



# FOCUS

*Spring 2024*



## **A Message from the Art League President**

While spring may still be more than a month away, our lecture series is not. In fact, our first lecture of 2024 will be on March 13, when a talk by Laura De Becker is sure to get our artistic juices flowing again. De Becker's thought-provoking talk on Central African art will delve into the complex issues of repatriation, provenance, and collaboration. It's sure to be thought-provoking and a lecture you won't want to miss.

Then, on April 10, Tuliza Fleming will join us to speak on Visual Art and the American Experience. Dr. Fleming is the Curator of American Art at the National Museum of African American History and Culture at the Smithsonian Institution. Finally, we'll wrap up the season when Craig McDonald, Director of the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio, visits us on May 8.

Each of these lectures will begin at 10 a.m. in the KIA auditorium, and will be followed by a reception, where you'll have a chance to network with friends and chat with the presenter. For more details on these and other Art League activities, please visit our website, [kalamazooartleague.org](http://kalamazooartleague.org).

We look forward to seeing you at each of these exciting events!

*Jim Cupper*

P.S. New depARTures trips are in the planning stages. More information will be coming to you soon. Check your email and our website!





## *WISH YOU WERE HERE: African Art and Restitution*

**March 13, 2024, 10 am—Laura De Becker**  
**Reception following lecture**

Learn more about the complex issues of repatriation, provenance, and collaboration facing museums with collections of African objects with University of Michigan Museum of Art Chief Curator and Helmut and Candis Stern Curator of African Art Laura De Becker. Her reinstatement of the museum's African collection doubled the footprint of the African gallery and inspired a separate project, *Wish You Were Here: African Art and Restitution*, that grapples with issues of ownership and ethics

Dr. De Becker earned her Ph.D. from the University of East Anglia in Norwich, United Kingdom, and has worked for museums in Rwanda, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the United States. A specialist in Central African art, De Becker joined UMMA in 2014 after an Andrew W. Mellon fellowship at Wits Art Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa.



## *BUILDING THE COLLECTION*

**April 10, 2024, 10 am –Tuliza Fleming**  
**Reception following**

Tuliza Fleming's earliest memories take place at the Smithsonian Institution with her parents, igniting a lifelong fascination with history. Her father was a ground-breaking museum director who led the development of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio. She followed him into the museum world, earning her M.A. and Ph.D. in American Art History from the University of Maryland and becoming the associate curator of American art at the Dayton Art Institute.

Life came full circle when Dr. Fleming became the curator of visual arts at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. She developed the museum's foundational American art collection and was the lead curator for its inaugural exhibition *Visual Art and the American Experience*. Fleming will discuss the museum and her work building and curating collections of African American art.

Dr. Fleming has curated over 20 exhibitions, is the author of numerous books and publications, and worked and/or consulted for a variety of museums and cultural institutions.



## *ALDEN B. DOW: A WAY OF LIFE*



**May 8, 2024, 10:00 a.m.—Craig McDonald  
Director of the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio  
Annual Meeting & Lecture, Reception following**

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989, the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio in Midland, Michigan, continues to engage the imagination and elicit an emotional response in all who experience this powerful statement of mid-20th century modern architecture. Surrounded by water, the Home and Studio is alive with reflective light, soaring rooflines, diverging angles, brilliant color and the perfect balance of enticement and tranquility. It truly is an “oasis of architecture and inspiration.” Buildings by Dow can be found across the county. Among his commissions in Kalamazoo are the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and the Paul Rood residence.

Learn more about this Michigan treasure with Craig McDonald, the director of the Alden B. Dow Home and Studio and the Alden and Vada Dow Family Foundations. After earning his B.A. in Psychology and Public Relations from Western Michigan University, McDonald returned to his hometown to assist the Dow family in transitioning the Home and Studio into a public entity that offers a wide range of programming and research opportunities.

The Home and Studio was recognized by Heritage Preservation and the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works for their “preservation and care of collections” in 2000. Mr. McDonald also founded Mid-Century Modern Midland, an organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Midland’s significant mid-20th century modern architectural heritage.



