



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

//// WELCOME

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(FRONT COVER) OPENING RECEPTION,
THE 20TH ANNUAL COLLEGE SHOW.

//PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHAN FISKE PHOTOGRAPHY

(LEFT) FEAST: IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE FITCHBURG ART MUSEUM.



//// LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

In our 45th year, artist activity—already robust—exploded at ArtsWorcester. In the previous fiscal year, ArtsWorcester had an artist membership of 538, with 442 of them participating. This year, 571 artists had work in one of our fourteen gallery shows or off-site exhibitions, submitted or applied for a competitive opportunity, went to a workshop or artist panel, or donated a piece to Art On The Line.

This extraordinary demand requires us to innovate, and think beyond member and solo shows. In the galleries, you may have noticed a recent uptick in juried exhibitions with specific themes (this past year: the landscapes of Worcester County, and books). Artist Shoeboxes give a few artists each year an individual space for a small number of works, effectively a tiny solo show. Both efforts showcase as many artists as we can, and provide the public with as many rich artistic experiences as possible within the limits of a single season.

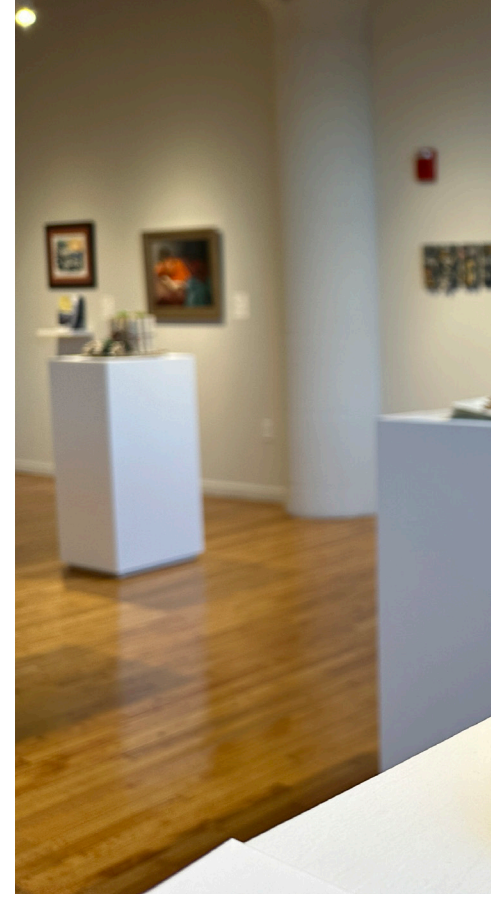
This year also marked our first member-curated exhibition, with a single artist successfully trying their hand at assembling an exhibition, with coaching from staff. In a year when our own efforts focused so heavily on building internal capacity and infrastructure, it seems right that we keep finding ways to build capacity in Central Massachusetts artists.

Looking back on the exhibitions, events, and partnerships of the 2023-2024 season, we are also struck by a new artistic confidence in this region. Artists are bringing new assurance to the work they make, mirrored by bold new ideas and commitments from supporters, patrons, and partners.

Read on to see what this new confidence and new commitment looks like in the galleries, and in this community. We thank the board of directors, our advisors, supporters, and, above all, the artists.

Juliet Feibel, Executive Director

HEBA ABDI (ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY '24),
SO MUCH GRIEF, SO MUCH LIGHT.
THE 20TH ANNUAL COLLEGE SHOW.



///// 2023-2024 EXHIBITIONS

Jongeun Gina Lee: Noah's Ark
July 6 through September 24, 2023

The Eleventh Annual One: A Members' Exhibition
July 27 through August 27, 2023

Material Needs 2023
September 14 through October 29, 2023

Finders & Keepers, curated by Aaron Brodeur
November 16 through December 17, 2023

Scaled Down: A Members' Exhibition
November 16 through December 17, 2023

Page Turner: A Juried Exhibition
November 16 through December 17, 2023

Kara Patrowicz: Parallel Play
November 16 through December 17, 2023

Artist Shoeboxes
January 18 through February 25, 2024

Emmanuel Opoku: We Ourselves are Shared
January 18 through February 25, 2024

Jeanette Staley: Predators and Pray
January 18 through February 25, 2024

The 20TH Annual College Show
February 15 through April 21, 2024

Feast: Call and Response with the Fitchburg Art Museum
January 18 through February 25, 2024

View Finder: A Juried Exhibition
May 9 through June 16, 2024

Sophie Pearson: Beneath the Memory
May 9 through June 16, 2024



BRAD CHAPMAN BLEAU, ALPHABET BOOK OF ONOMATOPOEIA.
PAGE TURNER.



