



DAVID OWSLEY MUSEUM ^{OF} ART ^{BALL STATE} ^{UNIVERSITY}

ANNUAL
REPORT
2024-2025

FROM THE DIRECTOR

In the fiscal year 2025, the museum extended an exhibition by popular demand, organized a traveling exhibition for the first time in nearly a decade, and reached a major milestone.

The David Owsley Museum of Art (DOMA) began the year with the exhibition *The Art of Elizabeth Catlett from the Collection of Samella Lewis*, which examined the life and art of a woman who is among the most important African American artists of the twentieth century. In October, DOMA hosted Dr. Melanie Herzog, a renowned scholar of African American art and former dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Edgewood College in Madison, Wis., for a presentation that emphasized radical empathy in Catlett's work. In November, we screened a remarkable film, *Standing Strong: Elizabeth Catlett*, and introduced its director and producer to our local audience. The exhibition and presentations struck such a powerful chord that we decided to extend the exhibition's closing date from late December 2024 to the end of February 2025.

DOMA's Spring exhibition, *People and Places 1873-2000: A Selection of Photographs from DOMA's Collection*, introduced the Ball State community to a local celebrity photographer. The show's guest curator, Indiana-born photographer Ronn Brown, spent more than 20 years in the film and television industry in California before making Muncie his home in 2020. Mr. Brown

reviewed hundreds of photographs in DOMA's collection before selecting a group of works spanning the entire history of photography, including gelatin silver prints, Polaroids, C-prints, inkjets, and digitally manipulated images. The show attracted the attention of colleagues in Elkhart, Ind., who requested to continue the exhibition at the Midwest Museum of American Art over the Summer of 2025.

Throughout the year, DOMA maintained an exciting schedule of programs and events. Mindfulness in the Museum emphasized meditative practices on many Fridays, Kids Make Art enlivened at least one Saturday each semester, and Saturday Spotlight Tours gave DOMA's gallery guides a chance to show off the museum's collection to our community members. DOMA also offered, in conjunction with partners in the School of Music, a Music in the Museum program titled *Vientos y Colores (Winds and Colors)* to honor a visiting artist, Justin Favela, in March 2025. And DOMA offered its signature annual event, Art in Bloom, May 16–18, 2025, attracting its largest turnout of more than 900 visits!

And in July 2025, DOMA successfully reached a milestone by earning reaccreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. Accreditation brings national recognition to a museum for its commitment to excellence, accountability, high professional

standards, and continued institutional improvement. We are proud to be one of only a few dozen accredited museums in Indiana. I am grateful to DOMA's staff and Ball State's administration for supporting the intensive efforts to complete the required comprehensive review of DOMA's collection, policies, facilities, finances, and governance. This achievement was made possible by DOMA's dedicated staff members, to whom I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude.

You can be justifiably proud of your museum's collection and accomplishments. And I am here to remind you that we remain committed to connecting you to the arts at Ball State and in Muncie!



Robert G. La France

Director of the David Owsley Museum of Art





DOMA staff, clockwise from top left: Michael DuQuette, Randy Salway, Rachel Buckmaster, Savannah Calhoun, Maria VanVreede, Catherine Bretz, and Robert La France



ABOUT THE DAVID OWSLEY MUSEUM OF ART

The David Owsley Museum of Art (DOMA) is an 89-year-old university art museum that houses a world art collection with more than 11,000 objects representing all seven continents. DOMA balances exciting contemporary and historical art exhibitions with engaging displays of the permanent collection in a rich, educational environment that serves Ball State University's campus community and the East Central Indiana region.

VISION STATEMENT

To educate, inspire, and connect people through the David Owsley Museum of Art's global art collection. *(April 2019)*



