

MIDWEST MUSEUM BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE MIDWEST MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART • 429 South Main St. • Elkhart, IN 46516 • (574) 293-6660
Volume 32, No. 2 FEB/MAR/APR 2010 MUSEUM HOURS: Tues. - Fri. 10:00-4:00, Sat. 1:00-4:00, Sun. 1:-4:00 (Free)

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YOUTH ART in Elkhart 2010 March is National Youth Art Month

The Midwest Museum of American Art presents the Elkhart Community Schools' exhibition of selected work by middle school and high school students beginning **Sunday, March 7**, and continuing on view through **Sunday, March 28, 2010**. This event has been held annually for the past thirty-one years in conjunction with National Youth Art Month.

The **Mary Jane Parmater Keefe Awards of Excellence** will be presented to six outstanding art students. The award winning students will be chosen on the basis of votes cast by 16 Elkhart art teachers to encourage students in the visual arts. Carolyn Keefe of Houston, Texas, continues her support of this prestigious award in memory of her late mother, a former Elkhart native and patron of the arts.

Other awards to be given include the Elkhart Junior Women's **Middle School Student Award of Excellence** along with two Honorable Mentions. Kappa Kappa Kappa, Alpha Rho Chapter, for the 27th year will give monetary awards known as the **Curator's Choice Awards** to ten students. For the seventh year, there will be a **\$500 Scholarship Award**, named in honor of **Phillip Monteith**, given by the Elkhart Evening Optimists. For the second year will be the **Four Arts Club \$1,000 Scholarship** and the **\$1,000 Tri Kappa Scholarship**. Finally for the fourth year, wife Mary Boyer, and daughter, Kathy Zienty, will present the **Robert Boyer Memorial Awards** to several students in the exhibition.

The Opening Reception for students, teachers, parents, and invited guests will be held on **Sunday, March 7, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**. Art Instructor, Tom Grove, (Elkhart Central), is the Chair of this year's exhibit.

Sponsors for **Youth Art in Elkhart 2010** include Elkhart Noon Optimists, Elkhart Luncheon Optimists, Elkhart Evening Optimists, Elkhart Junior Women, Four Arts Club, June Holloway of Oklahoma City, Carolyn Keefe of Houston, Texas, Tri Kappa, Alpha Rho Chapter, Robert Boyer Memorial Fund, and State Farm Insurance—Rocky Enfield.

DICHROIC GLASS

The Electric Light and Space Constructions of
RAY HOWLETT

April 2 thru May 30

The Midwest Museum of American Art is pleased to present a selection of works from one of the originators, Ray Howlett, of *Dichroism* an original art movement started in the early 1970s that now includes over two thousand artists globally. Dichroic color in glass is not a pigment or dye. It is the interference of light waves passing through ultra-thin layers of minerals that have been vaporized onto glass in a vacuum chamber. "Dichro" means "two colors"; one wavelength (of color) passes through the mineral coating while all remaining light (color) reflects off. The colors shift and change as the viewer changes viewing angles as well.

Ray Howlett was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1940. He earned his BFA degree in art from the University of Nebraska in 1963. Two years later the artist gravitated to California where he would discover the space-age material, dichroic glass, that had been invented by the Jet Propulsion Laboratories. By 1973, Howlett was making his first fully realized electric light and space constructions. Today these sculptures appear in the form of boxes and free-standing, 3-dimensional, crystal-like forms that emit colorful light patterns. Currently the artist lives in his home state.



