



INSPIRING GENERATIONS

A CAMPAIGN FOR THE
Dr. Patricia McDonnell
American Art Endowment



For 87 years, WAM has delivered energetic and thoughtful art experiences to Wichita. WAM has benefited for the recent ten years from the strong leadership of Director Patricia McDonnell, and she has announced her retirement in Spring 2022.

“A transformation has occurred at WAM the past ten years, and Patricia had the energy and vision to lead that transformation,” said Martha Linsner, Chair of the Board of Trustees. “This museum has never been more active or more welcoming and inclusive, and we have Patricia to thank for these achievements.”

WAM’s Board of Trustees, led by the last six Board Chairs, now start a campaign to honor this moment at WAM and establish the **Dr. Patricia McDonnell American Art Endowment**. This endowment honors and recognizes Patricia’s transformative legacy, while ensuring we continue to achieve excellence and inspire WAM fans into the future. WAM is devoted to American art; Patricia is a nationally recognized scholar of early American modernism. An endowment for American art at WAM assures our vibrancy for coming generations, while it conveys lasting respect to an exceptional director.

WAM has a strong and longstanding commitment to accessibility for art enjoyment in Wichita. The museum now has an endowment to assure free Saturday admission into the future, thanks to Colby Sandlian. More than 80,000 people per year visit the museum— from neighbors to international globetrotters— allowing WAM to engage and inspire the next generation of art lovers. Patricia’s devotion to strong art scholarship mixed with lively public programs drives WAM forward. It fuels this ambitious campaign to create an endowment for the very thing at WAM that matters so much to Patricia as well as animates the museum’s mission.

← TOP RIGHT: Beth Lipman, *Laid (Time-) Table with Cycads* (detail), 2015. Glass, wood, adhesive, paint, and metal, 92 x 192 x 57 inches. Courtesy of Claire Oliver Gallery, New York BOTTOM LEFT: Douglas Abdell, *Kaephae-Aekyad #2*, 1979, Painted steel, 95 3/4 x 112 x 21 7/8 inches, Wichita Art Museum, Museum purchase with funds donated by the Price R. and Flora A. Reid Foundation and the Friends of the Wichita Art Museum

With your generous support to establish the Dr. Patricia McDonnell American Art Endowment, this mission lives on strongly: *The Wichita Art Museum brings people, ideas, and American art together to enrich lives and building community.*



HIGHLIGHTS

of Patricia McDonnell's Leadership

- **Attendance increasing** by more than 60 percent,
- **Expanded public programs** growing by 100 percent,
- **Membership rising** by 140 percent,
- **Creating the Art Garden** in 2015, a \$3.3 million project on the museum's eight acres,
- **New renovation** of interior public spaces in 2020, a nearly \$1 million project,
- **Replacing the HVAC system** for museum-quality climate control, a \$2 million project,
- **Doubling annual gift income** and increasing long-term resources by \$9 million,
- **Bringing blockbuster exhibitions** to Wichita—*Monet to Matisse* in 2018, *Georgia O'Keeffe: Art, Image, Style* in 2019, and *American Art Deco* in 2022,
- **Expanding the art collection by one third**, including these major acquisitions:
 - an Americana folk art collection numbering more than 400,
 - more than 700 works to make Wichita the premiere collection of Prairie Print Makers,
 - significant legacy acquisitions from photographer Larry Schwarm and painter Keith Jacobshagen,
 - key additions by prominent artists Fred Wilson and Preston Singletary,
 - new, large-scale Art Garden commissions by Derek Porter and Vicki Scuri,
 - new, iconic entry commission by artist Beth Lipman.
- **Launching an assessment** to complete first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy to institutionalize practices that ensure a sense of belonging for all WAM visitors.

← FROM LEFT: Artist Tom Otterness, WAM Director Dr. Patricia McDonnell, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Director Rod Bigelow, and WAM Board Members Toni Gates and Martie Walker.



Help WAM secure our standard of excellence for generations to come.

It will take a spirited combination of talent, leadership, and philanthropic support to achieve this goal. We invite you to join us, celebrate Patricia's McDonnell's legacy, and donate funds for American art projects in her name. To make a gift or for more information, contact Kourtney Carson, Director of Development at carson@wichitaartmuseum.org or 316-268-4905.

A FEW EXAMPLES of future American art projects the endowment could support:

- Nationally regarded American art scholars as speakers,
- WAM publications on the prized collection and/or museum-organized exhibitions,
- Focused research—trips to archives for museum staff or commissions for outside experts,
- Art conservation for the collection,
- New American art acquisitions.

A FEW EXAMPLES of nationally known scholars and curators who have recently presented at the Wichita Art Museum include:

- **Elizabeth Kornhauser**, Alice Pratt Brown Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, Metropolitan Museum of Art,
- **Kimberly A. Jones**, Curator of Nineteenth-Century French Paintings, National Gallery of Art,
- **Wanda M. Corn**, Robert and Ruth Halperin Professor Emerita in Art History, Stanford University.

← BOTTOM LEFT: Marsden Hartley, *End of the Hurricane*, 1938. Oil on Masonite, 22 1/4 x 28 1/8 inches. Wichita Art Museum, Roland P. Murdock Collection TOP RIGHT: Preston Singletary, *Indian Curio Shelf*, 2019–20, Blown glass, 14 3/4 x 56 x 14 inches (shelf and 5 baskets overall). Wichita Art Museum, Museum purchase, F. Price Cossman Memorial Trust, INTRUST Bank, Trustee



WICHITA ART MUSEUM