



ON
&
OFF
THE
WALL

MAY/JUNE 2023

A MEMBER BENEFIT OF THE
DENVER
art
MUSEUM



Federico Herrero, *The Sea*, 2021. Oil and acrylic paints on canvas; 65 × 49½ in. Funds from the Contemporary Collectors' Circle with additional support from Craig Ponzio; John & Sandy Fox; A. Barry & Arlene Hirschfeld; Baryn, Daniel, and Jonathan Futa; Bryon Adinoff & Trish Holland; Ellen & Morris Susman; and Margaret & Glen Wood, 2022.131. © Federico Herrero

On the Cover

**THE SEA,
FEDERICO HERRERO**

In the modern and contemporary art galleries you'll find comments about some of the artworks from DAM staff and volunteers. Barbara Byrnes-Lynarcic, volunteer docent, says of this painting, "If you linger, you may hear the surf pound into Herrero's colliding colors in this strikingly beautiful seascape." Explore the galleries and see what the works on view make you think, feel, and wonder about.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

Every day | 10 am–5 pm

The museum is open 10 am–9 pm on Tuesdays.

Visit the Plan Your Visit page on our website for directions, parking, ticketing information, and more.

denverartmuseum.org/plan-your-visit

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To renew your membership or learn about member events, please visit our website:

denverartmuseum.org/membership



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Denver Art Museum programs are funded in large part by the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).



Free Days at the DAM are made possible by Your 6 Front Range Toyota Stores and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).





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Director's Column

Learn about the Hamilton Building's collection galleries.



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Modern and Contemporary Art

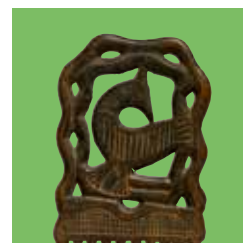
See works by Mark Bradford, Elaine de Kooning, Henri Matisse, and more.



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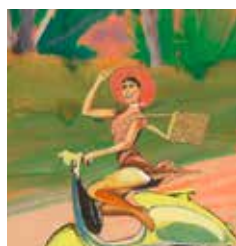
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DAM Unrated

Read about a painting by Hulda Guzmán new to the museum's collection.

See the New Hamilton Building Collection Galleries

On May 14, we close the chapter on our multi-year renovation project and open our final reimagined permanent collection galleries. This time, on levels three and four of our Frederic C. Hamilton Building. These collections represent the museum's commitment to sharing art and culture from across the world and I could not be more thrilled to mark the completion of the museum's innovative transformation by inviting visitors to explore these fascinating and important collections.

"The reinstallation of the galleries is an opportune moment to rethink how modern and contemporary art is experienced at the DAM and how we tell the story of our times through our collection."

—Rory Padeken, Vicki and Kent Logan
Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art



The Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Modern and Contemporary Art Galleries will reopen with a broad survey of the art of our times. Artworks by notable artists that will be on view include Mark Bradford's poignant abstractions, Robert Colescott's painting of race relations (below left), a beguiling still life by Joan Miró, and Elaine de Kooning's monumental painting of a bullfight (on page 4), among many others. The galleries will be organized by theme, rather than by chronology, helping highlight visual connections while creating space for conversation and contemplation for all visitors.



The Daniel Yohannes Family Arts of Africa Gallery will display selections from the museum's collection, which includes a wide range of objects, largely from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as introduce visitors to exciting recent acquisitions of contemporary art. The updated presentation, which was developed with insights, perspectives, and feedback from local Black American and African immigrant community

members, brings to life the dynamic creativity and culture across Africa, including the sub-Saharan, Egypt, and North Africa.

“ The new gallery presentation will encourage visitors to perceive African cultures as living and diverse, and to appreciate the contemporary and local relevance of African arts.”
 –Adekunle Adeniji, Anderman Family Fellow for Arts of Africa

The Joan & George Anderman Arts of Oceania Gallery will reopen with *Islands Beyond Blue: Niki Hastings-McFall and Treasures from the Oceania Collection*. This temporary exhibition will showcase the work of this celebrated contemporary artist, who is of Sāmoan and Pākehā descent, in conversation with approximately 30 treasures from our collection.

“ This exhibition in the arts of Oceania gallery offers a nuanced exploration of the area’s vibrant cultural landscape, challenging visitors to examine their perception of this vast and extremely diverse region.”
 –Emelihter Kihleng, PhD, Andrew W. Mellon Fellow for Native Arts

Read on to learn more about these upcoming gallery openings, and be sure to join us for the Member Previews on May 12 and May 13.

I hope you plan to visit soon (and often!) since there is so much going on at the museum. In addition to these gallery installations, you don’t want to miss exciting exhibitions like *Speaking with Light, Near East to Far West*, and *Her Brush*. Plus, with the Member Spring Shopping Sale on May 5–8, the upcoming exhibition *Desert Rider: Dreaming in Motion*, camps, classes, lectures, and so much more, it is a wonderful time to be a member. Don’t forget to renew your museum membership to take advantage of all the exciting things happening this summer—and beyond!

