Director’s Letter

There has been plenty of terrific MOWA news lately and I am delighted to report that we have even more exciting developments to share with you.

You may have heard recently about the new “arts hotel” that the Marcus Corporation will open in downtown Milwaukee. The former Intercontinental Hotel, which closed at the end of December, is in the midst of a dramatic renovation and will reemerge in May 2019 as the state’s only arts hotel. It will be called the Saint Kate—a nod to Saint Catherine, patron saint of artists. The reimagined hotel promises spectacular spaces and experiences with a strong commitment to Wisconsin art and artists.

The news gets even better! The museum will be collaborating with the Marcus Corporation to create a MOWA platform within the Saint Kate in the heart of downtown Milwaukee. The new affiliation will offer changing exhibitions, artist talks, and a variety of programs featuring Milwaukee’s vibrant arts communities—a collaboration of this caliber between a museum and hotel is truly groundbreaking and incredibly special.

The year 2019 is shaping up to be fabulous for members and artists alike as MOWA expands its artistic footprint across the state. MOWA’s home in West Bend will continue to present the same high caliber exhibitions and programs you are accustomed to enjoying, while adding a new, compelling presence in downtown Milwaukee.

I look forward to seeing you here and there in 2019.

Sincerely,

Laurie Winters
Executive Director | CEO

SAINT KATE

THE ARTS HOTEL
WOMEN’S FORUM OF WISCONSIN
Wednesday, March 13 | 11:30–1:00
Meet fashion designer Linda Breshears Marcus (pictured below) and learn more about her life, career, and the forthcoming Saint Kate.
Register Online | $35 per person
For almost forty years, Charles Munch has lived on 220 acres of pristine forest and grassland close to Lone Rock in Wisconsin’s Driftless region. Drawing inspiration from his untamed surroundings, Munch has established himself as one of the most insightful artists working today on environmental issues in Wisconsin.

*Between the Lines* will feature thirty paintings from four decades that trace Munch’s evolution from pure landscapes to vividly imagined narratives that explore the often complex relationships between humans, animals, and their interactions with the natural world. It is, in fact, the presence—and interaction—of humans and animals that takes center stage in his dramatic vignettes. Although sometimes serene and in harmony, often his forest actors are threatened or confrontational and the outcome is uncertain. The paintings are often deliberately ambiguous or open-ended as Munch acknowledges that there are opinions besides his own and that some of the issues he addresses will remain unresolved. He avoids moral dictums: “I want my works to stimulate conversation and to encourage a variety of viewpoints.”
Munch’s paintings are deceptively simple. Since the early 1990s, he has shifted from a traditional realism to a linear, graphic style informed by comic books and commercial advertising. Bright colors, clearly defined lines, and bold, readable subjects are hallmarks of his current work. He eliminates unnecessary details and carefully composes each painting with the landscape as the principal backdrop for an unfolding narrative that packs the visual punch of a graphic cartoon though with none of the inherent humor.

The exhibition will include seminal early works such as Blood Rain (1987), which deals with the effect of acid rain on the landscape, and Boundary Issues (2003), which crystallizes the relationship between man and nature, symbolizing the conflict that can arise when the lines between their domains become blurred. Hush! (featured on the cover) acknowledges the common ground between humans and animals while also calling the viewer to quiet attention. Munch’s largest and most recent work to date, Family Vigil (pictured below), finds the artist taking an optimistic and conciliatory approach to nature that suggests a Garden of Eden. Is this a vision of a lost past or a desired future? Viewers must decide for themselves.

Support for 2019 exhibitions is generously provided by James and Karen Hyde, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Pick Heaters, and the Wisconsin Arts Board.

Cover: Charles Munch, Hush!, Oil on canvas, 2003 (detail)
Below: Charles Munch, Family Vigil, Oil on canvas, 2018 (detail)
Charles Munch is represented by Tory Folliard Gallery and Abel Contemporary Gallery.
Chris Maddox

ATLAS CHRONOS
On View: January 19–March 10
Opening Party: Saturday, January 19 | 2:00–5:00

Inspired by his artist-in-residence experience in Luxembourg in 2018—an opportunity made possible through a partnership between Ansay Development Corporation and MOWA—Maddox’s new works predominantly contain red, white, and blue, reflecting the shared colors of the United States and Luxembourg flags and his interest in politics and background in visual communication design. Visually, his works mix representations of architecture, art, currency, manufactured goods and services, religion, and economic symbols. This multiple-component approach is an homage to the German cultural theorist and historian Aby Warburg, whose 1,000-image Mnemosyne Atlas was designed to elicit strong, personal reactions and a sense of understanding of the depth and breadth of the human condition.

