FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FAM


It is with great pleasure that I can report that fiscally and programmatically, the state of the museum is strong. Another year of careful financial management, including a balanced operating budget and the continued growth of our development office has allowed the museum to operate a number of projects and programs from a strong financial base.

As the premiere museum supporting New England contemporary art and artists, we delight in providing innovative offerings like Fantastical, Political. We are deeply grateful for such programs from our inspired director Nick Capasso, talented curator Lisa Crossman and the hardworking team at FAM.

The museum is proud to partner with Fitchburg State University, the City of Fitchburg, NewVue Communities and others as a community leader in a number of projects. We are proud to be a leader in the ongoing renaissance in the City of Fitchburg. For example, the repurposing of the former B.F. Brown School into affordable artist housing is a project that will transform our neighborhood.

As you enjoy this report, I hope you will accept our appreciation for the accomplishments your support makes possible. Please join with us in celebrating the continued successful growth and development of FAM and our community.

On behalf of the Trustees of the Fitchburg Art Museum,

SUSAN M. ROETZER, President, FAM Board of Trustees

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAM

In fiscal year 2018, the Fitchburg Art Museum made great strides in the implementation of our 2016–2020 Strategic Plan. We embarked on feasibility studies to create both an arts-based after-school program for children in our Elm Street neighborhood, and a comprehensive on-site climate-controlled storage facility for the 6,000 (and growing) artworks in our permanent collection. We began a process to fully rebrand the Museum, which will roll out in 2019, and continued to work with multiple community partners towards the economic revitalization of Fitchburg.

In this report, we turn the focus to art and artists, with a special emphasis on our growing collection of photography and an unprecedented gift to our permanent collection. Our commitments to community service and education, vital components of our institutional DNA, were the focus of our 2016 and 2017 Annual Reports.

Here at FAM, we continue to seek innovative ways to use art to inspire our visitors to expand their view of themselves and the world, and work to improve the quality of life in North Central Massachusetts. Our aspirations and recent successes would not be possible without the devotion and commitment of the whole FAMily — our dedicated staff, Trustees, Community Advisors, Members, Corporate Members, docents and other volunteers, donors, institutional and community partners, visitors, supporters, and advocates. It is my pleasure and privilege to lead our Museum, and I thank each and every one of you for your support.

NICK CAPASSO, Director
OUR MISSION

The Fitchburg Art Museum is a catalyst for learning, creativity, and community building. We accomplish this mission with art historical collections and exhibitions, special exhibitions of contemporary New England art, education programs, public art projects, community partnerships, and creative economy initiatives.

OUR VISION

All decisions, initiatives, projects, and programs at the Fitchburg Art Museum reflect our commitment to education and the greater community.

Here at FAM, we continue to seek innovative ways to use art to inspire our visitors to expand their view of themselves and the world.
PHOTOGRAPHY AT FAM

This year the Fitchburg Art Museum’s already impressive collection of photography was significantly improved with the largest single gift of art to FAM since our founder Eleanor Norcross established our collection in the 1920s. Dr. Anthony Terrana, a Boston-area collector, began the process of donating over 500 photographs and other works of art to our permanent collection.

Dr. Terrana began acquiring photography in 1990, and quickly amassed one of the most impressive collections in the Northeast. His gift to FAM spans the history of photography, with a primary emphasis on large-scale, digital, contemporary, color prints. The artists represented in the collection are international, and include seminal figures like Eadweard Muybridge and Alfred Stieglitz, along with contemporary masters Rineke Dijkstra, Lalla Essaydi, Abelardo Morell, and William Wegman.

This unprecedented gift builds upon the collection carefully put together over twenty-two years by FAM’s Consulting Curator for Photography, Stephen Jareckie (former Curator of Photography at the Worcester Art Museum). Mr. Jareckie’s expertise in 19th and 20th-century straight black-and-white photography, and his lifetime of relationships with artists, collectors, dealers, and auction houses, enabled him to acquire for FAM important photographs by Ansel Adams, Carl Chiarenza, Harold Edgerton, Walker Evans, Dorothea Lange, Minor White, Garry Winogrand, and many others. The passionate work of Stephen Jareckie and the generosity and vision of Dr. Terrana now combine to create at the Fitchburg Art Museum an important collection of photography that substantially represents the history of the medium up to the present day.