See you at the museum,



Christopher Heinrich,
 Frederick and Jan Mayer Director

Robert Colescott, *School Days*, 1988. Acrylic paint on canvas; 90 ½ x 114 ¼ in. Denver Art Museum: Funds from NBT Foundation, 1991.56. © Estate of Robert Colescott; Merikokeb Berhanu (Ethiopian), *Untitled LXX*, 2021. Acrylic paint on canvas; 48 in. x 57 ½ in. Denver Art Museum: Funds, by exchange, from John and Mary Pat Carlen, James P. Economos, Jerome Furman, and Dr. E. E. McKeown, 2022.338 © Merikokeb Berhanu; Marquesan artist, *Ti'i (Stone deity)* (detail), about 1800-50. Lava stone; 14 7/8 in. x 5 1/4 in. Denver Art Museum: Gift of Vincent and Mary Price, 1949.4545.



OPENS MAY 14
MEMBER PREVIEWS MAY 12 AND 13



Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Modern and Contemporary Art Galleries

Encompassing 16,000 square feet across two floors, the newly reinstated modern and contemporary art galleries feature selections from the museum's collection of approximately 8,000 artworks made between 1900 and today. Featuring artists from around the globe, this presentation looks anew at the work of historically recognized figures, established contemporary artists, and notable emerging voices. This new installation also draws from the museum's vast collections of Indigenous arts of North America, arts of Africa, Latin American art, photography, and textile arts and fashion.

The thematic groupings of artworks showcase visual connections and common interests amongst the artists including race and identity, representations of the body, the relationship between humanity and the natural world, myths regarding the so-called American dream, and daring approaches to abstraction and figuration. Influenced by architect Daniel Libeskind's open floor plan, the exhibition unfolds in surprising and unexpected ways.



Old Favorites & New Acquisitions

Artworks on view include the quiet and minimalist lines of Agnes Martin; a double portrait by Henri Matisse (above); Julie Mehretu's symphonic interpretation of a Wagner opera; Robert Motherwell's triumphant abstractions; a haunting dreamscape by Stacey Steers; an installation of Toshiko Takaezu's sensuous ceramic vessel forms; and Dyani White Hawk's modernist abstract painting that honors beadwork and porcupine quillwork by Indigenous women. Recent acquisitions in the galleries include works by Cornelius Annor, Federico Herrero, Otis Kwame Kye Quaicoe, Raquib Shaw, Emmanuel Taku, and Sandra Vásquez de la Horra.

Returning visitor favorites that have been off view for more than a decade include Richard Serra's monumental steel sculpture *Basic Maintenance*; Jennifer Bartlett's *Plaid House*; Dan Flavin's illuminated and fluorescent sculpture *Untitled (for A.C.)*; and Jennifer Steinkamp's mesmerizing *Rock Formation*,

a digital video projection depicting a waterfall of fabric gliding over unseen rocks.

A dedicated gallery will highlight the work of American artist Manuel Neri, featuring two examples of his life-size figurative sculptures alongside several of his daring drawings of the human body.

Included with general admission, which is free for members and everyone 18 and under.



Member Tip:

Take a deep dive into these collections with members-only tours of the modern and contemporary art, arts of Africa, and arts of Oceania galleries on Thursdays and Sundays. Learn more on page 11.

The reinstatement of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation Modern and Contemporary Art Galleries is organized by the Denver Art Museum and presented by Vicki and Kent Logan.

Elaine de Kooning, *Bullfight*, 1959. Denver Art Museum: Vance H. Kirkland Acquisition Fund, 2012.300. © Elaine de Kooning Trust; Henri Matisse, *Two Sisters*, 1917. Oil on canvas, 23 1/8 x 28 1/4 in. Denver Art Museum: Gift of Horace Havemeyer for the William D. Lippitt Memorial Collection by exchange, 1950.42. © 2023 Succession H. Matisse / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