Chris Maddox, Red, Acrylic, enamel, tape, and collage on paper, 2018
Influenced by the assemblages of Surrealist artists Joseph Cornell and Marcel Duchamp, Peter Dahlke works within the confines of constructed boxes made from pieces of old pipe organ wood. He carefully fills each box with an assortment of antiques, toys, tools, and visually engaging objects that spark the imagination. Dream Spaces is the artist’s first major retrospective comprised of more than two dozen works. Dahlke—an 80-year-old retired Milwaukee Public School teacher—has long been involved in the arts scene of Milwaukee and this exhibition is the culmination of a sophisticated, life-long fascination with dream spaces and the visual power of ordinary objects.

MOWA'S SATELLITE LOCATION
Saint John’s On The Lake, 1800 N. Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee

Clockwise from left: Peter Dahlke, I Do!, A Numerical Expression, Memento Mori, Mixed media assemblages, 2016
Exhibition Activities
Meet Wisconsin artists and explore their work through talks, tours, and celebrations.

OPENING PARTY
Saturday, January 19 | 2:00–5:00
Celebrate the opening of Charles Munch: Between the Lines and Chris Maddox: Atlas Chronos. Meet the artists, make art in the studio, and enjoy live music, light bites, and a cash bar.

GALLERY CONVERSATIONS WITH CHARLES MUNCH
Saturday, February 2 | 11:00–12:00
Drop in the Hyde Gallery and strike up a casual conversation with artist Charles Munch. Take a break for lunch and return in the afternoon for an artist talk and book signing.

ARTIST TALK AND BOOK SIGNING
Saturday, February 2 | 2:00–3:00
Meet Charles Munch and learn about his work, career, and creative process. Plus, purchase your copy of the exhibition catalogue in the MOWA Shop and get it signed by the artist.

NEW CURATOR TALKS
Tuesday, February 12 | 10:30–11:30
Saturday, February 23 | 11:00–12:00
Attend a lively talk by Curator Graeme Reid on the work and life of artist Charles Munch.

GALLERY TALK AND TOUR
Tuesday, February 26 | 10:30–11:30
Go on a tour of the Chris Maddox: Atlas Chronos exhibition led by Curator Graeme Reid.
Carl von Marr Day
Saturday, February 9 | 2:00–3:00

Attend a talk in the atrium as Beth Lipman reflects on the work of Carl von Marr and its relationship to her own work. The event will conclude with cake in honor of Marr’s February 14 birthday.

When the Museum of Wisconsin Art was founded in 1961, its mission was to preserve and present the work of Milwaukee-born painter Carl von Marr (1858–1936). While over the years MOWA’s mission has expanded, the legacy of Marr looms large—especially for those standing before his masterpiece The Flagellants. Each year, MOWA celebrates Carl von Marr Day with a guest speaker whose expertise sheds new light on the artist’s work. This year, MOWA welcomes Sheboygan-based glass artist Beth Lipman, whose monumental installation InEarth has recently taken residence as a breathtaking centerpiece in the gallery of Marr works.

“I hope that the dialogue between The Flagellants and InEarth poses new questions about social forces such as religion, the body, and the cycles of nature,” said Lipman. “There are parallels between the two compositions, especially the theme of humans being at the mercy of powers beyond their control. Visually, InEarth is a good counterpoint to The Flagellants. As you walk around the installation there’s a dance between the human figures in the painting and the glass flora.”

Special thanks to the Melitta S. and Joan M. Pick Charitable Trust for its ongoing support of MOWA.
Art Making for All Ages
Free Programming for Members

STUDIO SATURDAYS
Every Saturday | 10:30–1:30
Drop in for an art-making studio for all ages and artistic backgrounds. Get creative and explore new art techniques each week.

VALENTINE’S DAY
Saturday, February 9 | 10:30–1:30
Get ready for Valentine’s Day and craft your own valentine for someone you love. Puns, poems, and hearts galore are welcome at this special Studio Saturday.

MINI MASTERS
First and Third Tuesdays | 10:15–11:00
Young artists embark on a sensory adventure with their caregivers, featuring story time, a work of Wisconsin art, and a studio project.