Selected Works from the Permanent Collection continues thru February 28

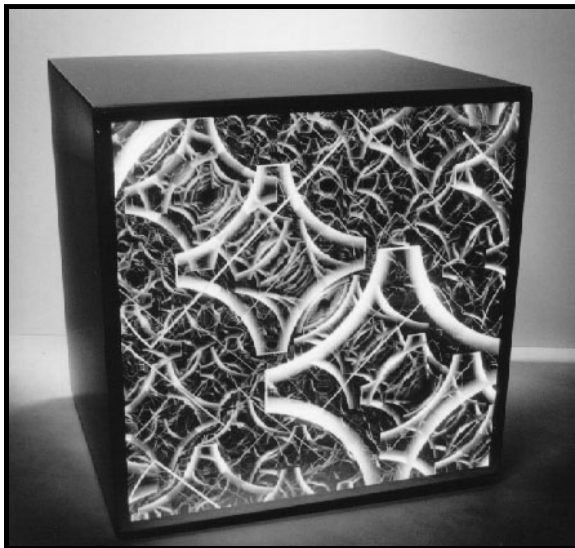
Museum members still have an opportunity to see a selection of over 50 works from the museum's permanent collection of 19th and 20th Century American Art donated by several individuals over the past two years.



This important exhibit of paintings, drawings, lithographs and sculpture, allows the museum to outfit all of its nine galleries with work from its permanent collection now numbering nearly 2,700 pieces. Thirty-eight artists are included among which are **Abner Hershberger**, **Harold Langland**, and **Lina Zerkle**, all from Indiana.

This exhibition illustrates the exciting story of the challenging changes in the fabric of American cultural life over the past 120 years (1880-2000). Beginning with the drawings created by Indiana artist **William Forsyth** and **Otto Stark** of the *Hoosier Group* in the late 19th Century the exhibit follows the path of *realism* to early *American Modernism* in the work of **John Marin**. From this 20th Century perspective the exhibit emphasizes the contributions of both *realist* artists and *Abstract Expressionists* to *Post-Modernists*. These works of art attest to the richness of the intellectual and creative life in America.

Selected Works from the Permanent Collection, 1880-2000, is graciously sponsored by the Corson Family Foundation.



"Seeing the Sounds", c.1980-90, dichroic glass construction by Ray Howlett (b.1940-). Coming in April & May exhibit.

31st Anniversary Celebration Sunday, May 2 • You're Invited !!!

The museum's collection of Brown County Pottery and Karl Martz pottery is highlighted in a new book entitled, "*Clay Times Three*". A special reception on Sunday, May 2, for author Kathy McKimmie will provide an opportunity for members and invited guests to have books signed during the museum's 31st Anniversary Celebration. For three decades the museum has enlivened the cultural art scene of northern Indiana and provided Elkhart area residents with unique exhibits and events illustrating the vast diversity of the work of American artists. Join us in the celebration.

A Strategy for the MMAA from the Director

As we enter another year of a changed economic landscape, the Midwest Museum is seeking better ways to use our assets and increase the efficiencies of our collections. Operating costs continue to rise and the staff has had to rethink strategies for exhibiting art that is in our permanent collection. Can works be shown anew or displayed in a thematic way or, better yet, displayed from a different vantage point that allows our curators, Brian and Stacy, to highlight certain art with supporting lectures and archival materials? Yes, and this will be accomplished without cutting personnel, programs, and hours of operation. This is a challenge to our staff but in the end we are sure that these new ways will contribute to the overall mission of the Midwest Museum of American Art.

Over the last 31 years it has been a goal to position the MMAA as a "cultural space" that targeted audiences on a regular basis. The focus for us has been our "Thursday Noon-Time-Talks", "Sunday Family Free Days", and annual events such as "Youth Art Month" and the "Juried Regional Competition". I am happy to report that each year brings a new "season" and we have built new audiences. Our newest audience comes via the MMAA website and complements our programs and events. The website encourages visits to Elkhart and surrounding cultural amenities.

On a still more positive note I would like to say our attendance for last year was up. This was due in no small part to our exhibit "In Search of Norman Rockwell's America". Although tourism is down, people came from all over the Midwest to see this once-in-a-lifetime exhibit. And, a final Thank You to our Purchase Award Patrons who were involved in the 31st Elkhart Juried Regional. These Patrons contributed more than the previous year making that show the largest and best ever. As you evaluate your commitment to the Midwest Museum of American Art please remember that your annual support and additional gifts make our role possible by providing the above services to the citizens of Michiana.