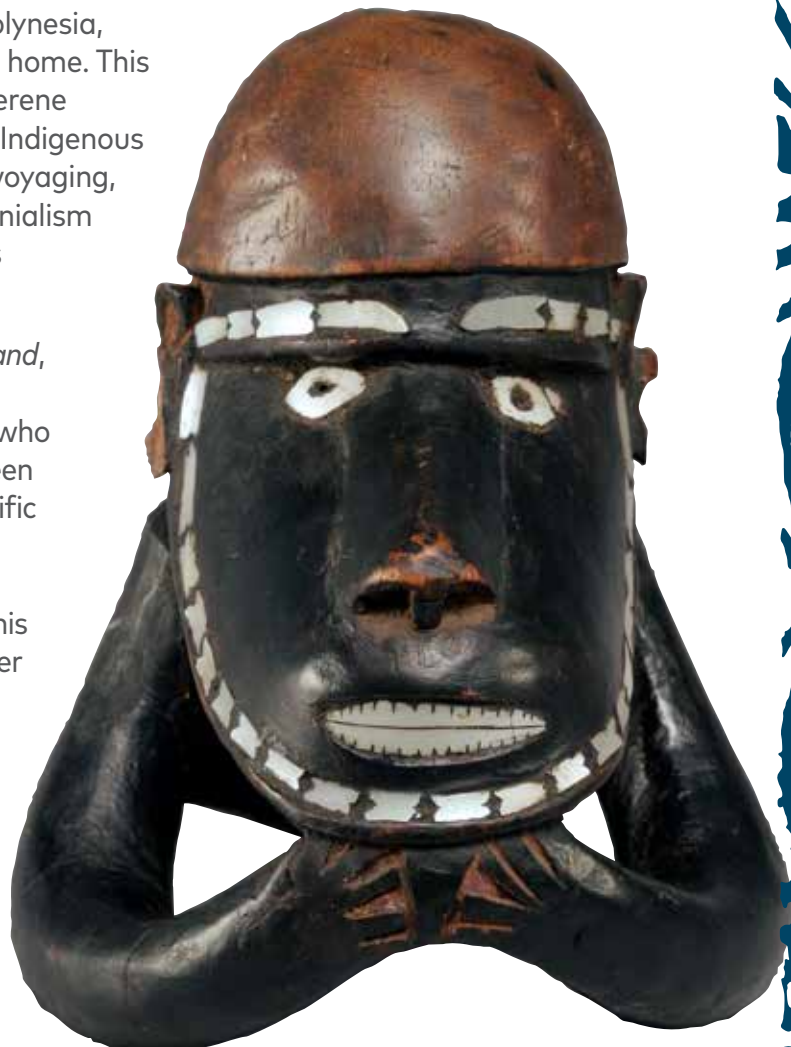
OPENS MAY 14
MEMBER PREVIEWS MAY 12 AND 13

Joan & George Anderman Arts of Oceania Gallery

The arts of Oceania gallery will reopen with the presentation of a new exhibition, *Islands Beyond Blue: Niki Hastings-McFall and Treasures from the Oceania Collection*. It is the first exhibition to center arts of Oceania at the DAM since 2016.

While many think of the Pacific Islands, or Oceania, as vacation destinations, for Indigenous peoples from Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia, these islands are home. This exhibition invites visitors to dive below the serene surface, into the cultures and worldviews of Indigenous Pacific peoples and explore rich histories of voyaging, creating, and adorning interwoven with colonialism and its legacies, revealing an Oceania that is vibrant, colorful, and complex.

The exhibition is anchored by *No Man Is an Island*, an installation created by Hastings-McFall specifically for this gallery. Hastings-McFall—who is of Sāmoan and Pākehā descent and has been credited with shepherding contemporary Pacific art onto an international stage—co-opts and elevates the synthetic tourist lei in this work, resulting in a captivating explosion of color. This monumental installation is the US debut of her acclaimed *Polynisation* series. The work is a meditation on the complexity of Pasifika identities and such threats to Pacific environments as climate change and nuclear testing.





About 25 treasures from the museum's collection also will be on view in the gallery, including a *bis* memorial pole from the mid-1900s made by an Asmat artist in West Papua, New Guinea, Indonesia for ceremonies to honor their dead, as well as a kili bag. Kili bags are linked to the tragic history of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, during which the US Nuclear Testing Program detonated 67 bombs between 1946 and 1958. To facilitate the project, Marshallese people from Bikini Atoll were forcibly relocated to Kili Island, where women wove, and continue to weave, these intricate baskets from bleached coconut fiber.

Included with general admission, which is free for members and everyone 18 and under.



Member Tip:

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, join us for conversation between artist Niki Hastings-McFall and curators Emelihter Kihleng and Rory Padeken at 6 pm on May 9. Free for Museum Friends and discounted for members.

Learn more and reserve tickets at denverartmuseum.org/calendar/logan-lecture-niki-hastings-mcfall.



Solomon Islander artist, *Nguzunguzu (Canoe Figurehead)*, Early 1900s. Wood and mother-of-pearl; 5 x 4 x 4 1/2 in. Denver Art Museum: Gift in memory of George Gibbs Anderman, 1997.2; Marquesan artist, *Tattooed Leg Form*, early 1800s. Wood; 22 5/8 x 6 x 7 1/4 in. Denver Art Museum: Native Arts acquisition funds, 1948.795.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

To see the full list of events in May and June, please check the calendar on our website or click on PROGRAMS on the top menu of our website. Unless otherwise indicated (\$), events are included with general admission, which is free for members. Events that are free or have an additional discount for Museum Friends are indicated with ✨. Unless otherwise indicated these events take place at the museum.

May

2 VAQUEROS Y CHARROS, WADDIES AND BUCKAROOS: THE AFRICAN ROOTS OF COWBOYDOM With Michael "Cowboy Mike" Grauer, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

Much of what we think we know about cowboys comes from popular culture—from dime novels to the silver screen. This presentation will examine myths and realities about "cowboy culture."

May 2 | 6 pm \$ ✨

7 SENSORY-FRIENDLY MORNING

Designed for kids with neurodiversity or sensory-processing disorders and their families to visit the museum in a safe and fun way. The museum will open early, dim the lights, and provide tools to aid and guide a sensory-friendly experience for the whole family. Free admission with reservation.