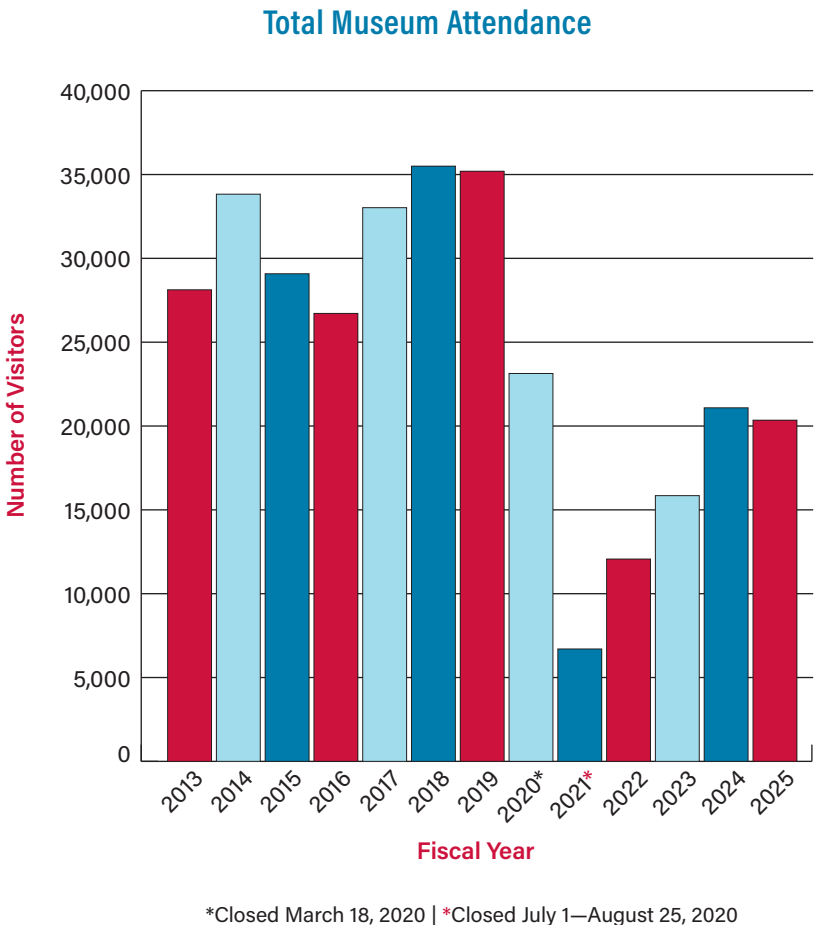
The David Owsley Museum of Art is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) in July 2025, and is a member of the:

- Association of Academic Museums and Galleries (AAMG)
- Association of Midwest Museums (AMM)
- Midwest Art History Society (MAHS)

MUSEUM ATTENDANCE

The annual in-person museum attendance from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 was **20,389** visitors, which is nearly identical to last year's figure. Attendance received a boost from Art in Bloom (May 16–18, 2025), which garnered more than 900 visits—our highest number yet.

Museum website engagement remained strong in FY2025, with **42,243** views from a total of **12,485** users. Of that, 5,986 were new users, and there was only about a 25 percent bounce rate (In FY 2024, there were 44,343 views from 13,178 total users, of which 7,030 were new users, and a bounce rate of almost 30 percent). Notable here is that there was not much change in the number of views and total users, but a significant decline in bounce rate—the percentage of users who land on a single page and then leave without interacting further. DOMA's more engaged users entered, for the most part, to look at the announcements on the main page (22,335 hits), then clicked to either search DOMA's collection (5,028) or learn more about visiting the museum (2,596), with a smaller number (1,307) spending time on our exhibitions page. About half of our hits came from a Google search, and about 45 percent came directly to the page by typing in the address. This likely refers to research by Ball State students, faculty, and community members familiar with our web address. Finally, more than half (52.9 percent) of our web visitors used mobile devices, and 47 percent used desktop computers.



Siri Koehler leads an Art in Bloom tour

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

DOMA fulfills its educational role by engaging a local campus audience, pre-K and K-12 students, and lifelong learners throughout the region. As a measure of impact, the museum hosted preregistered tours guided by staff and volunteers (89), self-guided tours by professors, teachers, and community members (114), and object-viewing sessions for University classes (13), totaling 216 preregistered tours in FY2025. These represented 6,190 visitors in guided, first-hand experiences with art—slightly fewer than last year’s 7,017.

Pre-K and K-12 Students: Schoolchildren from across the region arrived in substantial numbers for preregistered tours. These included elementary (910 in 20 groups), middle (491 in 12), and high school students (391 in 19), along with homeschoolers (169 in six). Additional visitors came from Summer programs (357 in 11 groups), community groups (54 in four), and others, such as Westminster Village (46 in four), totaling 2,418 visitors in 76 groups. In all, DOMA served 33 schools and five homeschool organizations from across Indiana.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Adams Central Elementary, Berne | 15. Longfellow Elementary | 27. South View Elementary |
| 2. Burris Laboratory School | 16. Monroe Central Elementary, Parker City | 28. Wapahani High School, Selma |
| 3. Community Christian School in Connersville | 17. Monroe Central Jr./Sr. High School, Parker City | 29. Wawasee High School, Syracuse |
| 4. Deer Ridge Elementary, Fort Wayne | 18. Mountaintop Christian Education Center | 30. Wes-Del Elementary, Gaston |
| 5. East Elementary, Portland | 19. Muncie Central High School | 31. West Jay Elementary, Dunkirk |
| 6. East Washington Academy | 20. North View Elementary | 32. West View Elementary |
| 7. Elwood Intermediate School | 21. Northside Middle School | 33. Yorktown High School |
| 8. Excel Center Muncie | 22. Pendleton Heights High School | 34. Catholic Schoolhouse (homeschool) |
| 9. Frazee Elementary School, Connersville | 23. Redeemer Lutheran School, Kokomo | 35. Grant County Area Homeschool Association |
| 10. Grissom Elementary | 24. Redkey Elementary | 36. NEIGHBORS: A Greater Fort Wayne Homeschool Community |
| 11. Indiana Academy | 25. Selma Middle School | 37. Tuesday School (homeschool) |
| 12. Inspire Academy Muncie | 26. South Adams Middle School, Berne | 38. Wild Olive Homeschool Group |
| 13. Jay County Jr.-Sr. High School, Portland | | |
| 14. Knightstown High School | | |

