cool Brew* event, slated for Wednesday, October 18, 2017, continues to evolve. Samples of favorite dishes from several recently opened Newark restaurants have been added to the tasting menu. Plus, sangria has been added to the beverage sampling. Also of note, the event's VIP reception will feature Women Brewers of New Jersey.

The Museum we love is undergoing an amazing transformation! How fortunate that we volunteers get to take part in and witness this remarkable renewal first hand. Please join me in working for, and marvelling at, the Newark Museum's continued growth!

—Prudence

Please check out the Newark Museum webpage, <http://www.newarkmuseum.org>, for upcoming events and volunteer opportunities.

NEWARK MUSEUM STAFF

Steven Kern
Director & Chief Executive Officer

Deborah Kasindorf
Deputy Director of
Institutional Advancement

Shunzyu Haigler
Director of Membership Services

Leland Byrd
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Volunteer Vistas Editor

NMVO MISSION

The primary purpose of the Newark Museum Volunteer Organization is to serve, to support and to interpret the Newark Museum and its goals through volunteer participation. In the words of founding director John Cotton Dana, "A good museum attracts, entertains, arouses curiosity, leads to questioning—and thus promotes learning."

DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS TO
THE WINTER 2017
VOLUNTEER VISTAS
IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017.
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:
Hugh Michael Brown,
Volunteer Vistas Editor, at:
hubrown@comcast.net



REPERTOIRE by MOLLY HATCH

Debuts in Engelhard Court
October 25, 2017

Ceramic artist Molly Hatch, with one of her distinctive mural installations.

Ceramic artist Molly Hatch was commissioned to produce a monumental three-part installation in the niches of the Newark Museum's Engelhard Court. Hatch, whose work includes two major installations at the High Museum, Atlanta, is known for creating murals composed of underglaze-painted porcelain plates. *Repertoire*, her largest commission to date, will honor the Newark Museum's 107-year-tradition of collecting contemporary ceramic art, and will commemorate the retirement (after 37 years) of Ulysses Grant Dietz, Curator of Decorative Arts.

Says Ulysses, "My commitment to contemporary ceramics began in the mid-1980s, five years into my career here. Since the beginning of our contemporary art pottery collection dates back to the year after the Newark Museum was founded, I felt duty-bound to continue that tradition. Molly's work is a completely contemporary, post-modern mashup of china painting, studio ceramics, and contemporary art. The scale of *Repertoire* is vast—as are the collections of both our global ceramics and global textiles."

The three parts of *Repertoire* are: 1. The western panel, *Dyula Woven*, based on a rare early-twentieth-century Dyula textile from Cote d'Ivoire, (collected by the Museum's founder, John Cotton Dana, in 1928). 2. The central panel, *Qianlong Silk*, based on a velvet throne carpet made in eighteenth-century China. And 3. The eastern panel, which will be filled with *Bergen Jacquard*, designed after a jacquard-woven blue and white coverlet made in Bergen County, New Jersey in the 1840s.

Repertoire combines the iconography of mankind's two great global creative art-forms: clay and cloth. It was designed so that each part can be shown individually in a different context. It will debut October 25, 2017. ☒

ART OF THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN CULTURES

Reopens Fall, 2017
Main Building, 1st Floor

The Museum's redesigned *Art of the Ancient Mediterranean Cultures* gallery, includes one of the finest collections of ancient glass in the nation and showcases classical antiquities that illustrate glassmaking over a 2,500 year period.

Says Ulysses Grant Dietz, Chief Curator and Curator of Decorative Arts, "Everyday objects will tell the stories of three distinct cultures—Egyptian, Greek, and Roman—defined by maritime connections among Africa, Europe, the Near East and Asia. While each culture had its own distinctive values and artistic traditions, all developed in conversation with one another in an early version of a global economy over hundreds of years. The groups of objects illuminate the role of glass-making, sculpture, funerary art, metalwork, and ceramics in homes and temples across the greater Mediterranean. One of the core themes of the collection is the importance and meaning of materials, from luxury goods made for members of the aristocracy, to more commonplace objects that were part of daily life across empires." ✦

