Dear Members, Friends, and Neighbors,

Summer has come upon us in a rush and the projects and plans we’ve been working on since before COVID are bearing fruit. Woven together on the theme of narrative art, MMoA exhibitions and programs are illustrating how we tell our stories through art and why that is important. Two special exhibitions this summer will engage our visitors in narratives about American people, culture, and daily life.

**Norman Rockwell’s Saturday Evening Post Covers: Tell Me a Story** will present all 323 of the artist’s legendary Post covers. In so doing it unites two giants of American culture, each of whom told the nation’s stories: The Saturday Evening Post and Norman Rockwell.

From the early years of the century to the 1960s, The Saturday Evening Post was one of the most widely circulated and influential magazines in America. Its rich mixture of fiction, non-fiction, cartoons, and features reached millions of homes every week.

Norman Rockwell captured iconic moments in the lives of everyday American people, rather than celebrities. “I showed the America I knew and observed to others who might not have noticed” he said. By turns humorous and deeply moving, his subjects found an enthusiastic public and helped raise The Post’s circulation to 6,900,000 by 1960. Exhibition visitors will find a literal timeline as well as 323 illustrated moments from the ‘teens to the ‘60s to engage them in their own narratives of the past.

Concurrently, the special exhibition **Missing Narratives** will witness daily experiences of American life that are largely absent from our social narrative. Collectors Bill and Paula Alice Mitchell were enthralled by an exhibition in the Harvey B. Gantt Museum of African American Arts + Culture in 2011 and have been following, collecting, and getting to know African American artists ever since. Special selections from their collection, together with their observations and some of the stories they gathered in their discovery of African American art, will enrich our understanding of the American experience.

Together, these two special exhibitions will invite visitors to see their own stories as art and as part of a broader American narrative. MMoA invites artists and audiences to exchange their stories and find the art in their own identity and history.

**V. Susan Fisher**
Executive Director
During the months of July, August, and September, in honor of the Year of Narrative Art, MMoA studio education will feature special classes and workshops that examine narrative art—art that tells a story—whether of history, tradition, social change, or imagination. Explore the use of symbolism, gesture, color, and value in narrative art in these exciting classes and weekend workshops. To learn more and to register, please visit www.MysticMuseumofArt.org/learn/ and check out adults’ and children’s classes.

**Telling Stories through Still-Life**: Weave a story by composing images with the objects from our lives (in the art media of the students’ choice). For all ages.
Sundays 3 – 5:30 p.m., June 26 – July 31.

**Radha Krishna Romance**: Create an extravagant gilded art piece and explore Tanjore, a classical South Indian art form that illustrates the stories and characters of mythology.
Tuesdays 3 – 5 p.m., August 30 – September 27.

**Art with Purpose**: Create a complete illustrated magazine cover using watercolors and acrylic paints.
Tuesdays 6 – 8:30 p.m., August 2 – September 13.

**Tell me a Story**: From layout, character design, and art techniques, learn how to conceptualize and create illustrations for a children’s book.
Workshop: July 9, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Wordless Picture Books**: Enjoy a workshop for children on creating a wordless story book using different mediums.
August 6, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

**Sculpted Stories**: Discover clay sculpting to bring characters from your imagination to life.
August 27, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Register today!
FALL EXHIBITIONS

As part of the town-wide centennial celebration, MMoA’s fall exhibition *A Century of the Mystic River and the Bascule Bridge* (September 30—December 18) will feature depictions of the landmark structure and its riverbanks over the last hundred years in a variety of media. The oldest of its kind in the United States, Mystic’s Bascule Bridge has been connecting the communities of Groton and Stonington since 1922 and inspiring artists such as H. Lee Hirsche (1927-1998) and Y.E. Soderberg (1896-1972).

Concurrently, MMoA will present a juried regional exhibition open to contemporary artists on the narrative theme of *Building Bridges*.

![H. Lee Hirsche (1927-1998) Mystic River Bridge, undated, watercolor on paper. MMoA permanent collection. Donated by Mary Rowe Waldo.](image)

MEMBERSHIP

JOIN OR RENEW MMoA MEMBERSHIP FOR EXTRA BENEFITS!
MEMBERS PREVIEW DAY: JUNE 17 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This summer, MMoA membership has an extra benefit—free admission to the *Rockwell and Missing Narratives* exhibitions! For the special exhibitions this summer, MMoA will charge $10 for admission. Members see them for free.