BALL STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The majority of the preregistered group visitors consisted of 3,455 Ball State students and faculty members, who arrived in 132 groups representing seven colleges from across the University. This is virtually identical to last year’s count of 3,413 and 3,493 in FY2023. This consistency demonstrates the continual reliance on the museum as an educational resource by its core campus constituency. To that, we should add the visitors from other regional universities (317 in eight groups from Indiana Wesleyan, Indiana University School of Medicine, Ivy Tech, and Taylor University).

Ball State courses (listed below) that engaged with the museum are offered by Estopinal College of Architecture and Planning; the College of Communication, Information, and Media; the College of Fine Arts; the College of Health; the College of Sciences and Humanities; Honors College; and Miller College of Business, as well as the Graduate School, and the Intensive English Institute at the Rinker Center for Global Affairs.

- ADS 101: 2D Foundations
ADS 102: 3D Foundations
ADS 441: Design, Research, and Professional Practices
ADS 441: Visual Communication 3
AFA 101: Drawing Studio

- AFA 202: Drawing, the Figure
AFA 211: Painting, Introduction
AFA 231: Intro to Printmaking
AFA 301: Drawing, Point of View
AFAM 100: Intro to African American Studies
AFAM 150: Understanding Race, Antiracism, and Intersectionality
AHS 100: Intro to Art
AHS 101: Intro to Art History: Global Traditions
AHS 201: Approaches to Art History
AHS 251: Italian Renaissance Art
AHS 252: Baroque and Rococo Art
AHS 304: Special Topics, History of Graphic Arts
ARCH 201: Architectural Design I
ARCH 498: Project Japan
CAP 101 and 161: Env. Design and Planning I and Design Communications Media 1
CAP Jump Start Program
CC 201: Cultural Life of Ancient Greece
CC 202: Cultural Life of Ancient Rome
CC 305: Classical Myth and Theory
CFA Jump Start
CH 334: Chinese Culture and Civilization
CSHU 299: Experimental/Developmental Topics
DANC 287: Dance Improvisation
ECON 201: Elementary Microeconomics
EMDD 211: Interactivity Design
ENEF 165: Intensive English Institute Listening, Level 6/Bridge
ENG 103: Intro to Rhetoric
ENG 285: Intro to Creative Writing
ENG 308: Poetry Writing

- ENG 310: Intro to Screenwriting
ENG 407: Advanced Fiction
ENIE 180: Cultural Experiences Levels 4, 5, and 6
FASH 260: History of Fashion
HIST 200: Intro to History and Historical Methods
HIST 201: American History, 1492–1876
HIST 496: Modern Japan
HONR 100: Freshman Seminar
HONR 201: Inquiries in the Earliest Cultures to 500 CE
HONR 202: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 500 CE to ca. 1800 CE
HONR 203: Inquiries in Cultures from ca. 1800 to the Present
HONR 390: Citizenship, Community, and Leadership
HONR 390: The Originals: A Look at Female Photographers in a Pre-Selfie Era
HONR 390: The University and Its Literatures
HONR Early Start: Infinite Museum Workshop
HONR Early Start: Setting the Scene: An Exploration through Creative Writing
HOSP 287: Intro to Event Management
HOSP 387: Event Mechanics and Promotions
HSC 160: Fundamentals of Human Health
HSC 388: Organization and Administration in Public Health
IDES 101: Rapid Visualization
IDES 325: Application of Interior Systems
IEI 180: Cultural Experiences Levels 4, 5, and 6
NREM 371: Outdoor Recreation and Society

- NREM 392: Environmental Interpretation
SOC 299: Music and Art in Society
SOC 343: Deviance
SP302: Advanced Composition and Grammar in Spanish
THEA 161: New Works Seminar
THEA 321: Rendering for the Theatre



SMART AND THE MCS PARTNERSHIP

In FY2025, the SMART (School Museum Art Readiness Tour) program, a partnership with Muncie Community Schools (MCS), provided curriculum-based tours for 372 fifth-grade students from all six Muncie elementary schools. The students’ visit to the museum (including engagement with chaperones and docents, guided looking sessions, lunch, and a free bag with branded art supplies) was later followed by an art-making activity in the classroom. The continuation of DOMA's SMART program is made possible by generous support pledged by Bea and Lynn Sousa, and is enriched by active participation and partnership with the MCS visual arts teachers.