Top: *Coffin Lid of Henet-Mer*, Songstress of Amun Egypt, Thebes, Sheikh Abd el-Gurna, Tomb 97 Dynasty 21 (1150-1050 B.C.) Sycamore fig wood, gessoed and painted, H: 73 in, 20 in, D: 11 1/2 in. Purchase 1965, John J. O'Neill Bequest Fund 65.65

Middle: *Brother George the Scribe* Egypt, Bawit monastery, 6th - early 7th century A.D. Sycamore fig wood and tempera paint, H: 11 1/2 in, L: 15 3/4 in. The Newark Museum Purchase 1983 The Members' Fund 83.42

Bottom: *Ennion Cup Roman*, Sidon or North Italy, mid 1st century A.D. Mold-blown glass, H: 4 7/8 in, W: 2 3/8 in, D: 3 3/8 in 50.1443



MUSEUM STAFF PROFILES



Michelle Moon
**Director of Interpretation
and Program Evaluation**

Michelle Moon, Director of Interpretation and Program Evaluation since December 2016, has used what she calls “progressive museum practice” to revitalize the Museum’s public programming. Her responsibility entails finding ways to effectively enhance lectures, *Second Sundays*, *Late Thursdays*, docent tours and training, *MakerSPACE*, and Planetarium programming.

Says Michelle, “By working with curators, designers, and other team members, our goal is to build a more comprehensive process for presenting our exhibits to the public. For example, the *Late Thursdays* have been transformed into a series of social and creative evenings, featuring unexpected, fun gallery activities, artist demonstrations, food, drink and live performance. Also, engaging new programming such as films, music and interactive experiences have been added to the Planetarium.” She adds, “Museums are rich cultural resources that help people make meaning of their lives, situate themselves in the world and thus improve their well-being. I believe that’s the reason we’re all here—to keep the audiences of today and tomorrow fully engaged with the thoughtful, strategic programming we provide.” ✦

Michelle has a Master’s degree in Museum Studies from Harvard University Extension and more than 20 years of museum-oriented experience.



Peter Wright, a.k.a. Souleo
Manager of Public Programs

Peter Wright, a.k.a. Souleo, Manager of Public Programs since April 2017, is responsible for developing, coordinating, and implementing public programs for Museum visitors. Says Souleo, “October *Second Sundays* will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by looking at the significance of flowers within Hispanic culture. Visitors will enjoy live music, create temporary floral tattoos inspired by art in the galleries and have it airbrushed onto their bodies. They will decorate a sculptural floral installation; strike a pose for a fun photo; and show some love to their favorite Latin divas by creating floral mini-shrines. Guests to our October *Late Thursdays* will explore the role of arts and the Museum in community healing as we observe the 50th anniversary of the '67 Newark Rebellion. There will be uplifting music, dance performances, in-gallery dramatic readings, and remembrance through artmaking and observation. Plus, a very special guest performance by Tony Award winner and 4 time Grammy nominee, Melba Moore.”

He adds, “Our November *Second Sunday* and *Late Thursday* programs will focus on ways to explore, adorn, and transform the body, as inspired by our reinstalled *Arts of Africa* gallery. In December, we’ll present a global “mash-up”, featuring holiday-themed performances and using art from the Museum’s collections to celebrate all things sparkly, shiny and bright.” ✦

Souleo holds a B.A. in English from Brown University. During his more than 5 years of public program experience, he has produced over 350 programs that have engaged more than 7,000 participants.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Lorelei Burns was born and raised in Portland, Oregon and lives in Summit, NJ today. She has a Masters in Classics, taught Latin for several years, and worked at Citibank for nearly 30 years in Product and Brand Development, Marketing, Operations and Project Management.

Says Lorelei, "I have poured beer at *Chili and Brew*, wrapped presents during the *Holiday Market*, collected jazz and movie tickets and prepared baskets of goodies for the Annual Tea raffle. Still and all, I consider myself a new volunteer who has a lot to learn. I enjoy trying new projects and the Museum lets me do just that. My years at Citibank really taught me to focus on "The Customer." For me, the Newark Museum is such a rich, new world and the customers" here are very special people."