May 7 | 9 am–noon

12 MEMBER PREVIEWS Modern And Contemporary Art, Arts of Africa & Islands Beyond Blue

Members see it first! Join us for a preview of the newly reinstalled Hamilton Building collection galleries. Explore the modern and contemporary art galleries, arts of Africa gallery, and *Islands Beyond Blue: Niki Hastings-McFall and Treasures from the Oceania Collection*.

May 12 | 10 am–2 pm

May 13 | 10 am–5 pm

30 INSIGHT: TAKING CARE Handling and storing the Arts of Asia collection

Silber Director of Conservation Sarah Melching and Joseph de Heer Curator of Asian Art Hyonjeong Han discuss the methods, special tools, and careful techniques that ensure a long life for these special objects.

May 30 | 6–7 pm \$ ✨

The Logan Lecture series is sponsored by Vicki and Kent Logan.

Lifelong Learning and Accessibility programs are supported by the William Randolph Hearst Endowment for Education Programs, Nancy Benson Education Endowment Fund, CenturyLink Endowment, Jim Kelley and Amie Knox Education Endowment Fund, and the Cooke-Daniels Fund. Support is also provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, NextFifty Initiative, LinkAGES Colorado, the Michael and Karen Fried Community Education Fund, and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

Sensory-Friendly Mornings are supported by The Blue Ribbon Arts Initiative, Autism Community Store, and The Autism Society of Colorado Opening Doors™ Program.

The Landscape Studio is generously sponsored by Robert and Judi Newman Family Foundation.



Explore Your Creativity

Register for Creative Classes

The next round of adult classes begins in June. Sign up for acrylic painting, 3-D floral art, bookmaking, bundle dyeing, and more! Classes range from one day to four weeks to six weeks. Registration opens for Museum Friends on May 16, for members on May 18, and for the public on May 20. Learn more on our website: denverartmuseum.org/creative-classes

May 16–20 | Registration opens at 10 am each day



Open Studio: Native Arts Artist-in-Residence Viki Eagle

Meet our Native Arts Artist-in-Residence, Viki Eagle (Sičhánǵu Lakhóta), and learn about her current photography project, *Re(Mapping) a Rez Metal Sonic ReZistance*.

Thursdays through June 29 (except May 11) | 12–5 pm

June

6 **RETHINKING JOSEPH WRIGHT OF DERBY: HOW IT WAS DONE AND WHY IT WAS NECESSARY** With Matthew Craske, Oxford Brookes University

Matthew Craske will discuss his book, *Joseph Wright of Derby: Painter of Darkness*, which was awarded the 2021 William MB Berger Prize for British Art History.

June 6 | 6–7 pm \$ *

10 11 **ÁYA CON 2023**

A celebration of Indigeneity hosted by North American Indigenous artists, this family festival will feature comic creators, bead artists, musicians, digital illustrators, designers, dancers, and much more.

June 10 & 11 | 10 am–5 pm



UNCORKED

The museum's annual spring fundraising event celebrating art, wine, and community will benefit community outreach programs through the Learning & Engagement department this year.

June 9 | 6:30–11 pm \$

Ongoing Programs

DROP-IN DRAWING

Join artist Anna Kaye for fun and informal creative art sessions. Bring a drawing or sketching project of your own or get started on something new. All ranges of drawing experience welcome!

May 9 (onsite) & June 13 (online) | 1–3 pm

ART & ABOUT

Art & About tours are designed for visitors with early-stage Alzheimer's or dementia and their care partners. Experience and discuss art together on a tour led by a specially trained guide on the second Thursday of the month. Themes change every month.

May 11 & June 8 | 1–2:30 pm

MINDFUL LOOKING

Mindful Looking invites you to slow down and spend time with a single work of art. Discover overlooked details, pose questions, and explore ideas as we linger, look, and connect with art and with each other.

May 16 (onsite) & June 20 (online) | 1–1:45 pm

DROP-IN WRITING

Explore your creativity through the written word in our informal writing sessions led by instructors from Lighthouse Writers Workshop.

May 23 (onsite) & June 27 (online) | 1–3 pm

DEMONSTRATING ARTISTS IN THE LANDSCAPE STUDIO

On the weekends, get a behind-the-scenes look at the creative process and connect with local artists.

Thea Hunt, illustrator and cartoonist
May 6 & 7, 13 & 14 | 12–3 pm

Susan Dillon, fiber & mixed media artist
June 10 & 11, 24 & 25 | 12–3 pm

On View in Arts of Africa Gallery

Throughout history and across African cultures, hairstyles indicated age, ethnicity, and important life stages like fertility and death. Hairstyles also signaled wealth, social rank, marital status, and religious beliefs. Today, Black hair continues to point to ideas of survival, empowerment, and celebration.

Since ancient times, Africans have used combs, also called hair picks. In the 1970s, civil rights activists and those involved in countercultural movements adopted the Afro comb as a political statement and a symbol of a shared identity of Black people globally. Combs continue to serve as both tools for styling Black hair and as symbols of strength and pride.