SPARK!
Last Tuesday | 10:30–12:00
People with memory loss and their carepartners engage in multi-sensory activities featuring Wisconsin art. Register Online

Support for education programs is provided by the Bert L. and Patricia S. Steigleder Charitable Trust, Irene and Walt Skipper, Lyle and Victoria Reigel Family Fund, and the Wallace and Marion Scheunemann Fund at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

The Wisconsin History and Visual Arts Program is sponsored by
Junior Masters
Spring Break Camps
Become a Wisconsin Artist

Looking for a creative escape during the week of Spring Break? Young artists will explore artworks in MOWA’s permanent collection and head to the studio inspired to create their own unique masterpieces. Youth Education Coordinator Jordan Gibbon will teach students different drawing and painting techniques used by some of Wisconsin’s most prominent artists.

Attend one, two, or all three days of camp!

FOREST LANDSCAPES
Wednesday, March 27
10:30–12:00 | Ages 5–8
1:00–3:00 | Ages 9–12
Learn secrets of forest landscape painting and make artwork inspired by Henry Vianden’s painted trees.

ABSTRACT PATTERNS
Thursday, March 28
10:30–12:00 | Ages 5–8
1:00–3:00 | Ages 9–12
Get creative with abstraction after examining the Patterns in Black and White series by Charles Thwaites.

COLORFUL PORTRAITS
Friday, March 29
10:30–12:00 | Ages 5–8
1:00–3:00 | Ages 9–12
Make large-scale portraits that dazzle with color and glitter like contemporary artist Romano Johnson.

Morning Session: $15 per day with Membership
Afternoon Session: $20 per day with Membership
Register Online | All Supplies Included

From top to bottom: Henry Vianden, In The Dells 1880, Oil on canvas, 1880; Charles Winstanley Thwaites, Patterns in Black and White, Acrylic on Masonite, 1961, Gift of CWT Art LLC representing the Estate of Charles W. Thwaites (detail); Romano Johnson, Walk Style Blue Jackson, Acrylic on canvas with glitter, 2017, Gift of Timothy and Susan Frautschi (detail)
GUARDIAN is the gold standard of fine art services. Located at 1635 West St. Paul Avenue in Milwaukee’s Menomonee Valley, this five-story building, originally constructed in 1924, today houses a state-of-the-art facility for fine art.

At the helm of this endeavor is John Shannon, a longtime MOWA member together with his wife, Jan Serr, who has exhibited at the museum in its former location and its Saint John’s On The Lake satellite gallery. As avid collectors, they graciously opened their home to MOWA’s Friends of Wisconsin Art in 2015 as part of the collectors’ tour series. Their personal collection of 4,000 objects, passion for collecting, and expertise (John is a former Board President of the Racine Art Museum), was the impetus for launching GUARDIAN, which fills a distinct niche in Wisconsin.

Over the past year since GUARDIAN has been in operation, it has often been referred to as a place for fine art storage. That emphasis on place may emerge from the impressively pristine facility, with every system flawlessly purpose-built for fine art. As the name GUARDIAN suggests, there is also an emphasis on service with a great degree of personalization involved. In addition to storage, GUARDIAN offers services including collection management, packing and crating, installation, appraisals and conservation consultations, and transportation. Viewing rooms for meetings and seminars serve as a resource for collectors, whether museums, corporations, or individuals. A dedicated workshop, an internal loading dock, and more, the business employs best practices and expert staff.

On entering the facility, you first encounter an exhibition space dubbed The Warehouse, which currently displays Concentrations, highlights from the collection of John and Jan. Who better than art lovers dedicated to art’s long-term safety and well-being to fill a void in the market and assist with its custodianship? We are lucky to have GUARDIAN looking over our shoulders and appreciate its support of MOWA.
In 2019, Friends of Wisconsin Art members will enjoy visits to artist studios, trips, and curator-led exhibition tours. A sneak peek of the 2019 exhibition schedule includes:

- **Among the Wonders of the Dells: Photography, Place, Tourism**, the first comprehensive history of photography that tells the 170-year story of the Wisconsin Dells' transformation from natural wonder and ancient Native American site to Waterpark Capital of the World.

- The first major retrospective of one of the greatest contemporary landscape painters, Tom Uttech.

Don’t miss invitations to special experiences around these exhibitions—join or renew today!

**FOWA MEMBER WELCOME**

Thank you to the following members who recently joined or renewed at the Benefactor, Partner, and Premium levels.