Jane Burns, Director

Ukrainian Egg Demonstration

"PYSANKY", the Ukrainian art of decorating Easter eggs will be demonstrated by **Mr. Gale Balmer** on **Palm Sunday afternoon, March 28, from 1:00 to 3:00pm** at the Midwest Museum of American Art. This annual event is an opportunity to view the craftsman at work while discovering the array of designs and colors he employs. The demonstration is **FREE** to the public and finished work will be available for purchase.

The ARTIST'S ATTIC unique ODDITIES and • • ■■■■■■■■■■ cast-off treasures

If you are doing your *Spring cleaning* early... remember the Midwest Museum is looking for donations of "unique junk-tique" for its Artist's Attic fund raiser sale. You may call the museum for pick-up of objects, books, furniture, reproduction prints, statuary, ceramics, etc. at 293-6660. The items will be placed on sale **Friday & Saturday, June 4 & 5** during the two-day event which benefits the museum's educational and acquisition funds. Remember—one person's junk is another person's treasure!

BUS TRIP to Chicago

A Day at the Art Institute

Tuesday, April 27

Join us on the Midwest Museum's first educational bus excursion of the New Year as we venture to the Art Institute of Chicago to see "Matisse: Radical Invention, 1913-1917". The exhibition will include approximately 100 paintings, sculptures, drawings, and prints primarily 1913 to 1917 in order to consider fully Matisse's meaning of the "modern construction." In doing so, "Matisse: Radical Invention, 1913-1917", will be the first sustained examination devoted to the work of this important period. In addition there are many superb exhibits in photography including, "William Eggleston: Democratic Camera, Photographs, & Video, 1961-2008", as well as the outstanding permanent collection of American Art.

The itinerary will be as follows:

Depart for Chicago (MMAA; Marion St.)	9:30 AM
View exhibits	11:30 AM
Lunch (on your own)	1:00 PM
Depart Art Institute of Chicago	3:30 PM
Arrive Elkhart	5:30 PM

FEE: \$50. includes deluxe motorcoach & admission

Call for reservations at 293-6660. Seating will be limited
Fees are due immediately after registering by phone.

A Special Film, Sunday, April 11

Join us on **Sunday, April 11** for a special film entitled, "**Tracing the Light**", that was filmed from the play at the Acorn Theatre in Three Oaks, Michigan. The film/play features the actress and playwright, Donna Blue Lachman, who grew up in Skokie, Illinois. Lachman has written, directed, and performed the play with a cast of young actors who bring to life the true story of Friedl Dicker-Brandeis.

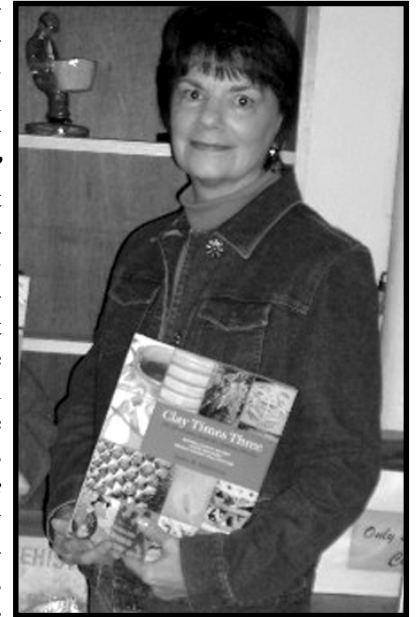
Friedl was a remarkable art teacher who spent her last two years in Terezin, the Czech ghetto where many of the intellectual and artistic elite of Europe were imprisoned during World War II. It was there that she showed children how art could deepen their connections to one another and taught them to see the light in the darkness giving them a true meaning of survival. Lachman spent time in Terezin doing research for the original play and met with survivors who studied with Friedl sixty years ago. Their stories are the heart of the play and film.