Other collectors have also been instrumental to this effort, and we hasten to thank the following individuals for their support of photography at FAM: Irina and Harry Brandler, Harley Fastman, Al and Linda Fisher, Dr. J. Patrick and Patricia Kennedy, Martin Goldman and Dorothy Klepper, Arlette and Gus Kayafas, Saundra Lane, the Museum Project, Gratia Williams Nakahashi, the Estate of Jude Peterson, Jeanne and Richard S. Press, Nancy Crowell Reinbold, and Robert and Elaine Smith.
The passionate work of Stephen Jareckie and the generosity and vision of Dr. Terrana now combine to create at FAM an important collection of photography that substantially represents the history of the medium up to the present day.


Opposite Page, Middle: FAM Director Nick Capasso, Consulting Curator for Photography Stephen Jareckie, and photography collector Dr. Anthony Terrana


FAM’s new Curator, Dr. Lisa Crossman, led our Curatorial team in organizing and presenting several new solo and group exhibitions of the work of contemporary New England artists.

For People Watching: Then and Now, contemporary artworks by thirteen New England artists were directly juxtaposed with works of historical portraiture from FAM’s permanent collection, connecting the past and the present.

**Fantastical, Political** brought together work by five New England artists who embedded topical political content within unusual and extraordinary aesthetic strategies.

Artist Dave Cole tunes his *Music Box*, a repurposed and transformed steamroller that plays the National Anthem, for **Fantastical, Political**.

Visionary artist Howard Johnson with artworks from his solo exhibition, *Howard Johnson: Phantastrophies*.

Below: Cynthia Consentino, *Topsey-Turvey Mother* (right) and *Topsey-Turvey Daughter* (left), 2017, stoneware, glaze, flocking, oils, 57” x 17” x 17” (Mother), 46” x 19” x 21” (Daughter)

Right: The *Music Box*, 2012, Caterpillar CS-553 vibratory roller-compactor with cherry wood, and spring steel, 8’ x 19’ x 11’
Exhibitions Opened in 2017–2018
People Watching: Then and Now
Educating Eleanor
People and Places: Contemporary Photographs from the Collection of Dr. Anthony Terrana
Fantastical, Political
Shelter in Plates:
  Chantal Zakari and Mike Mandel
Mirrors and Windows: Photographs from FAM’s Permanent Collection
Howard Johnson: Phantastrophies
The 83rd Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft
Lynda Schlosberg: Multiverse
Call and Response: E. Pluribus Unum
Photography to Realism

In the Community Gallery 2017–2018
ArtsWorcester
Saima Park, Inc.
AED Foundation Inc.
New England Shutterbugs
Oakmont High School
Good Press Printmakers
The Opioid Project
Arc of Opportunity
Quilts by Material Girls
McKay Arts Academy
Applewild School
Artists, their guests, FAM Members, and visitors enjoyed the opening reception of the 83rd Annual Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft. This show included 106 artworks created by 90 artists from 44 area cities and towns. This year’s First Prize Winner was Carrie Crane.

Top

As the First Prize Winner in FAM’s 2017 82nd Regional Exhibition of Art & Craft, Lynda Schlosberg was awarded a solo exhibition, Lynda Schlosberg: Multiverse, in the summer of 2018.

Below

Koch Curatorial Fellow Lauren Szumita organized Mirrors and Windows: Photographs from FAM’s Permanent Collection.

Artworks from FAM’s permanent collection, installed at ArtsWorcester, in Call and Response: E Pluribus Unum.
Opposite, above
One of the many communities served by FAM is New England contemporary artists. We exhibit and collect their work, offer professional development opportunities, and are working to create affordable artist housing in Fitchburg (see back cover).

