YEAR in REVIEW
July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019

BOWDOIN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART
BRUNSWICK, MAINE
FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

The Walker Art Building—the historic home of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art—marked its 125th anniversary this past year. In recognition of this milestone, the Museum organized a series of exhibitions and programs that both celebrated and considered anew its historic and contemporary collections. A new collections catalogue—the first since 1981—was also published with written contributions by more than seventy scholars who included Bowdoin faculty and students in addition to experts from around the world.

Such anniversaries are good occasions to take stock of the past and think critically about future priorities. In this spirit, the Museum unveiled earlier this year a new “Strategic Directions” document, a plan for the next five years that has taken shape after more than a year of conversation with staff, faculty, students, and supporters. These are our three leading objectives:

1. Generate Teaching and Learning
2. Support an Inclusive and Diverse Community
3. Encourage the Development of Creative Dispositions

The timing is auspicious as the College turns its own attention to the future and to the important challenge of defining the “knowledge, skills, and creative dispositions” with which it aims to equip its students. The Museum aspires to serve as a partner with our faculty and staff colleagues in this ambitious and forward-facing endeavor.

We appreciate the generosity of many friends. Your support makes possible the ambitious exhibitions, public programs, and educational activities that occur at the Museum. We look forward to seeing you back at the Museum in 2020, as we celebrate, among other things, the bicentennial of Maine statehood. Thank you again for your support.

Anne Collins Goodyear
Frank H. Goodyear III
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<th>BCMA BY THE NUMBERS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>36,909</strong> VISITORS</td>
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<td><strong>1,115</strong> ADDITIONAL PATRONS ATTENDED OFF-SITE PROGRAMS</td>
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<td><strong>233</strong> BOWDOIN CLASS SESSIONS HELD IN MUSEUM</td>
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<td><strong>77</strong> UNIQUE BOWDOIN CLASSES HELD AT THE MUSEUM</td>
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<td><strong>66%</strong> OF BOWDOIN DEPARTMENTS HELD A CLASS IN THE MUSEUM</td>
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<td><strong>2,634</strong> STUDENTS VISITED FOR CLASSES</td>
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<td><strong>3,176</strong> OBJECTS PULLED FROM STORAGE FOR BOWDOIN CLASSES</td>
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<td><strong>71%</strong> OF THE CLASS OF 2019 ATTENDED A CLASS IN THE MUSEUM DURING THEIR BOWDOIN CAREERS</td>
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<td><strong>74</strong> PUBLIC PROGRAMS</td>
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<td><strong>16</strong> STUDENT-LED PUBLIC PROGRAMS</td>
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<td><strong>70</strong> TOURS LED BY BOWDOIN STUDENTS</td>
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<td><strong>1,420</strong> ADULTS PARTICIPATED IN GUIDED TOURS</td>
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<td><strong>1,535</strong> K-12 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN GUIDED TOURS</td>
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<td><strong>25</strong> MAINE TOWNS SENT SCHOOL GROUPS TO THE MUSEUM FOR A TOUR</td>
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<td><strong>333</strong> WORKS ACQUIRED FOR THE PERMANENT COLLECTION</td>
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<td><strong>507</strong> MEMBERS OF THE MUSEUM</td>
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<td><strong>$0</strong> COST TO VISIT THE MUSEUM</td>
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FEATURED EXHIBITIONS

ART PURPOSES: OBJECT LESSONS FOR THE LIBERAL ARTS
June 29 through November 10, 2019

This is a show about ideas held at a teaching museum. It very much fits the multidisciplinary model of a liberal arts college. On the one hand, we are being introduced to a vast range of art objects in Bowdoin’s encyclopedic collection, but we cannot help noticing how seemingly disparate works often dovetail in their content and concerns. “Art Purposes” makes a great argument for why the museum is a phenomenal tool for serving the college’s mission.

Maine Sunday Telegram, October 6, 2019
Phenomenal set of exhibitions! Always exceeds expectations.

Museum comment book, February 22, 2019

MODERNISM FOR ALL: THE BAUHAUS AT 100

March 1 through May 12, 2019

For a small space, it’s a big show with a great deal of worthy information. . . . It also makes sense that Bowdoin College would mount a [Bauhaus centennial] show. James Bowdoin founded the first college art collection in America intended for teaching. Set in the Beaux-Arts gem of a museum designed by the leading American architect of the day, Charles McKim, the modernist impulses of the Bauhaus are only more apparent.