Six schools:

1. East Washington Academy
4. North View Elementary
2. Grissom Elementary
5. South View Elementary
3. Longfellow Elementary
6. West View Elementary

- Each school had 1–2 field trip days, depending on the number of students.
- There were nine field trip days, with two groups visiting DOMA each day.
- Students also had an opportunity to visit either the Planetarium or the Environmental Education Center while on campus.

DOMA provided transportation and lunches for students, teachers, and other adult chaperones.



Cathy Bretz provides instruction during a SMART tour



Drew Lipscomb facilitates a SMART tour

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to its utility as an educational tool for Ball State students and faculty, DOMA is a community resource and a point of pride for the city and region.

- Open five days a week throughout the year; Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 1:30–4:30 p.m. (closed for university holidays)
- Free entrance (paid parking on weekdays; free parking available on weekends)
- Two to four public exhibitions annually

The following are a few highlights of DOMA's community engagement activities for FY 2025, consisting of **42** public programs with **2,357** visitors:



Mya Whites leads a tour of the Elizabeth Catlett exhibition

MAJOR PROGRAMS

FALL SEMESTER		
Date	Program	Attendance
9/20–12/6/24	Five Mindfulness in the Museum sessions with Dr. George Wolfe	24
9/11/24	DOMA Alliance Program–Dr. Robert La France	43
9/19/24	Exhibition Overview: <i>The Art of Elizabeth Catlett</i>	24
9/21/24	Saturday Spotlight Tour: Superheroes of the Past in Art with Dom Caristi	5
10/9/24	DOMA Alliance Program–Dr. Melanie Herzog	25
10/10/24	Arts Alive: <i>The Art of Elizabeth Catlett</i> with Dr. Melanie Herzog	97
10/19/24	Kids Make Art at DOMA	37
11/6/24	DOMA Alliance Program with Dr. Kalleen Chilcote	21
11/12/24	Film Screening– <i>Standing Strong: Elizabeth Catlett</i>	57
11/23/24	Saturday Spotlight Tour: with Amelia Dorsey	23
12/7/24	Holiday Community Open House	247
12/11/24	DOMA Alliance Program–E.B. and B.C. Ball Center with Diane Watters	31
Fall Semester Total		651

SPRING SEMESTER		
Date	Program	Attendance
2/7–4/25/24	Four Mindfulness in the Museum sessions with Dr. George Wolfe	22
2/5/25	DOMA Alliance Program–Gabriel Tait	23
2/12/25	Kids Make Art–Special Workshop	11
2/13/25	DOMA After Hours	282
2/20/25	Exhibition Overview: <i>People and Places</i>	25
2/22/25	Saturday Spotlight Tour with Drew Lipscomb	2
2/26/25	Kids Make Art–Special Workshop	13
2/28/25	Public Drop-in Tour: <i>The Art of Elizabeth Catlett</i>	14
3/5/25	DOMA Alliance Program–Ronn Brown	28
3/14–15/25	Hollywood Portraits: Photoshoot with Ronn Brown	36
3/19/25	Kids Make Art–Special Workshop	13
3/28/25	Music Recital: School of Music (faculty and students)	47
4/5/25	Kids Make Art at DOMA (Saturday public program)	72
4/9/25	DOMA Alliance Program–Pop of Culture	24
4/12/25	Writing in the Galleries: <i>People, Places, and Prose</i>	6
4/19/25	Saturday Spotlight Tour	11
4/24/25	Music in the Museum: <i>Vientos Y Colores</i>	66
4/25/25	Public Drop-in Tour: <i>Making a Myth</i> with Halle Pressler	11
5/16/25	Art in Bloom: Friday Reception	308
5/17/25	Art in Bloom: Saturday	402
5/18/25	Art in Bloom: Sunday	282
Spring Semester Total		1706

