

American Portraits... continued



Ernestine Raclin, 2010, oil on canvas, by Anthony Droege
MMAA Permanent Collection

This is the first version of a proposed portrait to commemorate the Benefactor of the Raclin School of Art at IUSB. It was unaccepted but the background changed to reflect a more conservative setting. The official portrait now hangs in Northside Hall on campus.

Elliott Jordan, 1975,
by Anthony Droege
MMAA Permanent
Collection

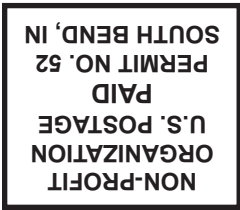
The artist's powers
of observation in this
full-length portrait are
conjoined with placing
the figure in a unique
and otherworldly
setting. The emphasis
on pattern, shape, and
color lends the figure a
more powerful persona.



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MUSEUM HOURS: Tues. - Fri. 10:00-4:00, Sat. & Sun. 1:00-4:00
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429 South Main Street, Elkhart, IN 46516





Midwest Museum of American Art *Quarterly Newsletter*

July • August • September • 2023

America the Beautiful: Photographs by Clyde Butcher and Selected Photographs by Ansel Adams continue through July 16

American Portraits: *Identity, Persona, & Power* *begins on Friday, July 21 and continues through September 30*



*New Hampshire Couple - Husband & Wife Portraits, 1836
by unrecorded artist • from the collection of Kay Roy*

Portraiture in America began as a record of wealthy landowners, their wives, and children. Sometimes the favorite steed, cow, or hunting dog precluded the images of family. As the 19th Century wore on towards a new millennium, again, the wealthy, this time, male industrialists, were portrayed in order to adorn the company boardroom. Simultaneously and from the birth of the American government, Presidents and important politicians began having their portraits made as a record of power and sovereignty. As the 19th century came to a close, more and more people were beginning to have their portraits recorded by the developing technology of the camera; farmers & wives, soldiers, and occasionally women doing important social work. Still difficult and fidgety, children were being recorded more by both the hand rendered artist and the camera operator.



In the 20th Century, the *persona* of a subject became an important ingredient to the mythologizing of Americans particularly politicians, actors, and fictional characters represented in advertising. Now in the 21st Century, portraiture more likely conveys a person's brand or image, but, the common person with no intentions of being famous can now be recorded more easily than ever before and post their likenesses on Instagram or Facebook as a digital portrait. For artists today, *identity, persona, & power* may be subsequent to capturing the soul or lyrical qualities of the sitter—the poetry of the person or capturing the essence of their spirit being foremost in intention.



Director/Curator Brian Byrn, has assembled nearly 80 examples of American portraiture from the MMAA permanent collection representing nationally noted artists from history and joined them with examples of 12 living artists from across the Michiana region and beyond. Themes of *identity, persona, & power* are just some of the interesting qualities that make this exhibit a rich experience for the viewer.

left : F/2.8 Portrait 1, gelatin silverprint, by Craig Sheaks

*above right: Portrait of Woodrow Wilson, before 1916, by William Merritt Chase
MMAA Permanent Collection*

This Exhibition is Sponsored by Donors from the Director's Circle

SPECIAL RECEPTION

Join us for a special reception to meet the artists whose works are included in *American Portraits*
Wednesday, July 26 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

Light hors d'oeuvres & wine served.

RSVP by July 21

Brief comments by selected Artists and museum staff.



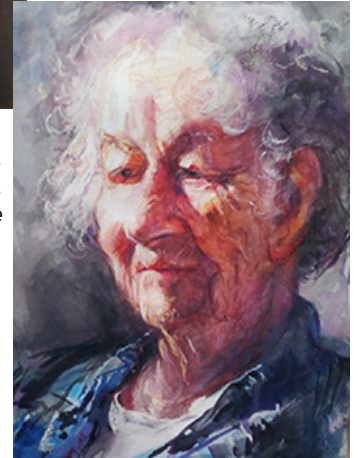
Young Girl,
watercolor & pastel, 2021
by Emese Rivera

below left:
Carol
oil, 2022, by Jane Cowley



Older Woman,
watercolor & pastel, 2021,
by Hilarie Couture

Self-Portrait(s), graphite, 2018,
by Chelsea Younkman



CALL for ENTRIES • 45th Elkhart Juried Regional

A fillable entry form is located under the 'Events' tab, then click on 'Elkhart Juried Regional', on the MMAA website. Entries will be taken from September 5 through September 16. All other information is posted or email the museum with questions. Over \$20,000 in awards given!



Bus Trip to Toledo • Wednesday, August 9

The second bus trip of the year takes us to the Toledo Museum of Art. The outstanding collections of world art along with the 'glass museum' located across the grounds is well worth experiencing. In addition, a special temporary exhibit of works by African American Artist, Jacob Lawrence titled, *Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence and the Mbari Club* will be on display.