Maine Sunday Telegram, March 31, 2019

Installation views of Modernism for All: The Bauhaus at 100.
MATERIAL RESOURCES: INTERSECTIONS OF ART AND THE ENVIRONMENT
December 6, 2018 through June 2, 2019

From Egyptian tombs to toxic corn, there’s more to environmental art than what you see. A sweeping exhibition of 2,000 years of artworks at Bowdoin College in Maine challenges viewers to reconsider the relationship between art and nature. The definition of environmental art has broadened in recent years, and “Material Resources” seeks to crack it open even wider.

National Resources Defense Council, March 5, 2019

I loved the student led tour! So great to hear students’ passion and to learn so much about the works.

National Resources Defense Council, March 5, 2019

Visitors enjoy a tour of Material Resources.
LET’S GET LOST AND LISTENING GLASS
September 27, 2018 through September 29, 2019

Like undulating ripples of water swept by a lingering breeze, swirls of black lines converge and disperse in linn meyers’ site-specific drawing Let’s Get Lost. Complemented by an interactive sound installation Listening Glass, the piece transforms the Walker Gallery at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art into a multi-sensory metaphor for artistic process, ephemerality and time.

Bowdoin Orient, September 28, 2018

Detail of Let’s Get Lost; artist linn meyers working on the wall drawing and sound installation Listening Glass in tandem with artists Rebecca Bray, James Bigbee Harvey, and Joshua Knowles. Students assisted with the installation of these works.
EXHIBITIONS

A Handheld History: Five Centuries of Medals from the Molinari Collection at Bowdoin College
July 26, 2018 through January 20, 2019

In the Round: Ancient Art from All Sides
August 23, 2018 through October 13, 2019

Let’s Get Lost and Listening Glass
September 27, 2018 through September 29, 2019

Kate Furbish and Edwin Hale Lincoln: New England Botanical Studies
October 4, 2018 through February 10, 2019

Among Women
October 11, 2018 through April 7, 2019

1968—Spring of Discontent: The Photography of Michael Ruetz
November 15, 2018 through January 6, 2019

Material Resources: Intersections of Art and the Environment
December 6, 2018 through June 2, 2019

Fashioning Modernity: Art and Independence among the Yorubas in Nigeria
January 17 through March 17, 2019

Chinese Ceramics, Jades, and Paintings
February 1, 2019 through January 5, 2020

Modernism for All: The Bauhaus at 100
March 1 through May 12, 2019

Photographic Lives: Robert Freson, Irving Penn, and the Portrait
March 28 through June 2, 2019

The Nineteenth Century: European and American Art
May 2, 2019 through January 5, 2020

Treasures from the Wyvern Collection: A Special Preview
May 23 through June 2, 2019

Suspense: Key Moments in Midcentury Art
May 30 through August 18, 2019

Art Purposes: Object Lessons for the Liberal Arts
June 29 through November 10, 2019

Emerging Modernisms, 1900–1950
June 29, 2019 through March 29, 2020

Superb example of creative research at its best. Stunning!

Museum comment book, July 28, 2018
GIFTS
Collection of thirteen Old Master prints, ca. 1630–ca. 1830, gift of Mary K. and John F. McGuigan Jr.

_Houses on a Village Street_, black chalk and gray wash with pen and black ink, ca. 1650, by Pieter Molijn (Dutch, 1595–1661), Museum Purchase, with support by George and Elaine Keyes and an anonymous donor [below, left]

_Capriccio of Roman Ruins_, pen and brown ink drawing, ca. 1670, by Jacob van der Ulft (Dutch, 1621–1689), Museum Purchase with funds contributed by George and Elaine Keyes and an anonymous donor

_Windsor Armchair_, wood, ca. 1780, gift of Susan Zuckert in loving memory of Donald Mack Zuckert ’56.