FEAST: A MEMBERS' EXHIBITION IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE FITCHBURG ART MUSEUM.



CARRIE CRANE, ORBITING ODDS AND ENDS. MATERIAL NEEDS 2023.
// COURTESY OF NATHAN FISKE PHOTOGRAPHY.



OPENING RECEPTION, JEANEATTE STALEY: PREDATORS AND PRAY.



KARA PATROWICZ, *PARALLEL PLAY (NEST)*.
PARALLEL PLAY.
// COURTESY OF WILL HOWCROFT PHOTOGRAPHY.



ARTIST DIALOGUE WITH EMMANUEL OPOJU
(*WE OURSELVES ARE SHARED*) AND KRISTINA WILSON.

13,600+
in-person gallery visits

9,099
exhibition views on our website

//// PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

The juried exhibition, *Page Turner*, inspiring an emergence of artist books, with the American Antiquarian Society and Worcester's independent bookstores as project partners

A packed house last January for artist dialogues between artist Emmanuel Opoku and Kristina Wilson of Clark University, and artist Jeanette Staley with Jessica Roscio of the Danforth Art Museum

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the annual College Show, now welcoming student artists across the Commonwealth, and showcasing the talent of our local institutions

Our first member-curated exhibition, with Aaron Brodeur bringing *Finders & Keepers* to the Central Corridor

Tracing on a map each location represented in *View Finder*, forty-six interpretations of different Worcester County landscapes and city views

Springtime acceptances for the first cohort of Future Arts Workers of Worcester, selected Worcester Public high school students in a paid apprenticeship as arts administrators, beginning in fall of 2024

///// EVENTS SPOTLIGHT

A few outstanding moments from the 2023-2024 season at ArtsWorcester.

ART ON THE LINE ▶

Over 100 lucky people holding tickets to Art On The Line queued up on a chilly April afternoon, waiting for the doors to open. They were there to grab their pick of the 300+ small artworks suspended from the ceiling, all priced at \$20 at this madcap flash sale. Over 100 artists made and donated artworks specifically for AOTL, with all proceeds supporting member exhibitions.



◀ THE 20TH ANNUAL COLLEGE SHOW

The College Show marked its 20th anniversary, with student artists from across Worcester and the Commonwealth making their downtown debut.

Pictured: State Senator Robyn Kennedy and Board President Ryan Hacker present a first juror's prize to Heba Abdi, Assumption University '24, for her photograph *So Much Grief, So Much Light* (view on page 4).



// COURTESY OF NATHAN FISKE PHOTOGRAPHY.

YOUTH PRIZE COMMITTEE ▶

The College Show was one of the two exhibitions at which the Worcester Public High School students on the Youth Prize Committee presented awards. With coaching from staff members, they evaluated artworks and worked together to determine which would receive cash prizes.

Several former YPC members embark on a new activity with us this coming year as Future Arts Workers.





//// THE 42ND ARTSWORCESTER AWARD

In September of 2024, Birgit Straehle and Luis Fraire received the 42nd ArtsWorcester Award for their extraordinary contributions to arts and culture in the City of Worcester.

During the eight years they spent running the Sprinkler Factory, Birgit and Luis managed, facilitated, or helped produce over one hundred and fifty individual events. Many of them were fully curated artist exhibitions, with countless artists. Events included Shakespeare plays, contra dance, classical Indian music, Cinema Worcester, the Worcester Film Festival, the Worcester Armenian Film Festival, 4th Wall Theatre Company, POW! WOW! Worcester, Cirque du Noir, Bread and Puppet Theater, concerts—experimental music, jazz, and live film scores—art markets, book fairs, poetry readings, collaborations with ArtsWorcester, the Worcester Art Museum, and the Worcester Public Schools.