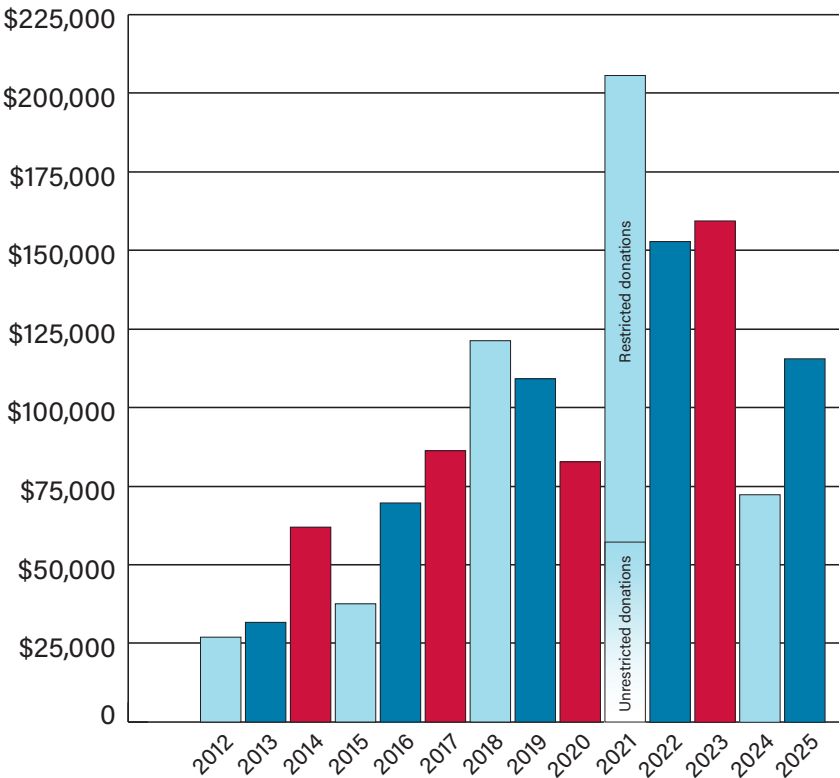
FALL AND SPRING SEMESTER
Grand Total Attendance: 2357

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

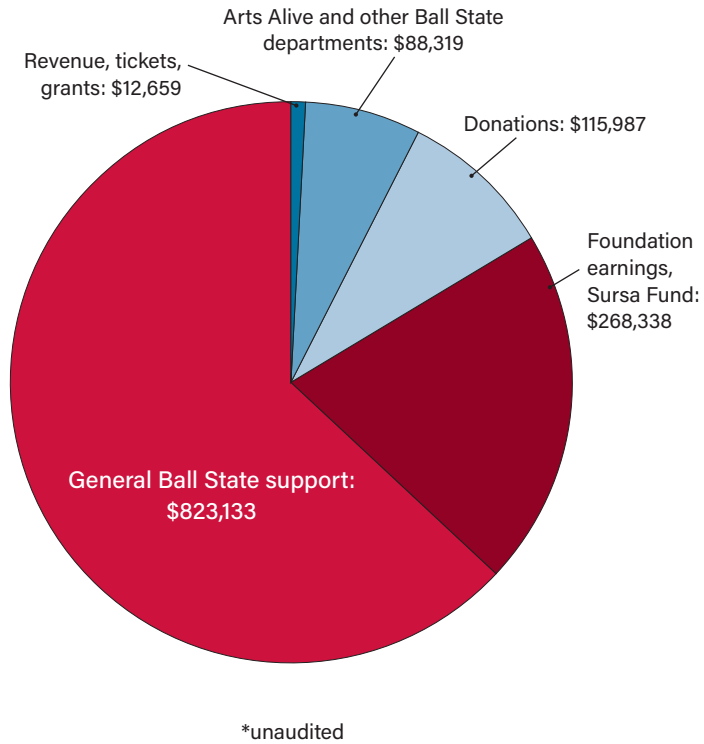
Thanks to the museum’s benefactors, friends, alliance groups, and day-to-day visitors, the museum saw an upward swing in financial support demonstrating a trend returning to pre-2020 levels. One Ball State Day 2025 was the most successful showing for DOMA yet, generating nearly \$20K from more than 50 participants who contributed amounts from \$5 to \$7,500 for this special one-day giving challenge.

In addition, FY 2025 was the first year to see the impact of the David T. Owsley Fund, created in 2024. After initial fees by the Ball State University Foundation, which manages all DOMA endowment funds, the Owsley fund generated more than \$100,000 in spendable earnings earmarked to support the museum’s collection, exhibitions, publicity, scholarships, and curatorial assistantships. In FY 2026 and beyond, this amount is expected to grow and visibly demonstrate the intention of the museum’s main benefactor—for DOMA to remain a vital gift to our community in perpetuity.

