



FRAMEWORK

THE DORIS ULMANN GALLERIES AND BEREA COLLEGE ART COLLECTION NEWSLETTER

A NOTE FROM THE CURATOR

With the Spring 2023 term winding down and the May commencement activities upon us, I've been reflecting on what an exciting and fulfilling year we have had at the Doris Ulmann Galleries.

When I started in the role of Curator in August, I had many goals in mind for my first year. Most importantly, I hoped to increase student engagement in the Galleries through intentional and thoughtful collaboration with faculty and staff across campus and to expand the museum's outreach efforts through offering more opportunities for class visits in the Galleries. While this work will forever be ongoing, I am thrilled to share that we have seen a drastic increase in the number of faculty and students who are taking advantage of the incredible permanent collection through class visits and individual research appointments. To support this endeavor, we have created a dedicated teaching space in the Rogers Gallery for these learning opportunities to take place. I've also worked to make the Galleries a space for student-driven art encounters and this year, we have hosted one student-curated exhibition and two student "pop up" exhibits. A small glimpse of this growth and effects of our outreach efforts can be gleaned through the data (pictured right). Moving forward, we hope to reach even more faculty and students who have yet to visit the Galleries and share with them the amazing, impressive art collection that is housed here at the College.

It has also been a personal joy for me to be back in the classroom after a semester away from teaching in the Fall. The students in my Introduction to Museum Work course have confirmed (and exceeded) all the positive things I heard about Berea College students before I arrived here. I am so impressed by their thoughtful, careful approaches to divisive and complex issues in the field of museum studies and by the extensive research they have conducted on artworks in the permanent collection, which will soon be made available to the public on the Doris Ulmann Galleries website. Working with these students and every student who has been a part of a class visit this year has been one of the most rewarding parts of my very multifaceted job. [Continued on pg. 2]



45

class visits

14

artist talks, gallery tours, and other events

73

artworks gifted to the permanent collection

42%

growth in social media followers

2

student pop-up exhibitions

16,006

total artworks and objects in the permanent collection

4

student research appointments

174

artworks pulled for class visits

... a note from the curator, continued

I am also grateful to our supportive – and growing! – museum community as I have worked with our remarkable Galleries staff to expand accessibility to the Berea College Art Collection through more consistent and extensive updates to the public-facing database on the Galleries' website and through social media outreach. The connections I see being made through conversations at artist talks and other events, or even in the comments section on Facebook, are, for me, tangible proof of art's uncanny ability to bring people together.

Throughout this newsletter you will find a review of the past few months at the Galleries - wrapping up the slate of exhibitions that were originally scheduled for 2020-2021 - and a small preview of what's to come in the Fall. We're looking forward to a robust offering of curated and visiting artist exhibitions for the 2023-2024 year!

Always,



Kelsey Frady Malone, PhD



Prof. Adam Edelman's GSTR 210 students visited the Galleries in March with one question: How can visual art be a catalyst for building community? They learned about the many ways that art and craft traditions can bring people together.

CLASS VISITS AT THE GALLERIES

With over 16,000 artworks and artifacts, the Berea College Art Collection is one of the largest university art museums in the region - and an incredible resource for the students, faculty, and staff who learn and work here. This semester, the Galleries were host to twenty-five class visits for faculty teaching in all kinds of disciplines, from Studio Art and Art History to Education, Spanish, Health and Human Performance, English, and more! Much like working with the archives at Hutchins Library, a visit to the Doris Ulmann Galleries provides students access to primary visual sources that can enhance their understanding of both the past and our shared present, while teaching important skills such as visual analysis, historical empathy, critical thinking, and collaborative problem solving.

Art can be a catalyst for all kinds of conversations, and the staff at Doris Ulmann Galleries design each and every class visit to be uniquely tailored to meet the learning objectives of individual faculty. To learn more about how the Berea College Art Collection can support your course goals, or reserve a class visit for your students, contact Kelsey Malone (malonek2@berea.edu).

Top: Prof. Rebecca Smith discusses different weaving techniques with her ART 134 students using examples of weaving traditions from South America, the Middle East, Appalachia, and Asia. Middle: Students in Dr. Nicholas Hartlep's Intro. to Education class play a word-association game with a poster designed by American painter Norman Rockwell. Bottom: Prof. Mike Litzau points out specific techniques used by Rembrandt for students in Intro. to Printmaking.