Thanks goes to Kenneth Brady who arranged with the actress/playwright the free showing of the film at the Midwest Museum. The film will **start at 1:30** in the Main Gallery and will last for approximately 90 minutes.

Check out our listing on line at
My A2Z Directory.com or, visit our
website **www.MidwestMuseum.US**

Midwest Museum Art Pottery Collection featured in new book

More than 50 photos of historic pottery in the permanent collection of the Midwest Museum of American Art are featured in a new book, "*Clay Times Three*," by Kathy McKimmie, about three Nashville, Ind., potteries. McKimmie is a freelance writer and antique collector who spent almost seven years researching the information about the Brown County potteries before publishing the story. She is a columnist for *Antique Week* and has written many feature articles for the publication, including articles on Karl Martz and the Overbeck Pottery, Cambridge City, Indiana.



"We're excited that so many pieces from our collection are included in the book," said Jane Burns, Director. "We have the largest public collection of works from the three potteries—Brown County Pottery, Karl Martz and Becky Brown potteries, and Brown County Hills Pottery that were donated by R. Douglas and Barbara Grant of Syracuse, Indiana. Together with our extensive collection of Overbeck Pottery, made in Cambridge City, Ind., Elkhart is now a pottery lover's destination." The collection has become a natural drawing card for scholars and researchers of American Art Pottery as well.

"*Clay Times Three*," is available for sale at the museum currently. A special presentation on Brown County potteries will be held at **2:00PM on Sunday, May 2**, by the author.

Give A Gift Membership

Society of Associates	\$150
Family Membership	\$ 60
Individual Membership	\$ 20
Senior Citizen or Student	\$ 10

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The Midwest Museum Welcomes its New and Renewing Members

November 1, 2009 through February 1, 2010

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A visitor stops to ponder, "Pinnacle", in a recent exhibit. The c.1980-90, dichroic glass construction is by Ray Howlett (b.1940-). The Nebraska artist creates sculptures that combine art and science by using space-age materials and electrification.

Howlett's sculpture will be on display during the months of April and May for the museum's 31st Anniversary. This exhibition experience is not to be missed!



‡ Charter Member since 1979
Has donated for 10 consecutive years
* Denotes New or Increased Membership

Become a Museum Volunteer

Do You have special knowledge and/or experience you would like to share? Do You want to be a valuable asset to a successful organization? If you are a member and are interested in volunteering at the Midwest Museum of American Art, contact the Director today by calling (219) 293-6660.

The Arts and Humanities
There's Something in it for You

NOON • TIME • TALKS

FREE Every Thursday at 12:20-1:00PM

FEB 4 **William Forsyth & the Hoosier Group**
Curator Brian Byrn discusses the Indiana artists who formed the internationally recognized "Hoosier Group" at the turn of the 19th Century.

FEB 11 **John Marin, Early Modernist**
Brian Byrn discusses ground-breaking work of this early Modernist who was a teacher to Georgia O'Keefe.

FEB 18 **Charles & Ray Eames, Designers**
Assistant Curator Stacy Jordan looks at the architectural careers of two of the 20th Century's most respected designers.

FEB 25 **William Wegman, Man Ray, & the Litter**
Assistant Curator Stacy Jordan discusses the photography of William Wegman whose subject has been his pet dogs for over 30 years.

Art Education in Our Public Schools

A special series of gallery talks by art educators & students from the Elkhart Community Schools Corporation.

MAR 4 **Tom Grove**, Art Educator (YAE Chair 2010)
Photographer, Elkhart Central High School

MAR 11 **Matt Hartman**, Art Educator, Photography
Elkhart Memorial High School

MAR 18 **Ryan Hill**, Art Educator
Elkhart Community Schools

MAR 25 **Sue Platt & Kathryn Freehafer**,
Art Educators, Pierre Moran Middle School

A Special Series devoted to ART & SCIENCE

APR 1 **Art Nouveau: 1890 - 1914 (film)**
Brian Byrn, Curator, introduces a film from the National Gallery's educational programs. (32 min.)