\$85 Fee includes deluxe motorcoach, admission, snacks
Lunch on your own. Fees are due upon registration.
Limited seating. Call 574-293-6660 or
email info@midwestmuseum.us today!



above: "The National Flag is the Most Sacred Thing a Nation Can Possess"
Acid Free Digital Colored Photograph
2022 by Todd Hoover

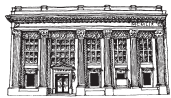
"Rodeo Sabor de México, South Bend, IN", archival inkjet print, 2015
by Kay Westhues

**Gallery Talks & Exhibits
are partially sponsored by
a grant from the
Community Foundation
of Elkhart County.**



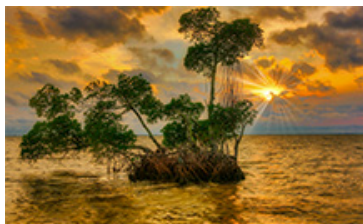
Noon Time Talks

Thursday • 12:15 - 1:15 PM



JULY 6 Earl Vandygriff, Granger, IN

A regional photographer who captures the landscape in color will discuss his work. Vandygriff is a past Best Photography Award winner in the Elkhart Juried Regional.



JULY 13 Jack Kapsa, South Bend

Kapsa highlights the transition of photographic images in his recent work. As an Art Teacher he has taught full time at St. Joseph High School and was an adjunct art instructor at Holy Cross College. He is a past BEST of SHOW winner in the 5th Elkhart Juried Regional.

JULY 20 No Gallery Talk scheduled

Transition of exhibits.

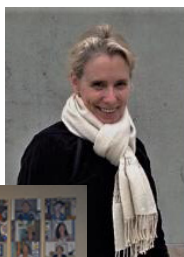


JULY 27 American Portraits: Identity, Persona, & Power

Director/Curator, Brian Byrn, talks about the assembly of portraits on display that range over 100+ years while highlighting important concepts and making connections with the artists represented.

AUG 3 Megan Williamson, Chicago, IL

The Artist discusses her 'Zoom' portrait series done during the pandemic lockdown. She watched the news on her cell phone and began idly taking screen shots during interviews. Then from the winter of 2021 through late spring, Williamson created over 100 images in the series. A fascinating reminder of how adaptation revealed itself to her creative spirit.



AUG 10 Chelsea Younkman, Toledo, OH

The artist will discuss her transformative relationship to four self-portraits in the exhibit. She states, "I made the drawings as a celebration of my new lifestyle of healthier eating habits and exercise. In the year 2018 I made the decision to go on Weight Watchers to lose 60 pounds and within 10 months I lost a total of 100 pounds. In the drawings I wanted to examine the anatomical structure of my face since changing my lifestyle. I drew myself in a hat to represent a more confident, healthier version of myself."

AUG 17 Hilarie Couture, Ft. Wayne

The artist states: "I am a soul catcher...My passion is painting people. As I paint, I get lost in reckless abandonment, yet painting people keeps me somewhat grounded and allows me to continue my process of self-identity. I reconcile parts of myself through the work. My hopes, dreams, fears, adequacies and inadequacies are ever present in the strokes as the connection becomes morphed between myself and my sitter."



Tributes

The Midwest Museum of American Art gratefully acknowledges gifts in honor or in memory of special friends.

In Honor of:

In Honor of Trustee
Dr. Rick Burns • 60th Birthday
Brian & Lisa Byrn

In Honor of
Steve Gruber • 60th Birthday
Brian & Lisa Byrn

In Honor of Charter MMAA Member
MARIE E. WORK • 104th BIRTHDAY!
Jim & Mary Rasp

Noon Time Talks

continued...

AUG 24 Joel Fremion, Ossian, IN

Growing up in his grandparent's upholstery/fabric shop and being the son of an interior designer, Joel's early college education centered around architectural and interior design. As he explored the fine arts, particularly painting, he eventually created his own technique of "fabric collage". This very tactile artwork is an intricate blend of fabric and leather to create collages that are then further enhanced with painted details.



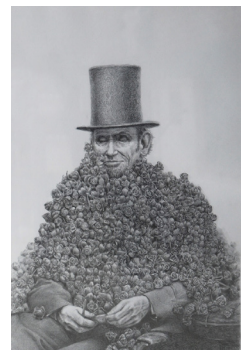
AUG 31 Tim Parsley, Ft. Wayne



(George Washington)
We Took The Stars From Heaven,
Oil on canvas, 2016

(Abraham Lincoln)
The Bleeding Drops of Red,
Graphite on paper

This University of Saint Francis Professor of painting and drawing will discuss his contemporary paintings that are devoted to American historical figures such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Walt Whitman.



SEP 7 - 28 No Gallery Talks scheduled

last days of entries, 45th Elkhart Juried Regional plus judging & returns.