SPRING 2023 EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

KATIE HARGRAVE: FLAG WAVING JANUARY 11 - FEBRUARY 10

For the first exhibition of 2023, Chattanooga-based artist Katie Hargrave shared a multi-faceted body of work combining a diverse array of methods, including printmaking, installation, and video art, to deconstruct, decode, and question how political messaging works in contemporary American society. Hargrave gave a captivating artist talk on January 11, coinciding with the exhibition opening to kick off the start of the semester.



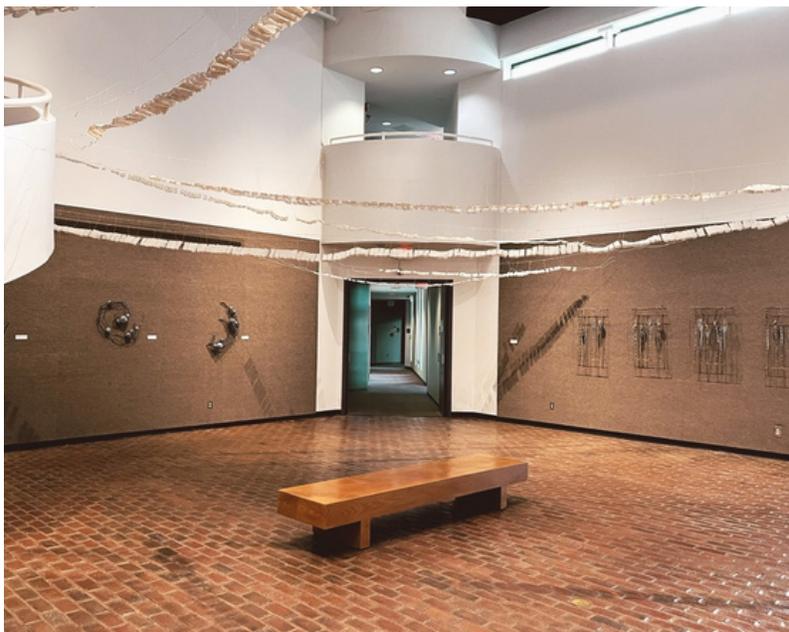
MOLLY JO BURKE & NATHAN GORGEN: WHAT'S WORTH KEEPING JANUARY 17 - FEBRUARY 17

On display in the Rogers Gallery, "What's Worth Keeping" showcased a series of artworks made in collaboration by Molly Jo Burke, a glass and interdisciplinary artist, and Nathan Gorgen, a sculptor, wood worker, and digital fabrication specialist. Together, the artist couple utilizes the excess materials that are found or left over from their individual artistic practices, their daily lives, and the natural and built environments they encounter. The resulting artworks are whimsical creations that challenge the viewer to reconsider their own environment and the things we use or discard daily and ask, "What is worth keeping?" Burke and Gorgen were present for the exhibition's closing reception, where they spoke to students, faculty, and staff about their collaborative artistic practice.



HANNA VOGEL: CRADLING JANUARY 18 - MARCH 17

For the longest-running exhibition of the term, the Lower Traylor Gallery was transformed by Hanna Vogel's floating bridges, constructed of handmade paper and string, which created an otherworldly environment. The works on view in "Cradling" explored various responses to the effects of climate change on our daily lives and moods with references to fairy tales, picture books, microscopic fungal species, and methods of escape. On March 15, Vogel joined students via Zoom from her home in Philadelphia for an artist talk to share more about her artistic process.



SPRING 2023 EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS



LESLIE SMITH & KATIE WIGGLESWORTH: UNUSUAL CARE FEBRUARY 22 - MARCH 24

This exhibition presented a collaborative body of work by printmaker and book artist Leslie Smith and textile artist Katie Wigglesworth. Made in response to research they completed at The Penland School of Craft, founded by Lucy Morgan who learned to weave at Berea College, the artworks in this exhibit investigate the great leap it takes to both start a craft school and be an artist in difficult times. The two artists gave a hybrid artist talk on March 21, with Smith visiting in person and Wigglesworth joining via Zoom from California.