Membership also offers many ongoing benefits including discounts on events, classes, and workshops. On June 17, enjoy the privilege of Member’s Preview Day to see *Rockwell and Missing Narratives* for free before they open to the public. Members can enjoy the exhibitions any time throughout the day, no registration required.

If you’re not a member, join now to receive your membership card in time for the exhibitions. It’s easy to join or renew online at www.MysticMuseumofArt.org/membership-form. You can also join by calling Pamela Feltus at 860.536.7601 extension 209. Better yet, come by for a visit, say hello, and join in person!

*Members see the exhibitions for free and are invited to a special Members’ Day preview on June 17, just for them.*
This summer MMoA is honored to present *Missing Narratives*, a special exhibition of prints, paintings, and sculpture by African American artists, on loan from the collection of Bill and Paula Alice Mitchell.

*Missing Narratives* features 28 works of art representing 19 artists, including Romare Bearden (1914-1988), Dr. Curlee Raven Holton (b. 1951), Valerie J. Maynard (b. 1937), and Robin Holder (b. 1952). With bold lines, bright colors, and intense imagery, these artists capture observations of everyday life, from quiet family moments to raucous street festivals. They also commemorate historic occasions such as the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the election of President Obama. Presented from the perspective of the collectors, each piece is accompanied by a recollection from the Mitchells of how it was acquired, including stories and memories shared with them by the artists.

Bill and Paula Mitchell have recently returned to New England after living in Maryland for nearly fifty years. To hear them tell it, there was a time before June 18, 2011, and a time after. On that date, Bill and Paula spent three hours viewing the John and Vivian Hewitt Collection of African American Art at the Harvey B. Gantt Museum of African-American Arts + Culture in Charlotte, NC, absorbing everything on the walls. It was their introduction to a whole new world of art and artists.

The Mitchells are not only collectors of African American art, but allies. As recently as eleven years ago, when Bill and Paula began this collection, the mere fact that an artist was Black reduced the value of his or her art. According to a conversation with Nelson L. Stevens (b. 1938), whose serigraph *Spirit Sister* is included in this exhibition, galleries would not represent Black artists, nor were American museums interested in acquiring their work. “A good piece of art has to make you look, then make you keep looking,” says Bill Mitchell. “These artists have had to work even harder just to get you to look.”

The earliest artists represented in *Missing Narratives* were born in the 1910s and 1920s; while others are active today. Their artwork spans the period from women’s suffrage to the Civil Rights March on Washington, D.C., and the Black Lives Matter movement. Over this period, the story of America’s identity has been challenged again and again, and yet, as Paula Mitchell points out, “there are entire narratives still missing.”


Nelson L. Stevens (b. 1938), *Spirit Sister*, 2013. Serigraph print on paper. Bill and Paula Alice Mitchell Collection. The model for this image is Valerie J. Maynard (b. 1937), whose work is also represented in *Missing Narratives*.
GIFTS TO THE COLLECTION

Following the May 3 printmaking panel discussion of the More Than Hot Type exhibition, the Providence Art Club presented MMoA with a complete Hot Type portfolio, number 25 of 28. This is an auspicious gift and will hold a treasured place in the permanent collection. Another portfolio from the Hot Type edition is headed the Graphics Art Collection of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History.

To create the Hot Type portfolio, 25 artists drew inspiration from the power of the printed word to expose misinformation and “fake news.” The exhibition of the completed portfolio has generated tremendous interest and discussion—a wonderful outcome of the project, and just the beginning of the impact the portfolio will have here in Mystic.

THE ART OF COLLECTING

Are you a collector? Fascinated by collections? If you are interested in learning about collections or have information and stories of your own to share, keep an eye out for MMoA’s new collectors’ roundtable, starting this summer. Monthly gatherings will include presentations by artists, scholars, appraisers, auctioneers, conservators, and fellow collectors on topics such as how to start collecting, navigating galleries and auction houses, documenting and caring for your collection, estate planning and other legal issues, and more. There will be special trips to view local private collections and artist studios.