POSTER IMAGES: **Luba artist, *Comb with Human Face and Beads***, mid-1900s. Wood, beads, fiber, and mud; 4 ¾ in. x 1 ½ in. Denver Art Museum: Anonymous Gift, 2001.997; **Akan artist, *Comb with Bird***, mid-1900s. Wood; 9 in. x 3 ½ in. Denver Art Museum: Anonymous Gift, 2001.1012; **Chokwe artist, *Comb with Man and Woman Figures***, mid-1900s. Wood, pigment, and fiber; 6 ¼ in. x 4 ½ in. x 1 ½ in. Denver Art Museum: Anonymous Gift, 2001.1004 **Ashanti artist, *Comb with Two Standing Figures***, mid-1900s. Wood; 10 ¼ in. x 4 in. Denver Art Museum: Anonymous Gift, 2001.1008; **Baule artist, *Comb with Bearded Human Face Wearing Headpiece***, mid-1900s. Ivory; 7 ¼ in. x 2 ¾ in. x 1 ½ in. Denver Art Museum: Anonymous Gift, 2001.948; **Akan artist, *Comb***, mid-20th Century. Ivory and metal; 4 ½ in. x 1 ¼ in. Denver Art Museum: Anonymous Gift, 2001.1025; **Luba artist, *Comb with Small Human Face***, 1900s. Wood; 6 ⅞ in. x 6 ½ in. x 1 ⅞ in. Denver Art Museum: Gift of Karl Karner, 1989.127; **Akan artist, *Comb with Head Wearing a Headpiece***, likely mid-1900s. Wood; 7 ½ in. x 3 ½ in. Denver Art Museum: Anonymous Gift, 2001.1010; **Ashanti artist, *Comb with Stylized Face***, early 1900s. Wood; 7 ¼ in. x 3 in. Denver Art Museum: Anonymous Gift, 2001.1006



Reciprocal Admission TO MUSEUMS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Family Plus members and above, now is the time to plan your summer vacation with your DAM membership benefits in mind! Enjoy reciprocal admission benefits at various of museums across the United States.

Visit a wide variety of museums while traveling, including the Seattle Art Museum, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Amon Carter Museum, Cornell Botanic Gardens (Contributing level and above only), and many more! For a full list of participating museums and more information around the two reciprocal levels we offer, visit denverartmuseum.org/membership.

To upgrade your current membership level and start taking advantage of this benefit, please call a membership associate at 720-913-0130.

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DENVER art MUSEUM

7 Sensory-Friendly Morning 9 am–12 pm
Member Spring Shopping Sale

2 Vaqueros y Charros, Waddies and Buckaroos: The African Roots of Cowboydom 6–7 pm



5 Member Spring Shopping Sale

6 Member Spring Shopping Sale

7 Sensory-Friendly Morning 9 am–12 pm
Member Spring Shopping Sale

8 Last day of Member Spring Shopping Sale

10 Art & About Tour 1 pm

11 Create Playdate 10 am–12 pm
Member Preview Reinstalled Hamilton Building galleries 10 am–2 pm

13 Member Preview Reinstalled Hamilton Building galleries 10 am–5 pm

14 FREE DAY
Foxy and Shmoxy: Art Detectives 10:30 and 11:30 am
Reinstalled Hamilton Building galleries open

16 Mindful Looking (onsite) 1–1:45 pm
Logan Lecture: Niki Hastings-McFall 6–7 pm

17 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 2:30 pm



20 Member Preview Reinstalled Hamilton Building galleries 10 am–5 pm

21 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 11 am

23 Drop-In Writing (onsite) 1–3 pm
Gerald Cassidy, *Cui Bono?* (detail), about 1971. Oil paint on canvas; 93 1/2 x 48 in. Collection of the New Mexico Museum of Art. Gift of Gerald Cassidy, 1915 (282.23P). Photo by Blair Clark.

24 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 2:30 pm



27 Member Preview Reinstalled Hamilton Building galleries 10 am–5 pm

June

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4 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 11 am

6 Rethinking Joseph Wright of Derby: How It Was Done and Why It Was Necessary 6 pm

7 Art & About Tour 1 pm
Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 2:30 pm



10 ayA Con 2023 10 am–5 pm

11 ayA Con 2023 10 am–5 pm
Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 11 am

13 FREE DAY
Drop-In Drawing (online) 1–3 pm

14 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 2:30 pm

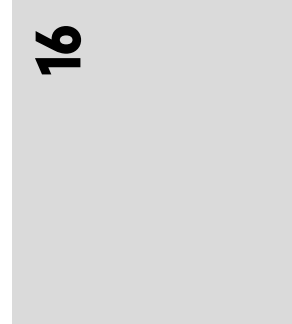
15 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 2:30 pm

16 Member Preview Reinstalled Hamilton Building galleries 10 am–5 pm

18 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 11 am

19 Mindful Looking (online) 1–1:45 pm

21 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 2:30 pm

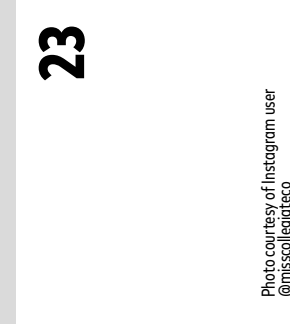


22 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 2:30 pm

25 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 11 am

26 Drop-In Writing (online) 1–3 pm

29 Member Tour Hamilton Building galleries 2:30 pm



30 Member Preview Reinstalled Hamilton Building galleries 10 am–5 pm

Enjoy summer with happy hour at The Ponti

4–7 pm Thursdays–Saturdays starting May 25

Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month with visits to the Asian art galleries and Islands Beyond Blue.