Even as they brought thousands of people into this dazzling array of culture, they were contributing to the arts in other ways. Birgit was a long-time painting conservator at the Worcester Art Museum, and now provides this service independently. Luis ran Preservation Worcester's Park View Room and now uses his skills as a sound technician for White Room's performance events. In recent years they also volunteered for Preservation Worcester, Worcester Center for Crafts and the Worcester Historical Museum's Harvey Ball.

After the closing of the Sprinkler Factory, Birgit and Luis bought the White Room, an event venue in the Canal District. This new business serves multiple purposes, and brings people to the arts in ways new and different than the Sprinkler Factory. It serves as a public showroom for the visual arts, a performance area, and a new venture, art consultation services for clients to find art for the home or office. Public events like The Poet's Cauldron, classical musical performances, artist demonstrations, community meetings, ping-pong salons, and holiday craft markets all call the White Room home now.

Because of Birgit and Luis, people have made life-long friends, found project partners, and proposed to their future spouses. Artists, musicians, audiences, and the city have benefited from their extraordinary gifts for convening people, making them welcome, and fostering talent. For this, and all that they make possible, we thank them.



//// GALLERY PURCHASERS

The following individuals directly supported living artists--and validated their efforts-- by purchasing artwork out of the galleries during the 2023-2024 exhibition season. We also thank those who acquired pieces at Art On The Line, stART on the Street, and at Pride Worcester.

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Audrey Von-Maszewski

Jill Watts

Laura White

Steve White

Brenda and Bob Yates



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//// THANKING OUR DONORS

Individual gifts make ArtsWorcester possible. We first gratefully acknowledge the long-standing generosity of individuals supporting our work for five consecutive years or more.

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The accuracy of this list is important to us. If we have printed your name incorrectly or omitted anyone, please let us know so that we can correct accordingly.





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 Worcester Public Library
 Worcester Public Schools

//// FINANCIAL SUMMARY as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024

ASSETS	2024	2023
Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Restricted Cash	\$782,812	\$700,056
Grants and Accounts Receivables	\$7,200	\$27,202
Pledges Receivable, Current	\$8,300	\$1,000
Prepaid expenses	\$7,302	\$4,377
Total current assets	\$805,614	\$732,635
Property and Equipment, Net	\$160,473	\$163,468
Greater Worcester Community Foundation Agency Funds	\$716,054	\$612,455
Operating Lease Right-of-Use	\$192,151	\$202,724
Pledges Receivable, Non-Current	\$7,824	--
Total Assets	\$1,882,116	\$1,711,282

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2024	2023
Accounts Payable	\$1,790	\$10,608
Accrued Expenses	\$10,255	\$9,650
Current Portion of Operating Lease Liability	\$5,779	\$4,609
Operating Lease Liability (<i>long-term</i>)	\$199,124	\$204,903
Net Assets (<i>without restrictions</i>)	\$1,476,326	\$1,414,634
Net Assets (<i>with restrictions</i>)	\$188,842	\$66,878
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,882,116	\$1,711,282

REVENUE	2024	2023
Grants and Contributions	\$414,123	\$261,136
Artist Memberships	\$38,067	\$30,433
Program Service Revenue	\$60,482	\$68,369
In-Kind Contributions	\$15,400	\$6,375
Special Events Revenue	\$7,158	\$23,654
Total Revenue	\$535,230	\$389,967

EXPENSES	2024	2023
Program Services	\$278,234	\$259,448
Management and General	\$127,097	\$122,387
Fundraising	\$65,721	\$58,258
Total Expenses	\$471,052	\$440,093
Changes in Net Assets from Operations	\$64,178	-\$50,126
Total Non-Operating Activities	\$119,478	\$69,385
Change in Net Assets	\$183,656	\$19,259
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$1,481,512	\$1,462,253
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,665,168	\$1,481,512



44 Portland Street, Worcester, MA 01608
Gallery Hours: Thursday - Sunday, 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

www.artsworcester.org // // // // // @artsworcester
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