When asked to share a favorite moment about volunteering, Lorelei replied, "I smile everytime I think of when, by chance, I offered to escort a visitor new to the Museum. She was a college student who had to write a paper and had no idea how to start. Upon taking her to Joseph Stella's *The Voice of the City of New York Interpreted*, I carried on and on about joy, electricity, stained glass windows, real and imagined skyscrapers, New York pride, power, possibility, engineering and life! I made her repeat all these basics back to me. Her eyes got very wide. I believe she got it ...and it pleases me no end to think she probably wrote a very good paper!" ✂



Iqram Khalil was born in Brazil and raised in Cliffside Park, NJ, where she resides today. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and lists finance, history, humanities, and home decorating among her varied other interests.

Says Iqram, "I happily volunteered during the *Dodge Poetry Festival*, held at the Museum in October 2016. I was stationed at the Museum entrance, where I greeted and guided those who attended that event."

She continues, "I try to enjoy and give my all to whatever I do. That means showing the same pride when volunteering that I bring to my day-to-day work. There are many benefits to volunteering, but a main one is the opportunity to meet other people and share with them our love of the Museum. Volunteering comes from the heart. You do not do it to get something in return. You do not do it out of obligation. The pleasure of helping others is fulfilling in itself."

Asked to sum up her volunteer experience, Iqram said, "This Museum magically transports us to different parts of the world. Just by walking through it, one gets a taste of other cultures, acquires knowledge and gets lost in its beauty." ✂

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

NMVO President ▶ Prudence Bradley presents check for \$18,000 to Newark Museum President and CEO Steven Kern at the *NMVO Recognition Event* on June 6, 2017.

Proceeds from the 2017 *Annual Tea* were to benefit the *Style and Status in Sterling* exhibit and the *Repertoire by Molly Hatch* ceramic exhibit, opening this Fall 2017.



◀ Attendees gathered in Engelhard Court at the June 6, 2017 *NMVO Recognition Event*.

At the June 6, 2017 ▶ *NMVO Recognition Event*, NMVO President Prudence Bradley, presents Adrienne Geller with the 2016 Outstanding Volunteer Award, as Merle Lomrantz, Director of Travel, who introduced Adrienne, looks on.



VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION



◀ On May 16, 2017, the *26th Annual Tea* was held under a tent in the Alice Ransom Dreyfuss Memorial Graden.

The keynote speaker, Ulysses Grant Dietz, Chief Curator and Curator of Decorative Arts, (back row, far right) was welcomed by many appreciative attendees.



◀ An overview of the well-attended *26th Annual Tea*, on May 16, 2017.



◀ Membership Associate Leland Byrd and Director of Travel Merle Lomrantz (standing) stopped by to chat with Museum supporters Beverlee Kanengiser, Carole Bozzelli and Shelagh Perrotta at the May 26, 2017 *26th Annual Tea*.

ARTS OF GLOBAL AFRICA GALLERY: EXPANDED & REINSTALLED

Autumn 2017, Main Building

Here's a synopsis of expansion and reinstallation plans for the Museum's *Arts of Global Africa* gallery. But first, a brief review: the current gallery is about 1,900 square feet, with another 900 square feet for changing exhibits. This limited space allows display of less than fifty works of art—a fraction of our incomparable collection's nearly 4,000 ritual, ceremonial and daily use objects; popular urban and fine arts; stellar masks and figural sculpture; textiles, dress, pottery, jewelry, furniture, photography, paintings; and historic artifacts (which range from the late 19th and early 20th century to examples of contemporary artistic creativity).

The New, Innovative Humanities-centric Reinstallation will be comprised of three adjoining gallery spaces, totalling about 7,000 square feet. Of that space, about 4,400 square feet will be earmarked for primary, long-term exhibition. Two auxiliary 1,400 square foot galleries will offer additional space for short-term installations like the Museum's textile collection. All told, the existing gallery space will be more than tripled... and will encourage visitors to appreciate the art works aesthetically, while also viewing them as visual documents that embody social, historical and cultural meanings.

A Major, Site-specific Wall Mural has been commissioned to prominently herald the *Arts of Africa* gallery. Titled *Gateway*, this large-scale exploration of color, pattern and space, by highly regarded, Nigerian-American abstract painter, Odili Donald Odita, will be one of the first works of art visitors see when they enter the newly designed Main Lobby.

