

Diverse Western New York

December 5, 2023
- March 17, 2024



**CASTELLANI
ART MUSEUM**
OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY

An Exhibition Curated by
Niagara University's
Introduction to Museum
Studies (AHM252A) Course

Exhibition Overview

The cultural diversity within the Western New York region has produced a variety of artistic talents. Contemporary artworks from the Castellani Art Museum collection were chosen to showcase different sizes, colors, and mediums, visually reflecting the concept of diversity. This exhibition also features artists of different cultures, races, and ages, providing wide representation of the peoples here. Embrace the vibrant creativity of artists in this area by learning about them and their works.

Diverse Western New York is curated by Niagara University course AHM 252A: Introduction to Museum Studies, a hands-on course that builds understanding from museums' history, societal roles, and key features. Students made personal choices about the layout, artwork selection, and messages that would be communicated through the art, based on their education throughout the class.

Acknowledgments

As a class, we'd like to thank: Mary Helen Miskuly for helping us gather exhibition works from the collection, Ellen Owens for teaching the course and guiding us through the process, Michael Beam for framing and installing the exhibition, Edward Millar for designing the catalog, and Jessica Minicucci for designing the postcard and promoting the exhibition.

(cover detail) William Y. Cooper, *Black Males Endangered*, n.d., oil on canvas.

Reflect on Your Experiences

How does your community shape your world views?

How do your surroundings affect your tastes and self-expression?

SELECT WORKS

"I am an Afrocentric artist. My worldview is rooted in an African frame of reference and a deep, abiding sense of the creator from whence I draw my inspiration, strength, and a sense of who I am. The use of symbols allows me to explore literal ideas."

William Y. Cooper



(detail) William Y. Cooper, *Black Males Endangered*, n.d., oil on canvas.

Symbolizing one's life story and purpose through art allows for many other interpretations and connections to form with its viewers. **William Y. Cooper**, an African American man who was born in Birmingham, Alabama, moved to Buffalo where he began his artistic journey. While attending the University of Buffalo and eventually teaching art at the university himself, Cooper became famous for his many mediums of art.

Throughout his life, Cooper created dozens of paintings and drawings, and even created some murals. He used his African American heritage to inspire his work and the subjects of his art, as seen in this piece about violence towards Black men.

Ellen Steinfeld's art is inspired by nature, interweaving shapes and colors with organic forms. These intricate arrangements of leaf-shaped handmade papers maximize vibrant colors, highlighting the distinction of each paper's beauty.

"Four Graces reflects my fascination with nature and the idea of art as the construction of personal worlds."

Ellen Steinfeld



(detail) Ellen Steinfeld, *The Four Graces*, 1983, handmade paper.

Steinfeld is an active artist from Western New York. She graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pennsylvania. The artist creates artworks in various mediums, including acrylic, watercolor, mixed media, sculptures, and installation.



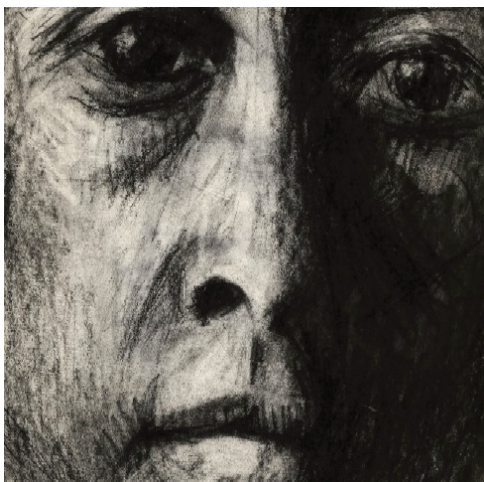
(detail) Rosemary Rickard Hill (Tuscarora Nation, Beaver Clan), *Table Doily*, 1999, glass beads on velvet.

Rosemary Rickard Hill's brightly colored glass beads sewn into the velvet give a pleasing contrast to its darker color. Other beads are layered below to give the beadwork an elevated texture, known as "raised beadwork." Its design centers on two birds, surrounded by leaves and flowers.

Rickard Hill, from the Tuscarora Nation near Lewiston, New York, continues to make and teach the Tuscarora raised beadwork technique. Through her award-winning artistry, she reinstates designs and beadwork techniques from her ancestors.

"Beading has always been with us; we've never lost it. We've only improved on it: improved with color, different ways to put it together... sturdier ways."

Rosemary Rickard Hill



(detail) Juan Perdiguero, *Untitled*, 1992, charcoal on paper.

"Above all, I look for simplicity and balance."

Juan Perdiguero

Juan Perdiguero was born in Madrid, Spain. Perdiguero's style is primarily freehand drawings of animals and human figures, similar to this portrait. He uses different techniques that involve painting, drawing and photography in order to create images that will attract viewers.

Perdiguero is currently a professor of art at SUNY Oswego and an educator at CÉPA Gallery in Buffalo. He has been granted various art and fellowship awards.