APR 8 **Dichroic Glass & Ray Howlett**
Brian Byrn, Curator, introduces the exhibition featuring the work of Ray Howlett, Dichroic glass sculptor.

APR 15 **The Futurists & the Art of Tomorrow**
Brian Byrn, Curator, discusses the art from 1900 to mid-century with regard to Movements that emphasized science technology and new frontiers of society.

APR 22 **Toward Change: Artists and Technology**
Brian Byrn, Curator, discusses the art from about 1960 to the present emphasizing artists using new technologies that sensitize or desensitize the human condition..

APR 29 **Agnes Denes**
Stacy Jordan, Assistant Curator, introduces the work of this *Ecological Art* master who is a pioneer of *conceptual and ecological art*.

TRIBUTES

The Midwest Museum of American Art gratefully acknowledges gifts in honor or in memory of special friends. Notes of acknowledgment are sent by the Museum to those honored or to the families of those memorialized. Recent memorials and donations include:

In Memory Of

Timothy W. Anderson
by E. H. S. "Class of 41"
Paul & Betty Thomas

Jean Ashbaugh
by Mary Jean Borneman
Jane Burns
Tom and Dot Corson
Mary Naquin
Pauline Riblet & Family
George & Barbara Thomas
R. Dewey & Phyllis Welch
Ginny Wildig

Dale Atwater
by E. H. S. "Class of 41"

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Mary Bechtel
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Mary Ann Graves
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Patricia Stutsman

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Carolyn Keefe
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Thelma J. Sommers
by Jane Burns

Frances Spahn
by Byron Brady

Adrian Vaksvik
by Jane Burns

**Robert Boyer
Memorial Fund**
by Mary Boyer

A Note About The Arts and Education

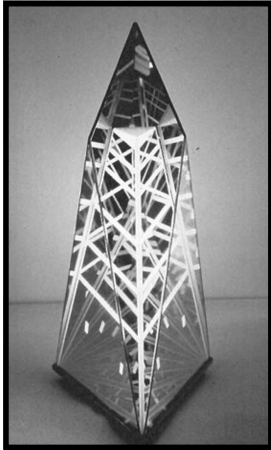
An arts education program reflects the conviction that the creative force of the arts and humanities strengthens our democracy. Schools see the arts and humanities as a "public good", which benefits all Americans in a strong educational system. The arts unlock human potential for creativity and lift us beyond our isolated individualism to shared understanding. History, literature, ethics, and the arts offer lessons on the human condition that connect individuals to the community and overcome social fragmentation that many Americans feel. A robust civil society must have the arts and humanities at its core.



A note about the art...

left: An iris print (digital photograph) entitled, "Eye Wear", done in 2001 by William Wegman (b.1943-) is currently on display. Wegman has used his dogs as subject matter in his photography for over 30 years.

right: An aluminum sculpture done in 1985 by Robert Goodnough (b.1917-) and a fiberglass "shell" chair designed in 1958 by Charles Eames (1907-1978) and his wife Ray Eames (1912-1988) are on display through February 28 as part of the exhibit, "Selected Works from the Permanent Collection, 1880-2000". The chair is one of three pieces donated by the Elkhart Public Library and was originally used in its 1961 modern building.



left: "Diamond Layers", c.1990, dichroic glass sculpture with electrification, by Ray Howlett (b.1940-). on display in April & May. This work is typical of the artist's free standing pedestal pieces that use a compact fluorescent light. Howlett's work, "Vortex Slice", done in 1997 and acquired in 2002, in the Midwest Museum's permanent survey collection, is one of visitors' favorites. It constantly attracts attention by young and old alike.



...join us in the galleries soon.

***The Museum in Winter to SPRING!!
Selected Works continues thru February 28
YOUTH ART in Elkhart opens March 7
Ukrainian Egg Demonstration, March 28
DICHROIC GLASS: RAY HOWLETT opens April 2***



**Midwest Museum of American Art
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