A final gallery: *Art 21: Africa in this Century*, will be devoted to contemporary arts of global Africa, a distinct strength of the collection. To be relocated in the North Wing (where there's greater ceiling height), this gallery will showcase a large-scale commission by artist, Simone Leigh. Suspended from the ceiling, an incredible "chandelier" (composed of 65 ceramic sculptures shaped like oversized cowrie shells) will be a dramatic focal point. ✨



Top: *Factory-Printed Textile*, 1994 Nkosi Fabrics; South Africa, Cotton. Gift of Mrs. Reuben F. Richards, 1994 94.199

Bottom: *Tightrope: Impossible Juggernaut of Progress*, 2017 Elias Sime (born 1968, Ethiopia; lives and works in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) Reclaimed electrical wires on panel 64 ½ x 63 ½. Courtesy the artist and James Cohan Gallery

Editor's Note: Utilizing funding by the Mellon Foundation, the Museum will publish its first catalogue of the African art collection! It will include an essay on the collection's unique history. As well, individual object entries by leading experts will present scholarly new interpretation of the collection.

Martin Johnson Heade's *Jersey Meadows with a Fisherman*

by Ellen Greenfield

Landscape Gallery, North Wing, 1st Floor



Martin Johnson Heade

Jersey Meadows with a Fisherman, 1877

Oil on canvas, 13 ¾" x 26 ½". Purchase 1946 Sophronia Anderson Bequest Fund
Collection of the Newark Museum 46.156

Docents often speculate, “Which single work of art should be saved if the need arose?” For sure, I would rescue *Jersey Meadows with a Fisherman*, by Martin Johnson Heade (1819-1904). Heade, an American painter, was known for his depictions of salt marshlands, seascapes, tropical birds, lotus blossoms, and other still lifes.

Despite the fact that he associated with Hudson River School painters, Heade departed from his contemporaries in a marked way. Eschewing grand themes, he concentrated on the humble, intimate details of a scene. He preferred to focus on atmospheric effects and light, bringing a close to textbook naturalism to his work.

Jersey Meadows is the most diminutive work in the expansive Landscape Gallery, yet the painting exudes a powerful, even magical presence. It draws the viewer in. You are pulled a mile or more into the depth of the scene, as if by some inexplicable, yet nonetheless compelling force. A mystical light seems to emanate from the canvas. Haystacks dot the serene horizon and a man (lower right corner) is fishing in solitude beside a winding, narrow stream. We “feel” the mist rising from the water and sense an ethereal calmness.

Can this be the same New Jersey Meadowlands, where today, industry employs and a sports arena entertains, thousands of people? Heade has taken us back to a distant period before commerce, to a time never to be experienced again. We can only gaze at *Jersey Meadows* and dream of how it once was. ✨

TIME TO TRANSFORM:

Museum to Reopen
Main Doors

Expand & Reinstall
Galleries



In 1997, to help maintain stable climate conditions for the century-old artworks then on display and those that would be shown in later exhibits, the Newark Museum closed its main entrance doors on Washington Street.

In 2015, in acknowledgment of the positive neighborhood redevelopment and the growing sidewalk life on Washington Street, the Museum began conceiving a plan to reopen its main entrance. On May 24, 2017, the groundbreaking ceremony to reopen the doors took place. Once they're reopened, the Museum will once again present a face of vitality, stability and transparency to all who visit Washington Park. And, with the increased

programming planned to be presented in the redesigned plaza that fronts the main doors, the Museum will emerge as an attractive new urban destination.

However, the newly reopened doors are just the beginning of the transformations to come. Inside, welcoming lobby space, with state-of-the-art amenities, will greet visitors. As will direct access to Engelhard Court—which, along with the main entrance, will be in full ADA compliance. In addition, our renown *Arts of Global Africa* collection will be reinstalled in an expanded 7,000 square foot exhibition gallery prominently located on the first floor of the North wing. **(For more details, see *Arts of Global Africa Gallery: Expanded & Reinstalled on Page 8*).**