AHM252A: Introduction to Museum Studies

This course is a hands-on interdisciplinary introduction that builds understanding for museums' history, societal roles, and key functions. As students explore these components, they also learn about the process of building an exhibition and directly apply their knowledge and creative ideas to a public exhibition as the culminating project.

Course Instructor: Ellen M. Owens

Student Curators: Alexis Benedetti | Danica Marks | Joshua Lacourse | Lauren Palaoro | Noraleigh Moffett | Tucker Sylvester | Violet Printup | Yejin Oh

Art History with Museum Studies Program

Art History with Museum Studies is both an academic and professional program that provides students with a scholarly study of art, culture, and museums, while focusing on the area of professional museum work such as curatorship, education, collections management, museum administration, and development.

Our partnership with the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University, centrally located on the campus, is an integral part of the museum studies component and provides opportunities for museum internships and exhibition-based courses.

Exhibited Artworks

All works are Collection of the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University unless otherwise indicated.

Malcolm Bonney (American, b. 1953)
The Whole Day Will Tumble and Out the Night Will Spill, 1979
oil on canvas
Dutch Harbor Series
Gift of Dr. and Mrs. Armand J. Castellani, 1989

Barbara Buckman (American, b. 1972)
Untitled, 1984
collage
Gift of Savino Nanula, 1984

Charles Clough (American, b. 1951)
Cocitble, 1985-94
enamel on masonite
Gift of the Artist, 1996

William Y. Cooper (American, 1934-2016)
Black Males: Endangered, n.d.
oil on canvas
Gift of the Diane Castellani and Terrance Bromley Family, 2016

Frank Eckmair (American, 1930-2012)
There Was a Time, 1968
woodcut
Gift of Joyce Fink, 2016

Zhuqing Fucha (Chinese, b. 1945)
Panorama of Niagara, 1996
ink and watercolor
Gift of the Artist, 1996

Cheryl Greene (Onondaga Nation, Wolf Clan, b. 1954)
Denim Jacket With Beaded Buffalo Bills Logo, 1992
denim, glass beads on felt
Purchased from the artist, 1999

Rosemary Rickard Hill (Tuscarora Nation, Beaver Clan, b. 1953)
Table Daily, 1999
glass beads on velvet
Museum Purchase, 1999

Penny Hudson (Tuscarora Nation, Turtle Clan, 1956-2021)
Untitled Boot Pincushion, 1999
glass and plastic beads, velvet, sawdust, cotton-poly fiber fill
Museum Purchase, 1999

Arnold Mesches (American, 1923-2016)
Art in Public Places I, 1983
acrylic on canvas
Gift of Marie and Thomas O'Donnell, 2011

Juan Perdiguero (Spanish, b. 1963)
Untitled, 1992
charcoal on paper
Gift of Wade and Lori Stevenson, 2005

Joseph Piccillo (American, 1937-2022)
Edge Event I, No. VIII, 1982
lithograph, ed AP 2/10
Courtesy of the Castellani Family

Marlene Printup (Cayuga Nation, Bear Clan, b. 1938)
Untitled Pin Cushion with Bird's Nest motif, n.d.
glass beads and velvet
Gift of the artist, 1996

Mary Lou Printup (Tuscarora Nation, Turtle Clan, 1939-2008)
Ornament, n.d.
glass beads, fabric, wire
Gift of the artist, 1996

Mary Lou Printup (Tuscarora Nation, Turtle Clan, 1939-2008)
Ornament, n.d.
glass beads, fabric, wire
Gift of the artist, 1996

Mary Rickard (Tuscarora Nation, Bear Clan, 1928-2012)
Untitled Bird Ornament, 1999
glass and plastic beads, velvet, cardboard, poly fiber fill
Museum Purchase, 1999

Cesar Romero (Puerto Rican, birth date unknown)
Untitled Vejigante Mask, 1993
papier mache
Gift of Mrs. Eleanor Castellani, 2005

Ellen Steinfeld (American, b. 1945)
The Four Graces, 1983
handmade paper
Gift of Anne Incorvia and Family, 2011

Lauren Tent (American, b. 1946)
Portrait of Cesar Romero, 1993
black and white photograph
World Games Series
Museum Purchase, 1993

Lauren Tent (American, b. 1946)
Portrait of Penny Hudson, Marylou and Marlene Printup, 1993
black and white photograph
World Games Series
Museum Purchase, 1993:073

Lauren Tent (American, b. 1946)
Portrait of Zhuqing Fucha, 1993
black and white photograph
World Games Series
Museum Purchase, 1993:060

Neil Tetkowski (American, b. 1955)
Earth Disk Mandala, 1992
ceramic
Gift of Jesus Valle, 1999:239

John Vassar House (American, 1926-1982)
Spark, 1978
bronze with patina
Gift of Carborundum Corporation, 1996



Council on the Arts

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ART MUSEUM
OF NIAGARA UNIVERSITY



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Please visit our website for current hours of operation.
The Castellani Art Museum is a free admission art museum.
Donations welcome.