While FAM vigorously supports the work of local artists from North Central Massachusetts, the largest nearby concentration of contemporary artists lives and works in Worcester, the second-largest city in New England. Artists are drawn to Worcester for its rejuvenating economy, colleges and universities, proximity to Boston, and cultural attractions like the Worcester Art Museum, the Worcester Center for Crafts, and ArtsWorcester.

ArtsWorcester and the Fitchburg Art Museum have been strong and trusted partners since 2012. ArtsWorcester is an artist membership organization of over 300 emerging and established visual artists, and annually offers myriad exhibition, educational, and networking opportunities. Our missions of service to contemporary New England artists are fully aligned.

Our flagship collaboration is the ongoing exhibition series, Call and Response. For each of the last five years, FAM Curators and ArtsWorcester staff have identified ten works of art from FAM’s permanent collection, centered on a unifying theme, and then exhibited them in ArtsWorcester’s downtown gallery. This “call” is addressed to ArtsWorcester members, who are invited to make an artistic “response,” by creating new artworks inspired by the art historical treasures from FAM. ArtsWorcester then organizes an exhibition of the contemporary responses, which is visited by FAM curators who select ten of the new artworks to be shown alongside the FAM artworks in our Community Gallery the following summer. Call and Response has given fifty ArtsWorcester artists a significant exhibition and professional development experience, while also providing an additional venue and expanded audience for FAM’s permanent collection.

“The Fitchburg Art Museum appreciates the importance of living artists, both in its collection and its region, and offers them unprecedented professional opportunities. With FAM as ArtsWorcester’s trusted and treasured partner, we’ve created a community of artists and art-lovers that runs the length of I-190, benefitting artists and art lovers in both our cities.”

**JULIET FEIBEL**  Executive Director, ArtsWorcester
Each year, the Fitchburg Art Museums offers multiple opportunities for people in our community to get together, connect with their creativity, experience new ideas, and enjoy fascinating experiences in a friendly, safe, and beautiful place. FAM is for everyone!

At admission-free Family Day young art lovers learn about South American fauna

In 2018, FAM and our partner, the Laurelwood Garden Club, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Art in Bloom festival, a spring weekend event in which floral interpreters place spectacular arrangements of flowers and greenery throughout the Museum, connecting the inspiration of art with the beauty of nature.

Every summer, FAM participates in the Highland Street Foundation’s Free Fun Friday program, which supports free admission at arts and culture venues throughout Massachusetts. At FAM, families enjoy exhibitions, performances, artmaking activities, and refreshments, while connecting with people from across New England.
In March 2018, our FAMily got together for a Night at the Museum to Rock the 1920s with Eleanor! This festive party celebrated FAM's founder, Eleanor Norcross, the establishment of the Museum in 1925 and its public opening in 1929, and the great things happening here today!

Top

Education is vital to FAM’s mission. Every year, the Museum provides fully-funded field trips (including bus transportation, admission, and tour fees) to every 4th and 7th grade student in the Fitchburg Public Schools, thanks in part to generous funding from Enterprise Bank.

Lower left

One of the most popular and rapidly-growing special programs at FAM is Hidden Treasures, developed for people with Alzheimer’s disease or other memory loss and their caregivers. Participants enjoy an exhibition tour with trained FAM docents, engage in conversations about art, and explore their creativity.

Lower right

FAM is for everyone! ¡FAM es para todos!
TOTAL ANNUAL GIVING

NORCROSS SOCIETY
We are grateful to the members of the Norcross Society, our leadership recognition society for individuals who have contributed $1,000 or more between July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018.

$10,000 and above
Ronald M. Ansin
Anna Clementi
Gale Simonds Hurd
Mary Levin Koch
Dr. Anthony Terrana

$5,000–$9,999
Anonymous (3)
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Susan Cunio Salem and James Salem

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$1,000–$2,499
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Ryan McGuane
Nancy Rossi Moses
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Thank you also to the many members and friends who made contributions of up to $99. We are grateful to all of our donors. Your generous support enabled us to achieve all of the great work represented in this report.