Join the DAM at Juneteenth and the Denver Pride Parade this month!

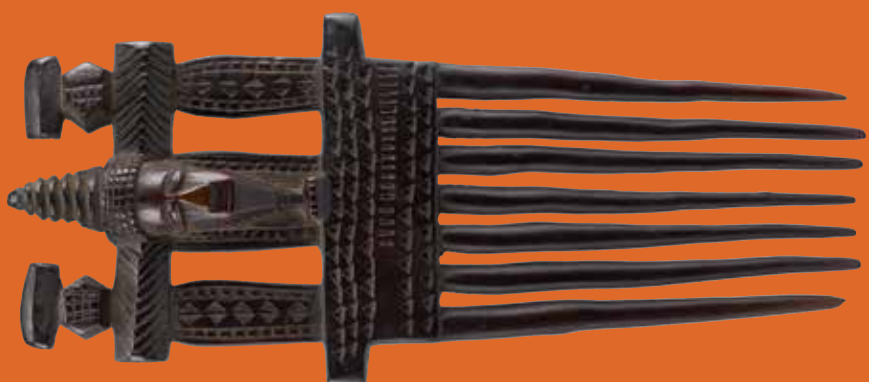
Photo courtesy of Instagram user @aaronmichaelstalent

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @scdfteencouncil

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @rubino.and.son

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @misscollegiateco

Photo courtesy of Instagram user @georgiaran



Coming Soon

Hamilton Building Collection Galleries

Opens May 14

Member Previews May 12 and 13

The reinstated arts of Africa, modern and contemporary art, and arts of Oceania collection galleries in the Hamilton Building will reopen to the public for the first time since campus construction preparations began in 2016.

Desert Rider: Dreaming in Motion

Opens July 9

Member Preview July 8

Explores lowrider and skateboard culture in Denver and across the American Southwest.

Now On View

Architecture and Design

By Design: Stories and Ideas behind Objects, Gio Ponti: Designer of a Thousand Talents, and Cast in Light: Czech Studio Glass showcase 350 objects from this collection.

Arts of the Ancient Americas

These galleries present artwork made by Indigenous communities from across the Americas, from the Southwestern United States to the Andes, beginning in 2,000 BCE.

Arts of Asia

With a mix of treasures from the past and exciting contemporary additions, about 840 artworks on view emphasize the continuity and connections between Asian artistic traditions.

European Art before 1800

These galleries feature approximately 65 works from the DAM's collection of paintings and decorative arts.

Her Brush: Japanese Women Artists from the Fong-Johnstone Collection

Through July 16

More than 100 paintings, ceramics, and calligraphy, many on view for the first time.

Indigenous Arts of North America

The DAM is home to a world-renowned and comprehensive collection of Indigenous arts of North America. A dedicated gallery titled Home/Land honors the local Ute, Arapaho, and Cheyenne communities.

Latin American Art

The DAM's Latin American art collection is among the most comprehensive in the United States and features artwork created in Latin America between the 1500s and the early 1900s.

The 19th Century in European and American Art

Works from the museum's collection created in the 1800s including paintings by Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, Berthe Morisot, Paul Cézanne, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and others.

Western American Art

The DAM's collection stands as one of the finest of its kind that presents the complex and inherently diverse story of western American art.



IMAGES, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT courtesy of Instagram users: @tobsessed; @jazzymelody; @legitlahp; @jayda.peningerrr; @reese_xoxo333; @culinary_queen; @cami_medrano09

Closing Soon

Speaking with Light: Contemporary Indigenous Photography

Through May 22

One of the first major museum surveys to explore the practices of Indigenous photographers working over the past three decades.

Near East to Far West: Fictions of French and American Colonialism

Through May 29

Explores the connection between French artists' depictions of North Africa and American artists' representations of the American West during the 1800s and early 1900s.

Rugged Beauty: Antique Carpets from Western Asia

Through May 29

Showcases rugs from the DAM's collection, as well as loans from The Textile Museum, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and from local private collectors.

Memory Mirror

Through June 19

An interactive installation by local artist Lares Feliciano invites visitors to explore their relationship with memory through animation, shadow boxes, and interactive storytelling.

Member Tours

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ART, ARTS OF OCEANIA & ARTS OF AFRICA GALLERIES

These 60-minute tours explore the museum's newly reinstalled collection galleries for modern and contemporary art, the arts of Oceania, and the arts of Africa. Free. Advance reservations recommended.