_Machiasport Petroglyph Drawing_, ink on coated cloth, ca. 1868–69, by Henry Taylor (American), gift of Carole A. Pope in memory of her father, Gardner Chase Pope ’34 and in honor of her brother, John Alan Pope ’64, and her son, Matthew Scott Wilcox ’88


Theater (Watson), oil on canvas, 2001, by Katherine Bradford (American, born 1942), gift of Katharine J. Watson in celebration of the artist

Balsam Lake, Mountain Wild Forest, Ulster County, New York, October 15, 2016, 24-hour video, 2016, by Mark Tribe (American, born 1966), Museum Purchase, with support from the Collectors’ Collaborative and the Helen Johnson Chase Fund
PURCHASES


Saint Bavo of Ghent and a Kneeling Donor, painted glass roundel, ca. 1525–30, by an unidentified artist, Bequest and gift of Miss Susan Dwight Bliss, Charles Potter Kling, and Dr. Bernard Samuels, by exchange

Sojourner Truth, albumen silver print, 1864, by an unidentified artist, Museum Purchase, James Phinney Baxter Fund

Portrait of Yvonne Jacquette Burckhardt, oil crayon, ca. 1962–63, by Mimi Gross (American, born 1940), Museum Purchase, Greenacres Acquisition Fund

Masking Myself, ink and marker, 1972, by David C. Driskell (American, born 1931) Museum Purchase, Barbara Cooney Porter Fund

Cloudscape, single-channel video installation, black and white, sound, 2004, by Lorna Simpson (American, born 1960), Museum Purchase, Lloyd O. and Marjorie Strong Coulter Fund, with the New Media Arts Consortium, a collaboration of the art museums at Bowdoin College, Brandeis University, Colby College, Middlebury College, Mount Holyoke College, and Skidmore College

Grandma and JC in Her Kitchen, gelatin silver print, 2006, by LaToya Ruby Frazier (American, born 1982), Museum Purchase, Gridley W. Tarbell II Fund [top left]
SELECTED PROGRAMS

The Museum is well-known on campus and beyond for its active calendar of public programs, including scholarly lectures, gallery conversations, musical performances, film screenings, academic symposia, and public tours by faculty, students, and Museum staff. During the past year, the Museum invited many special guests to participate in programs and to deliver public presentations. Seventeen Bowdoin faculty members and seven Bowdoin students led gallery programs in conjunction with exhibitions. In addition, the Museum brought to campus an outstanding group of scholars, curators, and artists. The following list of speakers reflects the breadth and excellence of the public programs at the Museum.

Makeda Best (Harvard Art Museums)
Sarah Bond (University of Iowa)
Rebecca Bray (artist)
Nicola Courtright (Amherst College)
Melissa Cullina (Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens)
Robert Freson (photographer)
James Bigbee Garver (artist)
Todd Gustavson (George Eastman Museum)
Josh Knowles (artist)
Macauley Lord ’77 (L.L. Bean Outdoor Discovery School)
linn meyers (artist)
Laura Muir (Harvard Art Museums)

Elizabeth Otto (SUNY Buffalo)
Jennifer Powell (Kettle’s Yard, University of Cambridge)
Ellen Price (Serge Sabarsky Collection)
Yelena Rakic (The Metropolitan Museum of Art)
Stephanie Rothenberg (artist)
Stephen Scher (collector)
Jennifer So (University of Hong Kong)
Andrea Sulzer (artist)
Mark Tribe (artist)
Peter Van Alfen (American Numismatic Society)
Robert Wellington (Australian National University)
David Ying and Phillip Ying (Bowdoin International Music Festival)
LIST OF DONORS

The Bowdoin College Museum of Art is grateful to the many alumni, parents, friends, foundations, and others who support the Museum through gifts, memberships, and grants. The following includes gifts received between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy.

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As of June 30, 2019

15
Summer Exhibition 2020

AT FIRST LIGHT: TWO CENTURIES OF ARTISTS IN MAINE
June 27–November 15, 2020

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of statehood, the Museum brings together some of the most outstanding artistic treasures created in Maine over the last two centuries. All artistic mediums are represented, including painting, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, photography, new media art, and various craft traditions. The exhibition honors the extraordinary diversity that characterizes the arts in Maine.

Front cover: Bowdoin Dance Collective performs a piece choreographed in response to Let’s Get Lost and Listening Glass; visitor enjoys a quiet moment in the gallery; and Ben Wu ’18 leads a tour of A Handheld History.

Bucket List destination. Thank you for being here.
Museum comment book
July 15, 2018