Gifts In Honor Of
Stephen Jareckie
Patricia Oksansen
Peter Timms

Gifts In Memory Of
Gertrude Arvo
Margaret Aziz
Julia Casey
Genevieve Cataldo
Frances Mercadante
Shanna Zide

Major Contributed Goods & Services
Harvard Art
Ingrid’s Gardens
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The accuracy of this list is important to us. If we have printed your name incorrectly or omitted anyone, please notify our office so that we may correct our records.
Institutional Donors and Sponsors

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- Bank of America Foundation
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- Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts
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Up to $1,000
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- Fitchburg Cultural Council and the Local Cultural Councils of the following towns: Acton-Boxborough, Ashburnham, Ayer, Bolton, Chelmsford, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Lexington, Lunenburg, and Townsend
- Amy Green, Certified Orthopedic Therapist
- Laurelwood Garden Club
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Rebecca Wright, Director of Development

*former staff
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Alexandra Gray, Education Intern, Clark University
Tyler Jacques, Marketing Intern, Fitchburg State University
Justin Keohane, Marketing Intern, Fitchburg State University
Jill McNamara, Marketing Intern, Fitchburg State University
Kelsey Petersen, Collections Intern, Tufts University
Mona Samoda, Education Intern, Upward Bound Program at Fitchburg State University
Shira Tall, Marketing Intern, Fitchburg State University
Rebecca Tenen, Curatorial Intern, Worcester State University

FAM’s 2018 Annual Report is made possible by a generous gift from Trustee Gale Simonds Hurd.

On the front cover: Yasumasa Morimura (Japanese, born 1951) An Inner Dialogue with Frida Kahlo (Flower Wreath and Tears), 2001, color photograph, Gift of Dr. Anthony Terrana, FAM 2017.137

Photography by: Norm Eggert, Deb Faucher, Tyler Jacques, Jill McNamara, Kledia Spiro, Charles Sternaimolo, Emily Zollo
Fitchburg Art Museum and NewVue Communities, a regional community development corporation, are partnering to create the Fitchburg Arts Community, 57 units of affordable mixed-income rental artist live/work space currently being developed on a campus of three distinguished former municipal buildings directly across Elm Street from FAM — one block from the city’s historic Upper Common in the North of Main Neighborhood, the most culturally diverse neighborhood in North Central Massachusetts.

The Fitchburg Arts Community’s apartments and studios will be available to those who work in Creative Industries as defined by the Mass. Office of Housing and Economic Development, a broad array of fields that span from fine artists to fashion and graphic designers, to film/video professionals and those working in advertising, marketing, and cultural non-profits.

This year, the City of Fitchburg transferred ownership of the buildings to NewVue Communities, and design work is underway with ICON Architecture, a Boston firm with deep experience with artist live/work spaces in adaptive re-uses of historical buildings. ICON is responsible for the Appleton Mills Studios in Lowell, and the Westinghouse Live/Work Lofts in Hyde Park. Financing is being finalized, and repair work on the B.F. Brown building has commenced. The Fitchburg Arts Community could be ready for occupancy as early as 2021.

The Fitchburg Art Museum is committed to working with residents to create, nurture, and sustain a creative community in Fitchburg. This partnership will include professional development, cross-programing and marketing, public art, and other opportunities.

The Fitchburg Arts Community is one of several concurrent renovation projects sparking a cultural renaissance in the heart of downtown Fitchburg, including the renewal of Main Street’s 1853 City Hall, and Fitchburg State University’s restoration of the Theater Block, a 1,600-seat performance venue across the street from City Hall. Together, these pipeline projects represent close to $75 million in simultaneous investment in the revitalization of downtown Fitchburg.

ICON Architecture’s rendering of a restored and repurposed B.F. Brown building, part of the planned Fitchburg Arts Community.