Thursdays, May 18–July 27 | 2:30–3:30 pm

Sundays, May 21–July 30 | 11 am–noon



OPENS MAY 14
MEMBER PREVIEWS MAY 12 AND 13

Daniel Yohannes Family Arts of Africa Gallery

The DAM's arts of Africa gallery features highlights from the museum's collection of African arts, which encompasses approximately 1,000 objects, largely from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including painting, printmaking, sculpture, textiles, and jewelry, as well as recent acquisitions of contemporary art. The updated presentation, spanning 2,300 square feet, centers a collection that illustrates the diversity, relevance, and dynamism of creativity and culture across Africa. For the first time, the gallery presents an expansive and inclusive view of the arts from the African continent with works from the sub-Saharan, Egypt, and North Africa.

The presentation is organized around three anchoring themes: the self, power and transformation, and manifestation. The first section, exploring the self, will examine how beauty is portrayed and communicated through the objects, clothes, and accessories in the collection—throughout history and in the present day. Works presented include traditional and modern hair picks, ceremonial headwear, and textiles. Among several pieces featured in this section will be a new acquisition by Ethiopian artist Selome Muleta.

The second section explores forms of power and how power is distributed and expressed. Objects on display, such as figures gifted as wedding presents and highly decorated furniture, tell stories of wealth and commerce in pre-colonial Akan cultures, while contemporary works on view address the effects of



"As we view this Egungun mask, let us remember that the guidance and support of the Ancestors remain significant to all cultures worldwide, expressed through art, music, and dance."

–Cleo Parker Robinson, founder and artistic director of Cleo Parker Robinson Dance

colonialism's legacy. This section features several recent contemporary acquisitions by the museum, including works by South African artist Phumelele Tshabalala and Ethiopian artist Merikokeb Berhanu. *Untitled LXX*, Merikokeb's 2022 painting (on page 2), was recently featured in the main pavilion of the 2022 Venice Biennale. Other significant recent acquisitions of contemporary art by African artists are also included in the neighboring modern and contemporary art gallery.

The final section will unite works from across time and place to explore the twin concepts of manifestation and transformation, with an eye toward universal themes of religion, tradition, birth, death, and rites of passage. Objects highlighting these concepts will include female fertility figurines from Ghana, ancestor masks, and spiritual text fragments, among others.



"In thinking about how to present the museum's collection of African arts, it was critical for us to center community perspectives and incorporate feedback from African immigrants, Black Americans, and local stakeholder groups," said Adekunle Adeniji, the Anderman Family Fellow for Arts of Africa at the DAM. For example, the gallery includes quotes such as the one on this page from Cleo Parker Robinson.

Included with general admission, which is free for members and everyone 18 and under.

For Members Only

Member Spring Shopping Sale

May 5–8 | 10 am–5 pm



Join us for the Member Spring Shopping Sale and enjoy 20% off all items in the Shop. Be sure to check out all of our new spring products, plus great gift ideas for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Members also enjoy 20% off in our online shop and free shipping. (Custom prints excluded from free shipping.)

Make a day of it—shop, explore the museum, and enjoy a meal at The Ponti! Come for brunch on Saturday, May 6, or Sunday, May 7, and enjoy a members-only hour from 10–11 am. To make reservations for this members-only hour, call 720-913-2761. To make a reservation during regular operating hours, visit thepontidenver.com.

Member Previews

Modern and Contemporary Art, Arts of Africa & *Islands Beyond Blue*

May 12 | 10 am–2 pm and May 13 | 10 am–5 pm



See the reimagined galleries first! Join us for a preview of the newly reinstalled Hamilton Building collection galleries. Explore the modern and contemporary art galleries, arts of Africa gallery, and *Islands Beyond Blue: Niki Hastings-McFall and Treasures from the Oceania Collection*. Included with general admission, which is free for members and everyone 18 and under. Special Spotlight Talks with docents will take place in these galleries 10 am–2 pm on both days.

Save the Date!

MEMBER PREVIEW

July 8 | 10 am–5 pm



Desert Rider: Dreaming in Motion opens July 9. You can see the show before it opens to the public at a special Member Preview on July 8, 10 am–5 pm. Reservations will open in June. Watch for more information about this presentation about art related to lowrider cars and skateboards in the next issue of *On & Off the Wall*.

MEET THE 2023 Cile Bach Award Recipients



The DAM celebrated our nearly 300 volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Week in April. Volunteers received awards during our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon April 19 for their 5, 10, and 20 years of service and countless hours of hard work and dedication. Two volunteers received the Cile Bach Award for exceptional service: Barbara Kelly and Gene Neiges.

Barbara Kelly

Barbara Kelly has been sharing the power of art with visitors of all ages for 52 years. She has provided full gallery tours, single object talks, classroom lectures, multi-week courses, and newsletter articles.

With Curator Ron Otsuka she founded the Asian Art Association support group in 1980, and was similarly involved with the Alianza de las Artes support group.

Barb received the education council's Scholar of the Year award in 1980. She is recognized as a serious and conscientious scholar of the arts of Asia, arts of the Ancient Americas, and Latin American art collections.

In her 52 years volunteering at the DAM, Barb has adapted and grown with the museum—supporting every building opening, new director, curator, program, or organizational change with grace and enthusiasm. In 2021, she assumed the new position of Docent Liaison for the arts of Asia collection, actively assisting staff with docent preparation for the reimagined installation of that collection in the Martin Building. She tirelessly steps up to challenges with a smile and determination to solve a problem, lead and encourage fellow volunteers, and move museum programs forward.