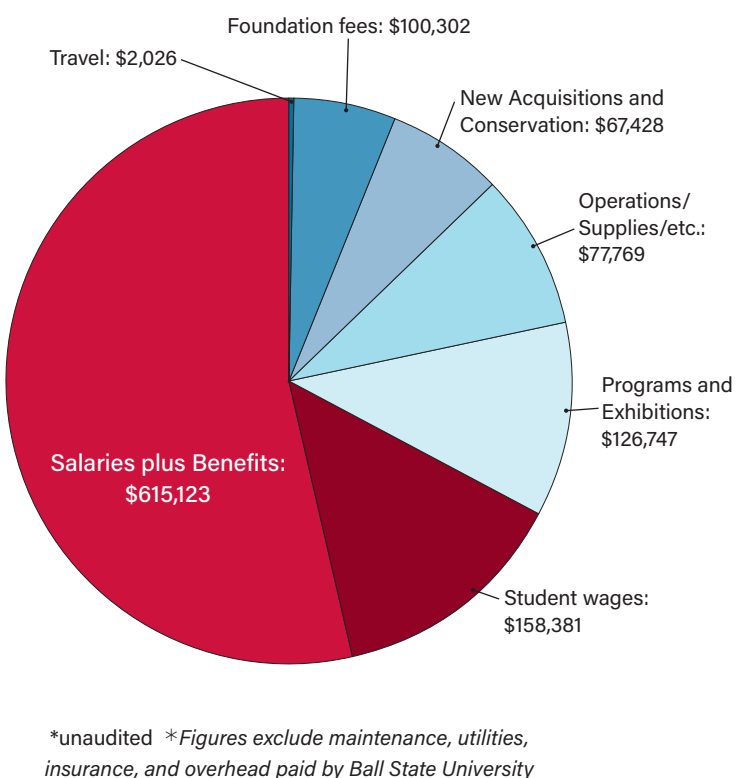
Contributions (Donations, Gifts, and Fundraising)



FY2025 Income/Earnings by Source: \$1,308,436*



FY2025 Expenses by Type: \$1,147,776**





**Reflecting Intersections: A Student Pop-up
Show Inspired by the Art of Elizabeth Catlett
from the Collection of Samella Lewis**
Display and student event, November 16, 2024

Elizabeth Catlett, American (1915–2012),
Sharecropper, 1965, linocut, AP 17 3/8 x 16 1/2 in.,
© Catlett Mora Family Trust/Licensed by VAGA,
New York, NY.

**The Art of Elizabeth Catlett from the
Collection of Samella Lewis**
September 19, 2024–February 28, 2024



Lotte Jacobi, American, born Germany
(1896–1990), *Head of a Dancer*, Berlin,
1929, gelatin silver print, Museum
purchase, 1991.017.003 © Lotte Jacobi
Collection, University of New Hampshire.

**People and Places 1873-2000: A Selection of Photographs
from DOMA's Collection** with guest curator, Ronn Brown
February 20, 2025–May 23, 2025

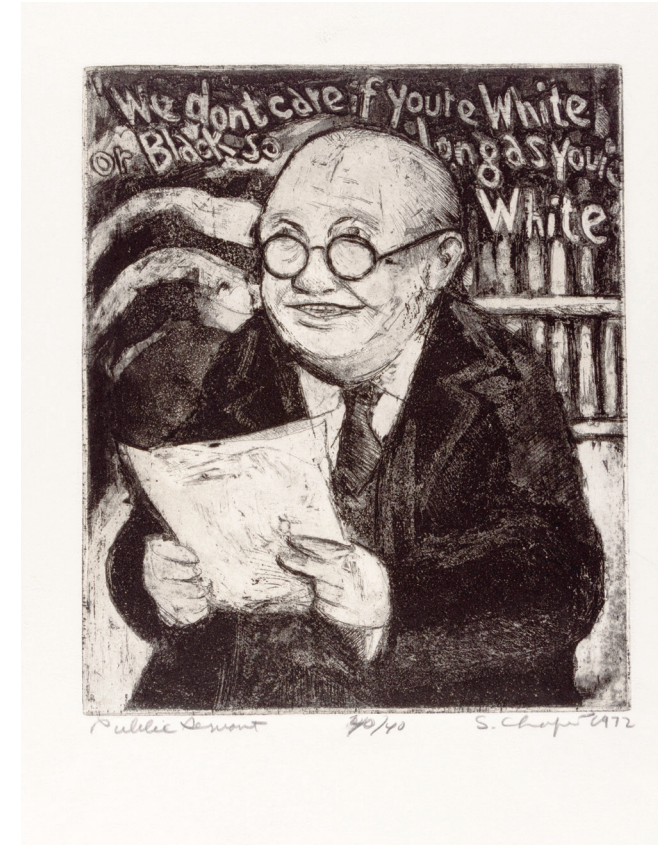
Traveled to the Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, Ind.
June 14, 2025–August 10, 2025

July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025

NEW ACQUISITIONS AND LOANS TO THE COLLECTION

FY2025 Acquisitions (78 gifts, three purchases)... **81**

Five of the items donated were portfolios of works by modern and contemporary artist-printmakers, consisting of more than 100 individual prints.