To receive further information on the program, contact Pamela Feltus at 860.536.7601 extension 209 or Pamela@MysticMuseumofArt.org.

LOOKING AT ART

On June 21 at 5:30 p.m., a special edition of Looking at Art will focus on The Problem We All Live With (1963), Norman Rockwell’s illustration for Look magazine on January 14, 1964. On November 14, 1960, at the age of six, Ruby Bridges became the very first African American child to attend the all-white public William Frantz Elementary School. Federal marshals escorted Ruby and her mother to the school. When Ruby entered, two marshals walked in front of her, and two behind her. Inspired by Ruby’s story, Rockwell illustrated the event with stark simplicity.

Admission is free to members, $10 for non-members. Space is limited, to encourage discussion and exchange. For more information, call 860.536.7601 or check the MMoA website at www.MysticMuseumofArt.org/entry/looking-at-art/.

Future dates include July 12, August 16, and September 13. Looking at Art is generously sponsored by MMoA elected artist and benefactor Cathy Weiss.
FREE CREATIVE FAMILY AFTERNOON

Come join us in the KTJ studios at MMoA for a fun artistic family afternoon, free of charge. Make the most of family time while you build, paint, and decorate a special wood craft project together, July 23, 1–4 p.m. No registration necessary, just come for the fun. Visit www.MysticMuseumofArt.org/learn for more information and to register.

2022 SUMMER CAMPS

MMoA invites children of all ages and artistic abilities to experience enriching art camps. Young artists will gain the tools to explore art in a positive and nurturing environment. There are no limits when it comes to imagination, and campers will pride themselves on their creations at the same time as they gain important life skills such as sharing, problem-solving, and team building. Let art camps bring out the best in your child!

Select from a wide range of themed specialty camps—from fine art, animals, 3D modeling, narrative art, to fashion design, etc., or choose a Junior Studio camp where artists are exposed to a little bit of everything. Register for multiple weeks for a fully immersive art experience. MMoA’s goal this summer is to give campers the time of their lives.

OUTREACH

MMoA works closely with individual schools and classes throughout the region to plan creative projects that offer students in-depth learning experiences. The curriculum presents visual arts experiences that engage students in expressive, innovative activities that build multiple skills. The goal is to engage higher level thinking by enriching the ways students experience educational subject matter.

Second grade students at Northeast Academy used measurement to learn about the proportions of the human face. After putting down their rulers, they were given creative freedom to paint self-portraits and add fun details.

Kindergarten students at Huntington Elementary connected art to the story of “Miss Rumphius.” Students assisted Outreach Manager Mary Farrell in painting a 16’ mural that asked, “How will you make the world more beautiful?” Their responses were written into the landscape, and individual artworks were created to add to the display.

Lyme Consolidated Elementary School students constructed dioramas to illustrate their study of animal environments. Second graders chose the theme of frog habitats and set to work with paint, Sculpey clay, and assorted media to show off their scientific knowledge and sculptural abilities.
Thank you to Norman Rockwell’s Saturday Evening Post Covers: Tell Me a Story Sponsors:

**INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT**
- CT Humanities
- The Kitchings Family Foundation

**MEDIA SUPPORT**
- Curtis Licensing, a division of The Saturday Evening Post, and the Norman Rockwell Family Agency

**EXHIBITION SPONSORS**
- Anonymous
- 85th Day Food Community
- Cynthia and Robert Martin
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- Coastal Funding
- The Edward and Mary Lord Foundation
- Saltwater Farm Vineyard
- Tom and Candy Sanford
- Mary Anne Stets and H. Wes Maxwell
- Melinda Elliott Carlisle
- Liane and Don Crawford
- Mary and Paul Fox
- Market Realty

**Mystic Museum of Art**
Mystic Museum of Art (MMoA) has served as a focal point for the arts in southeastern Connecticut for more than 100 years. Founded in 1913 as the Mystic Art Association, the museum now engages visitors in richly curated exhibitions, interpretive activities, studio classes, and outreach programs. MMoA’s mission is to inspire creativity and critical dialogue by engaging the regional community in the understanding, appreciation, and practice of visual art.