When asked what keeps her coming back to the museum, Barb credits the opportunity to learn, and to share that knowledge with others. Barb's dedication, commitment, and longevity as a DAM volunteer is most deserving of the highest recognition, which is represented by the Cile Bach Award.

Gene Neiges

Gene joined the museum's volunteer corps in 2013, and now serves as both as a docent and a visitor ambassador. He is an active and committed volunteer, with a passion for unlocking the power of art for museum visitors.

As a docent, he provides talks and tours in the Indigenous arts of North America, western American art, and European and American art before 1800 galleries. Gene embraced the new Spotlight Talk format introduced in 2022, and provides engaging and informative conversations tailored to the visitor audience.

Gene gives of his time, expertise, and commitment wholeheartedly. He volunteers at the museum several days each week. He is the volunteer the museum can count on for availability, and will come to the museum on a moment's notice. He also supports the Development department in a community outreach capacity.

He is passionate about volunteering and served on the Volunteer Strategic Plan Culture Committee. An advocate for fellow volunteers, he can be counted on to speak up and ask questions.

Gene says it is an honor to volunteer at the DAM, to have access to great artworks, and to be part of the museum community. He is grateful for the learning opportunities he has had. His dedication, passion, and volunteer service that goes above and beyond expectation exemplifies everything the Cile Bach Award is meant to honor.

DAM Uncreated

On a sunny day, with a blue sky and various shades of green and brown on trunks and leaves, we see a woman riding a motorcycle in a forest. Behind her, horses rush toward her. Immediately, this woman's body and facial expression catch our attention: she smiles without fear, holds her retro hat with one hand, and keeps leaning on the motorcycle with the other. This is a painting; therefore, we cannot perceive the movement in this image, but the way it indeed suggests the direction of the wind and the mixture of fun and informality.

The artist of this work, Hulda Guzmán, was born and raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She studied visual arts in the country and had a study period in Mexico. Painting is the language through which she moves. With nearly two decades of experience, the artist always had the relationship between the human body and the landscape as one of the focuses of her research, exploring it on different scales, but always keeping clear her interest in a particular fantasy and fictional character in her study.

This work recently acquired for the Denver Art Museum by the Contemporary Collectors' Circle is called *Jusqu'ici tout va bien (So far, so good)*, 2022. This work is part of a series that the artist produces in *plén air*, directly in the landscape, in the city of Samaná, and in the Dominican Republic. Therefore, many details that we see are based on observations made by the artist on the spot.

Guzmán says that this woman we see on the motorcycle is a self-portrait; the artist, then, is inserted in this ephemeral activity of running with the horses through the landscape. Looking more closely at the image, we realize that it is not just any model of vehicle—it is a Vespa, a type of Italian motorcycle that so often appeared in films made in the mid-twentieth century, especially between the 1950s and 1970 in Italy. An icon of Italian design and industrialization, this motorcycle here is placed in another visual context, the one of the Dominican Republic and, if you want, Latin America.

When we reflect on other elements of the image—not just the motorcycle, but the vintage clothing in the painting—and its French title, we can suspect with more certainty that this painting is a kind of homage not only to the tropics but also to the relationship between painting and cinema. Just as so many famous characters from Gina Lollobrigida, Monica Vitti, Sophia Loren, and filmmaker Lina Wertmüller asserted their freedom, Guzmán seems to indicate the same through her painting. This work is an excellent example of how images travel and allow us to create transhistorical and multigeographical relationships, always inviting the public to interpretation and making our comprehension of the world more complex.

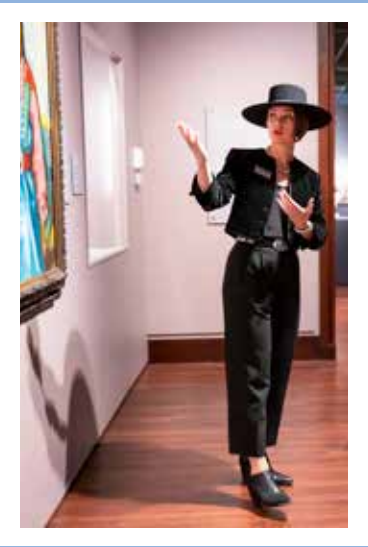
—Raphael Fonseca, Curator of Modern and Contemporary Latin American Art



In every issue, we highlight recent acquisitions or gifts to the Denver Art Museum. This painting is not currently on view. It is included in our online collection at denverartmuseum.org/search/collections.



Hulda Guzmán, *Jusqu'ici tout va bien (So far, so good)* (detail), 2022. Acrylic gouache paint on linen; 30% × 49% in. Funds from the Contemporary Collectors' Circle with additional support from Craig Ponzio; John & Sandy Fox; A. Barry & Arlene Hirschfeld; Baryn, Daniel, and Jonathan Futa; Bryon Adinoff & Trish Holland; Ellen & Morris Susman; and Margaret & Glen Wood, 2022.124. © Hulda Guzmán Conde



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