## **GET MORE INVOLVED: VOLUNTEER!!**



Kalamazoo Art League is an all-volunteer organization. Our programs and events are made possible only because members share their time and talents. Volunteering for Art League is also a great way to meet others who share a love of the arts and our community. From a few hours to an ongoing commitment, members can assist at a program, serve on a committee, or consider being part of the Board of Directors. At the end of this issue of FOCUS is an invitation to join the depARTures Travel Committee. You can learn more about how Art League is organized and a Board Directors Nomination Form at [KalamazooArtLeague.org/about/](https://KalamazooArtLeague.org/about/)



**IMPORTANT DATES TO SAVE!!!**

**Thursday, June 6** depARTure tour to the Muskegon Museum of Art. A special docent tour of their exclusive exhibition, *John Stuart Curry: Weathering the Storm*, will be featured along with other museum highlights. More information to come!

**Wednesday, October 9, 7pm**

During a time of great grief, Patrick Bringley left his editorial job at the *New Yorker* to become a gallery guard at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. He wrote of his experience in the best-selling book, *All the Beauty in the World*. He will speak of his experience and the healing power of art.



**EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS AT THE KIA**



Don't miss the "heART pARTy" kicking off the KIA's centennial from 7-10pm, Friday, February 16.

Tickets for this family-friendly fundraising event are \$50 in advance (\$75 at the door) and include desserts, dancing, a photo booth, entrance in the KIA-through-the-decades costume contest, and a champagne toast! Find more details and reserve your tickets at [kiarts.org/event/the-kia-heart-party/](https://kiarts.org/event/the-kia-heart-party/)

**American Realism: Visions of America  
1900-1950**

Now-April 14, 2024



**Kyungmi Shin: A Story to Finding Us**

Now-May 12, 2024

**Young Artists of Kalamazoo County**

February 10-March 17, 2024



**High School Area Show**

March 30-April 28, 2024

**Celebrate (ongoing)**

In honor of the KIA's 100th anniversary, a continuing rotation of artworks and activities, with a focus on how artists have represented celebration over time through photography prints and paintings.





*THANK YOU!!!*



The Art League Board of Directors wishes to thank the following members for donations they have made to the league in the past few months, September through January, either in conjunction with paying membership dues or in response to our recent fundraising appeal. We greatly appreciate the generosity and support that has been shown!

David & Barbara Brose  
(in memory of Nelson & Bernice Heydenberk)  
Janice M. Brown  
Carol Dean  
Susan Eckhardt  
Nancy Kern  
Nancy J. King  
Elizabeth Upjohn Mason  
Valli McDougale  
Elaine Seaman  
Lyda Stillwell  
Janet & Tim Thieme  
Anne van Giessen

It's not too late to make a donation. Every little bit helps us meet the expenses involved in bringing outstanding speakers to Kalamazoo for our programs, receptions, and events. Dues alone are not enough. If you still have that donation envelope sitting on your desk, please consider popping in a check and sending it in. Or visit [KalamazooArtLeague.org/donate/](https://KalamazooArtLeague.org/donate/) to donate online.





## ***VISITING GREAT ART OF THE MIDWEST***

Dear depARTure traveler

You already know how much those personal “behind the scenes” tours with exhibit curators, museum directors, and gallery owners have meant to you and others. The special lunches and collegial discussions with other Kalamazoo Institute of Art members are added benefits of our Art League depARTures.

I’m sure you have appreciated the effort depARTure committee members put into procuring and packaging supplies for the travel and marketing of each depARTure, all with the need to provide every traveler with a rewarding experience while meeting a budget that can generate revenue to sustain our organization.

But well before the logistical tasks were undertaken, depARTure committee members will have enjoyed planning the trips for each year and then planning the details for each visit. They will have inspected proposed exhibition options and met with our host to schedule our visit; arranging the transportation, checking parking and visitor comfort facilities. And they will have reviewed locations and ambience, even sampled menus, to find unique restaurants for our lunch.

Just as you have enjoyed traveling with other Art League and KIA members, now we are inviting you to join the Art League’s depARTure Committee as we begin this exciting and rewarding work for the 2004-2005 season’s journeys.

Please call or email a committee member to learn more . . . and thank you for considering this invitation to help build our future!

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