STUDENT POP-UP EXHIBIT: ABRY REEDER & ELLEN SCHLEY FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 3



Abryanna Reeder (Class of '23) and Ellen Schley (Class of '24) exhibited work in the Dorothy Tredennick Student Gallery that they made while in Prof. Dan Fineberg's Sculpture and Intermedia course last Fall. Utilizing ceramics, woodworking, and metal, Abry's and Ellen's artworks invite viewers to question traditional modes of art display, audience, and interaction.

STUDENT POP-UP EXHIBIT: PAT BELLANDO APRIL 17-24

An Art History major with a passion for creating artworks of their own, Pat Bellando (Class of '23) makes work in response to their observations of interactions between trees, lichen, and moss. Collectively titled *Regrowth*, this body of work was created while Pat was working with Director of Ceramics and Assistant Professor of Art Philip Wiggs. The decision to leave the ceramics unfired for display in the Dorothy Tredennick Study Gallery was a deliberate one. As Pat says, this "allows the work to change slowly as it dries in the gallery, mirroring the slow change of the life forms it tentatively mimics."



SPRING 2023 EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

"SHATTERED CEILINGS" APRIL 17 | ROGERS GALLERY

In April, a crowd of students, faculty, retirees, and alumna gathered in the Rogers Gallery for an interdisciplinary showcase of art and music created by American women of the twentieth century. Working under the close mentorship of Dr. Kelsey Malone and Dr. Madeline Rogers, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music (pictured top right), students in the Music and Art & Art History Departments recorded the musical compositions that played as guests viewed a selection of artworks curated by Art History major and Doris Ulmann Galleries labor student, Dante Stewart (Class of 2023). The event was a huge success and afterwards, the exhibition of artworks, which included pieces by Elizabeth Catlett, Maria Montoya Martínez, and Anna Hyatt Huntington, remained in the Rogers Gallery through the rest of the semester.



Visitors gathered in Rogers Gallery to hear recordings of compositions and look at artworks made by American women in the 20th century.

dis/comfort: SENIOR EXHIBITION APRIL 11 - MAY 3

The annual Senior Exhibition takes place each Spring in the Upper and Lower Traylor Galleries, showcasing bodies of work made by graduating Studio Art majors. This year, “dis/comfort: Senior Exhibition” features paintings, prints, handmade books, and mixed media pieces made by Elsa Black, Shaylee Hall, Abryanna Reeder, Betsy Schley, Liv West, and Megan Woolverton.

Each student has crafted a series of artworks that represents their unique vision and talents, the result of four years of diligent study and creative exploration, but tying these works together are themes of comfort and discomfort. In what ways do the objects we surround ourselves with, the places we frequent, the structures within which we grew up, the expectations we set for ourselves, and the tiny memories our minds hold on to provide comfort... or not?



RECENT ACQUISITIONS & GIFTS

RECENT GIFTS TO THE BCAC FROM GERRY AND SHELLY ELLIOTT



Gerry and Shelly Elliott in their Washington, DC, home, 2022.
Photograph by Justin Skeens.

Gerry and Shelly Elliott have been donating large gifts of artworks, mostly works on paper, to the Berea College Art Collection for over fifteen years. In just the past school year alone, the Elliotts have gifted over 30 framed prints to the permanent collection. In their time as fine art print collectors, the Elliotts have collected an incredibly wide range of prints - prints that are diverse in style, technique, time period, and culture - that enable us to showcase much of the long and fascinating history of that medium, both in our gallery spaces and through class visits and research appointments. These artworks are an invaluable gift to the permanent collection. Last year, filmmaker and photographer Justin Skeens visited with the Elliotts and created a short documentary about the Elliotts' collecting history and the impact of their gifts at Berea College.

FRIENDS OF THE DORIS ULMANN GALLERIES



The Berea College Art Collection has grown exponentially over the nearly 90 years since it was established in 1935, from a modest collection of paintings and artifacts to over 16,000 objects that span roughly 5,000 years of the history of human artistic creation. The College's fine art collection is an invaluable resource for our students and broader campus community, and it would not be possible without the generosity of generations of donors and friends of the College who have gifted their prized art pieces so that Berea College students could benefit from a world-class art education.