**Benefactor | $1,000**
- Kathryn Burke and Michele Reid
- Ellen Drought
- Allan Kieckhafer
- Cynthia and Tom LaConte
- Salvador and Kathleen Milella
- Margi and John Murphy
- Barbara Muth
- Wendy Sleight
- Lee and Donna Whitcomb

**Partner | $500**
- Bill and Carol Gehl
- Charles and Anne-Lee Geiger
- Bill and Sara Alderson
- Joe Berman
- Kathleen Burke
- William Burke
- Beth Chapman
- Phillip and Patricia Crump
- Timothy and Cheryl Dahlstrand
- Roman Draba
- William and Kerry Lynn Ferris
- Tory and Tom Folliard
- Dan and Sherri Hauser
- Jim and Barbara Heiligenstein
- Kelly McDonough and Denis Chernyshov
- Mildred Michalski
- Carmen Mockrud
- Barb Pfeifer-Woog and Gunter Woog
- Bruce and Yoke San Reynolds
- Andrea and Rob Sellinger
- Irene and Walt Skipper
- Donna and Bruce Steinhardt

**Premium | $250**
- Lori Gensch
- Marilyn Holmquist
- Andrew and Lori Kimmel
- Chuck and Karen O’Meara
- Michael Schilling
- Virginia Schumann
- Mark and Marsha Voegeli
- Paul Ziegler

*List as of November 19, 2018

For more information, contact Liz at 262.247.2271 or lknopke@wisconsinart.org
On January 15, 2018, mixed-media artist Chris Maddox arrived in Luxembourg. As the second artist selected for the emerging artist-in-residence program—an opportunity made possible through a partnership between Ansay Development Corporation and MOWA—Maddox spent ten weeks at Bourglinster Castle, his only task was to make art.

T.F. Tell me about your background as an artist.
C.M. Before turning to fine art, I had a visual design business and worked as Creative Director of an e-commerce start-up. This background in advertising, design, and brand identity certainly left its mark. Exposure to the different needs of clients made me chameleon-like, able to entertain new concepts and paradigms.

T.F. How did you prepare for the program?
C.M. I didn’t go into it with a strategy. There were maybe three weeks between when I learned of receiving the residency to when I actually departed. During those three weeks, I was wrapping up another residency at Central Michigan University while also preparing for an exhibition in Madison.

I visited the Roots and Leaves Museum of the Luxembourg American Cultural Society in Belgium, Wisconsin. I came to see Luxembourg
as a country whose identity is deeply informed by being at the geographical, historical, and linguistic crossroads of Belgium, Germany, and France.

**T.F. What was the experience like?**

C.M. Being in Luxembourg reminded me how different life is in societies with a different kind of history. I couldn’t see cobblestones without thinking, “Wow, those are nine hundred years old!” I found myself thinking in terms of longer stretches of time and not so much about the day-to-day news cycle.

This unusual experience of time triggered the work I did. There was a second-hand bookstore near my studio that sold old books on history and religion. I also found myself collecting current newspapers and magazines. I began playing with the images from these old and new publications, trying to find connections. Eventually the organization of images began coalescing around the books I had brought with me; books on how humans have sought salvation over the ages. The ancients had a particular way of understanding the universe and making sense of life and death. Then Christianity came along with new ideas and the Renaissance challenged many of these ideas. Then the Enlightenment challenged many of those ideas. The work I made in Luxembourg investigates where we currently are in this story. Is this a post-salvation age? Or are commercialism, consumerism, capitalism the latest stages of salvation?
Volunteer at MOWA

Get involved, give back, and learn more about Wisconsin art. MOWA is looking for volunteers to work with staff and share their expertise.

Special Events
Exhibition Openings, Fundraisers, Art & Chalk Fest, Bloomin’ Holidays, Private Celebrations

Children’s Activities
Studio Saturdays, Mini Masters, Junior Masters

Docents
Youth and Adult Tours

Get started at wisconsinart.org/volunteer

SAVE THE DATE
ART BALL 2019
Saturday, June 15 | 6:00

The Art Ball is MOWA’s biennial signature fundraiser supporting art acquisitions and art education. For more information, call 262-247-2262 or email hwirth@wisconsinart.org.

Visit
Tuesday–Sunday 10:00–5:00
Thursday 10:00–8:00
Closed Mondays
Free Parking

Contact
Classes, Programs, and Tours
262.247.2277

General Information
262.334.9638

Host An Event
262.247.2278

Member Relations
262.247.2271

MOWA Shop
262.247.2241

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