Public Servant, 1972

Sidney Chafetz, American (1922–2013),
etching with soft ground and aquatint, 40/40
Gift of David Johnson, in honor of all his good students
2024.004.009

July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025



Bearded Man (Kopf: Bärtiger Mann), 1925
Paul Klee, Swiss (1879–1940)
 lithograph, edition of 232, printed about 1930
 Gift of Kathy and David Brooks
2024.005.0000



Summer Creek Landscape, about 1945
John Wesley Hardrick, American (1891–1968)
 oil on paperboard
 Purchase: Friends of the Museum
2024.008.001



LOVE, 1967
Robert Indiana, American (1928–2018)
 Printed by Maurel Studios, New York.
 Published by Multiples, Inc., for Mass Originals, Inc., New York
 screen print
 Gift of Andrew and Barry Seager
2025.003.001

LOANS TO OTHER INSTITUTIONS



***Hitler Invades Poland*, 1939**

Arshile Gorky, American, born in Armenia (1904–1948)

De Hirsh Margules, American, born in Romania (1899–1965)

Isamu Noguchi, American (1904–1988)

graphite and wax crayon on paper

Museum purchase

1963.012.002

This highly collaborative drawing, recently authenticated by the Arshile Gorky Foundation, commemorates the fateful beginning of World War II through a non-objective abstract composition. It was lent to the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin for the exhibition *In Creative Harmony: Three Artistic Partnerships*, February 16–July 20, 2025.



***Ocean's Edge*, about 1980–89**

Toshiko Takaezu, American (1922–2011)

porcelain with red and blue glaze

Gift of Lenore Tawney

2006.014.003

One of several vessels by the famous Japanese-American sculptor-ceramicist in DOMA's collection, *Ocean's Edge* was featured in the exhibition that paired works by two leaders of the studio craft movement—*Wild Earth: JB Blunk and Toshiko Takaezu* at the Columbus Museum of Art in Ohio, March 7–August 3, 2025.

STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS AT DOMA FY2025

DOMA continued to provide career-related experience to several paid interns and assistants who contributed to numerous projects in collections management, curatorial research, educational programming, and exhibition design and installation. More than 40 student guards gained experience relevant to a variety of fields by assisting visitors, staffing the museum's front desk, and providing important feedback regarding museum navigation, security, signage, and protocols.



Left, top: Claire Goodrich, exhibition design intern

Left, center: Joseph Martindale, collections management intern

Left, bottom: Rita Skelly, collections management intern

Above: Lindsey Thole, preparator's assistant

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS 2024-25

MUSEUM STAFF

Robert La France, director
Cathy Bretz, education coordinator
Rachel Buckmaster, assistant director
Michael Duquette, security and office manager
Maria VanVreede, registrar and collection manager
Maureen Nicholson, curator of education
Randy Salway, exhibition designer and preparator



STUDENT GUARDS AND VISITOR ASSISTANTS

Lainey Abbring
Anna Bauer
Hunter Bays
Jasmine Bennett
Audrey Bloom
Elizabeth Breedlove
Stella Bubenzer
Odin Burris
Anthony Cates
Flora Clarke
Thatch Cook
Julie Creech
Joanna Fuentes
Paige Gregory
Owen Hebert
Mars Hunter
Oscar Kreider
Sam Kroemer
Justice Love
Grace McCormick
David McDowell
Addy Miller
Declan Murphy
Alaina Nault
Maleyah Nowell
Lex Roberts
Lilliana Sensibaugh
Eli Slater
Sydney Spears
Kaitlyn Spoerner
Josie Sprenger

STUDENT ASSISTANTS AND INTERNS

Marcus Stach
Jasmine Stallings
Emmie Sumski
Donaji Valdes
Vivian VerHulst
Bonez Wiscaver
Ember Wolstenholme
Makayla Woods

Abigail Brandenburg
Blake Chapman
Amelia Dorsey
Daniella Neise
Nate Durnell
Claire Goodrich
Milo Hardison
Brooke Hartman
Levi Jones
Kennedy Moore
Halle Pressler
Emma Richards
Lindsey Thole
Mya Whitis



COMMUNITY DOCENTS

Barbara Alvarez Bohanon
Shannon Bryan
Melanie Cabak
Dom Caristi
Maria Hernandez Finch
Kim Kirby
Sigrid Koehler
Linda McCaw
Richard Ruh
Andrew Seager
Bea Sousa

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT DOCENTS

Amelia Dorsey
Charlotte Harrison
Drew Lipscomb
Faith Mackenzie
Halle Pressler
Mya Whitis

FRIENDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Karen Moorman, chair
Jeanne Zeigler, vice chair
Sandra Kelly, secretary
Members at-large:
Barbara Alvarez Bohanon
Jules Carter
Sigrid Koehler-Wilkins
Sandra McCallister
Patricia Nelson
Marla Templeton
Sue Whitaker

Ex officio members

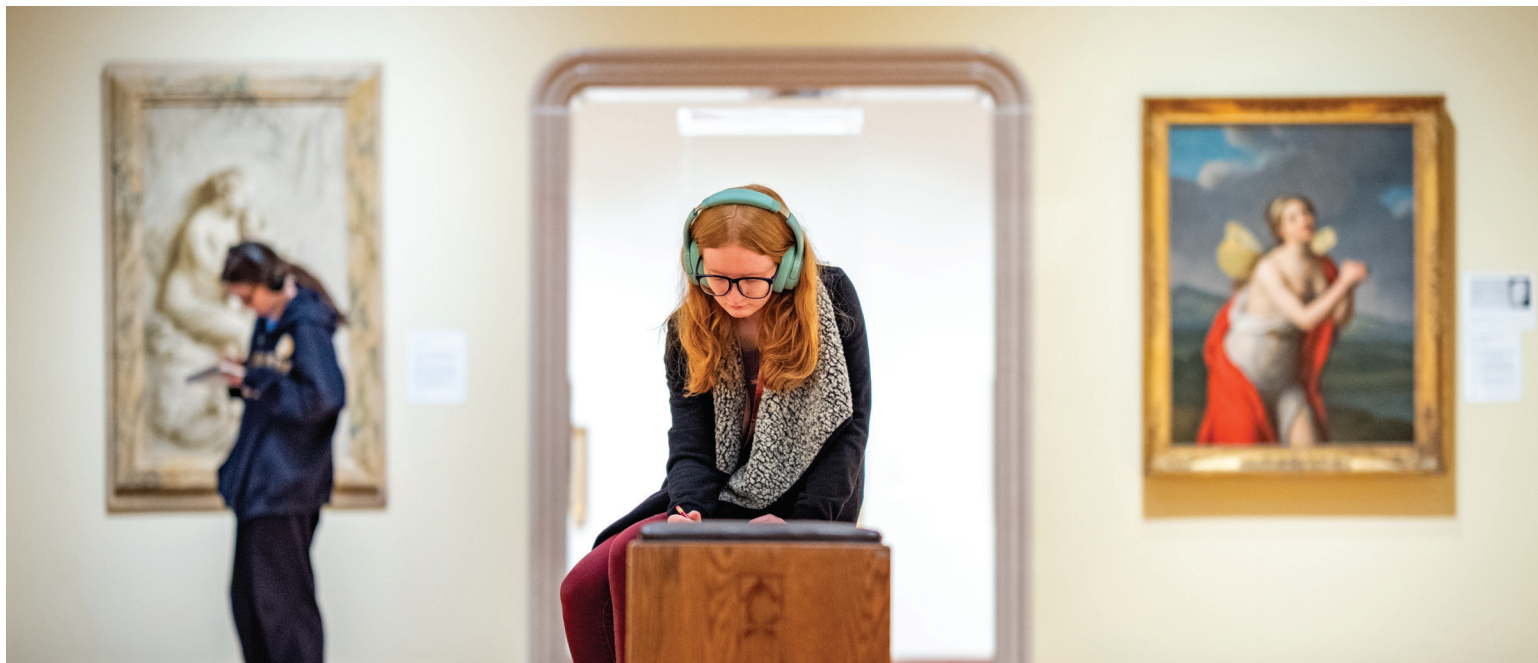
Rachel Buckmaster, associate director, DOMA
Seth Beckman, dean, College of Fine Arts
Cathy Bretz, co-president, Muncie Art Students League
Michael Carey, director of development, College of Fine Arts
Karen Moorman, president, DOMA Art Alliance
Robert La France, director, DOMA

DOMA BENEFACTORS

Hazel Amos
Joan and Steve Anderson
Barbara Alvarez Bohanon and Cecil Bohanon
Kathy and Dave Brooks
Jules Carter
Daura Foundation
Carey and Jud Fisher
James Gooden
Debbie and Stanley Griner
Edward Hale
Kathleen and Charles Harper

Sandra and Eric Kelly
Karen and Jay Moorman
Thomas Murphy
David T. Owsley
Patricia Pelizzari
Rick and Jane Petty
George Screes
Andrew Seager
Bea and Lynn Sousa
Ann M. Stack
Annemarie Voss
Sue and Don Whitaker





**DAVID
OWSLEY
MUSEUM** OF
ART BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY

bsu.edu/DOMA

The information presented here,
correct at the time of publication,
is subject to change. MC-76928-25