Like most art museums today, we are working to fill gaps in our Collection to ensure we are able to provide our students with as many diverse artistic voices and perspectives as possible. Additions to the permanent collection through intentional purchases are made possible by monetary gifts to the Friends of the Doris Ulmann Galleries Fund. In recent years, these funds have gone towards expanding the Collection's holdings of works by women artists of color, including Elizabeth Catlett, An-My Lê, Wendy Red Star, and Alison Saar (pictured left). To support the Doris Ulmann Galleries and contribute to future purchases, visit www.dulmann galleries.berea.edu/support, or reach out to Curator Kelsey Malone (malonek2@bera.edu) to learn more.

Alison Saar (American, b. 1956), *Breach*, 2017, woodcut on vintage linen seed sacks, Purchased with Support from the Friends of the Doris Ulmann Galleries, 2018.03.01

BUON VIAGGIO, ELIZABETH!

After working at the Galleries for six years, first as a labor student and then as the BereaCorps Art Gallery and Collections Associate, Elizabeth Ronilo is leaving for graduate school. Elizabeth's contributions to the Galleries are immeasurable and she'll be greatly missed. We wish her the best on her next adventure, but before we let her go, we've asked Elizabeth to reflect a bit on her time working with the Collection:

Hello! My name is Elizabeth Ronilo and I am the Art Gallery and Collections Associate here at the Doris Ulmann Galleries and Berea College Art Collection. I first began working here as an Exhibitions Assistant in the Spring of 2016 when I was a freshman. My primary role was prepping art for display and installing exhibitions. I transitioned to a Collections Associate around 2017. In that position I began working on photographing the artworks in our extensive collection, conducting object research, and assisting with class visits. The numerous skills I acquired while working as a student are ineffable; it was an opportunity I will forever be grateful for.



Elizabeth Ronilo (Class of 2019). Photograph by Justin Skeens.

I graduated from Berea College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History with a focus in Archaeology and the Classics. I was then hired in 2020 for my current position in BereaCorps. Over the past three years, I have done a little bit of everything that I did as a student, and then some. In my time here, I have photographed close to 4,000 objects and assisted with close to 100 class visits. I cannot fully put into words the valuable life and professional skills I have learned in my six years working with the collection, but some of my favorite days have involved researching specific artifacts and helping lead an ongoing inventory project. I still don't think I have seen every piece in the Collection, but I have tried my best to make that happen. I will miss being able to see some of my favorite artworks daily.



Unknown artist, from Germany, *Music Box Doll* (aka, "Gabriel"), 19th century, porcelain, cloth, metal, and wood, Gift of Lucy Titcomb, 40.112

However, working here has given me the skills and confidence to pursue a career in cultural heritage which will enable me to work with and for communities to preserve both tangible and intangible culture. For my next adventure, I will be pursuing a Master's degree in Cultural Heritage at the American University of Rome in Italy. Leaving Berea will be bittersweet. I will miss Kentucky's sunsets, artworks from our collection that I have come to love dearly, and the lovely team I work alongside every day. I am excited to embark on this next chapter of my life. However, a piece of my heart will always remain here (probably because Gabrielle, my favorite doll from the Collection, has stolen a part of my soul and trapped it in his music doll body). I will be eternally grateful for this experience, my dear teammates, and our Curator, Dr. Kelsey Malone. I can't wait to see all the wonderful things that will happen here at the Galleries next year!

Ciao!

Elizabeth Ronilo

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS - FALL 2023

ALL PEOPLES OF THE EARTH: SELECTIONS FROM THE BEREA COLLEGE ART COLLECTION

Dimitrie Berea Gallery, August 30 - December 6



ABSTRACTION / PATTERN / GEOMETRY / DESIGN

Masterpiece Gallery, September 6 - March 13

MARGO DUVALL & KATHERINE STRAUSE: AROUND AND AROUND

Lower Traylor Gallery, September 6 - October 13



SKETCH: CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS IN CONVERSATION WITH EMILY GRACE HANKS

Lower Traylor Gallery, October 25 - December 6

The exhibitions listed above are just a small selection of the shows offered in the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters. To stay up to date on exhibits, events, and more offered at the Galleries, follow us @DorisUlmannGalleries on Instagram or Facebook!