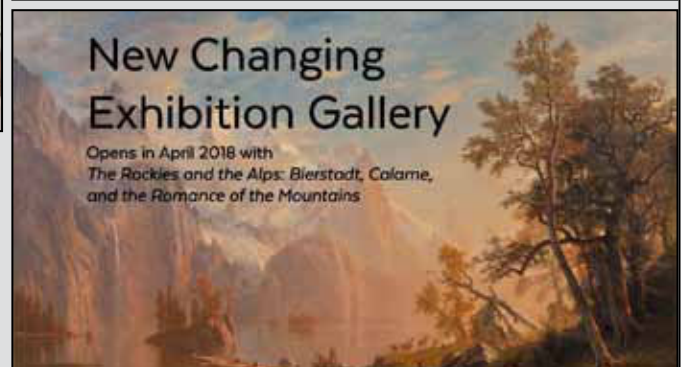
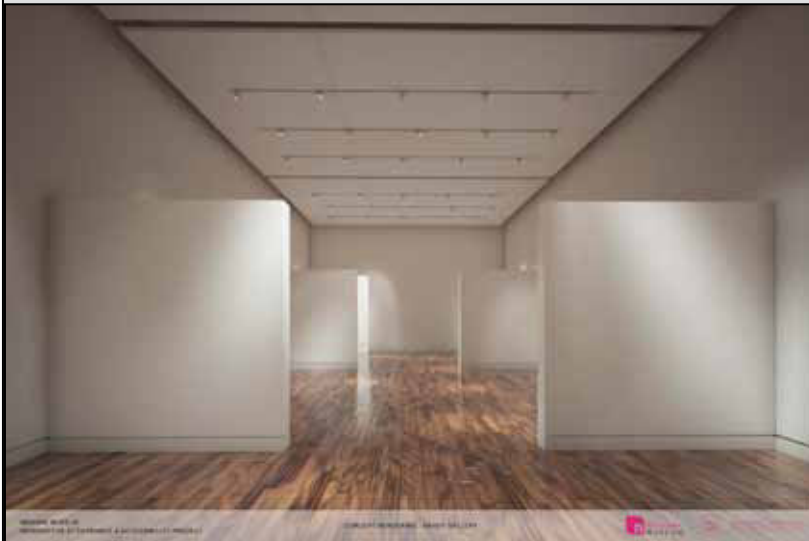
With construction now underway, the Museum is poised to fully embrace its role as a cultural and business anchor in the community. ✨

Above: Artist's rendering of Museum's main Washington Street Entrance and Plaza, to reopen in December 2017.

MUSEUM TRANSFORMATIONS AROUND



Artist's renderings of the Museum's redesigned Main Lobby, with new handicapped access to Charles W. Engelhard Court.



Artist's rendering of the redesigned Arts of Global Africa exhibition gallery.

Right: Artist's mock up for *The Rockies and the Alps: Bierstadt, Calame, and the Romance of the Mountains*, to open in the New Changing Exhibition Gallery, on March 24, 2018, Main Building, 2nd Floor.

editor's vista

NEWARK MUSEUM OPENS DOORS WITH EASIER ACCESS, EXPANDED GALLERIES & MORE!



Hugh Michael
Brown, Volunteer
Vistas Editor

With residential and commercial development booming in the Newark metropolitan area, the Newark Museum is eagerly joining in the revitalization by reopening and installing

new double glass doors at its long closed main entrance on Washington Street.

On May 24, 2017, a groundbreaking ceremony kicked off the door reopening, which is a key part of a \$5.5 million enhancement project that includes: creating a state-of-the-art Main Lobby; installing a ramp near the main doors and a lift at Engelhard Court (to increase accessibility for visitors); augmenting exhibit space for our renown *Arts of Global Africa* collection; installing an additional 5,000 square feet exhibition gallery for changing exhibits; and utilizing the terrace just outside the main doors as a venue to present programs and events that will attract the public.



Director & CEO Steven Kern (far right) and Trustees Jacobuurma, and Board Co-chairs Clifford Blanchard and Christine Gilfillan proudly hold ceremonial shovel during the May 24, 2017 groundbreaking ceremony.

The Museum will remain open to the public throughout construction. The main entrance, renamed in honor of donor Louis Bamberger (who personally funded the Museum building in 1926), is slated to reopen in December 2017. Says Director and CEO, Steven Kern, "We see all around us how the neighborhood is changing [i.e.] renewed development and growth. With this move, the Newark Museum is poised to reaffirm its role as both cultural and business anchor in the community." ❀

For further information, follow the Museum on Facebook at facebook.com/newark.museum or Twitter at twitter.com/newarkmuseum; or by visiting www.newarkmuseum.org.



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