



# Expressing Our Gratitude

A Note of Thanks from RAM Executive Director and Curator of Collections Bruce W. Pepich Thank you for your support of Racine Art Museum throughout 2014! Your gifts helped this museum continue on its mission to serve the people of this community, the region, and the national fine arts field. RAM has become a leader in promoting contemporary crafts artists, making Racine a required stop for anyone interested in creativity and lifelong learning. The museum's nationally recognized exhibitions and education programs serve people of all ages thanks to you. RAM is also grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who donated their time to champion programs at both campuses last year. Each of you helped make 2014 truly a banner year.

RAM posted a **20% increase** in visitors over 2013. Just short of 60,000, this was the largest annual audience in the museum's history! Attendance for all programs was up, but there were significant increases in studio art class enrollments, *RAM on the Road*, and *SPARK* programs. In addition, the public's response to RAM's museum-wide show of ceramics from the collection, held in conjunction with a national clay conference (NCECA) in Milwaukee, brought thousands of people into the galleries. This influx was back-to-back with last spring's popular **5th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition** to top off a busy, buzzing season. And happily, the excitement continued throughout the year.

RAM has dual roles as a cultural institution and a tourist attraction, drawing visitors from around the region to Racine. This is validated by guest statistics: 38% of the museum's visitors in 2014 came from outside Wisconsin—representing 47 different US states and 21 countries. In recognition of these efforts, RAM was honored to receive the Wisconsin Governor's Tourism Award for Arts, Culture, and Heritage in March 2015. This award recognized RAM as the destination that best showcases arts and culture while enhancing tourism and contributing to the economic well-being of their community.

The best way to thank you is to show you. In this issue of *Focus: RAM*, you will learn more about the programs that your contributions make possible and see the great things that RAM has planned for the rest of 2015. Thank you for being members of RAM's extended family of supporters! Please stop in for a visit with your family and friends.

(cover)
Racine Art Museum
Photography: Jon Bolton

(above)

Studio Art Class
at RAM's Wustum Museum

(opposite)

Creativity Workshop for Businesses/Organizations at RAM

Each year we recognize the generous donors who support RAM and Wustum through financial contributions. The following pages list those who have contributed to RAM in 2014 through membership, sponsorship, grants, campaigns, employer matched gifts, annual fund, endowments, gifts in honor or memory of loved ones and friends, and fundraising events. All gifts are welcomed with the utmost gratitude. Although we hope this list is complete, if we have missed or misspelled your name, please call Sue Buhler-Maki at 262.619.3539, so we may immediately correct our records. Thank you.

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# **Your Support Makes RAM Possible**

A Note About Giving from Director of **Operations and** Development Laura D'Amato

Your generous gifts are essential in sustaining RAM now and into the future. Here are some new programs that are a direct result of your support during 2014.

#### **Professional Artist Development Series**

Led by experts in their fields, this program offers a wide range of topics including portfolio development and marketing for regional artists seeking to develop their professional careers.



#### Women of Worth Program

RAM provides an arts component as part of an extensive treatment program for women battling alcohol and drug abuse.

#### Creative Engagement for People with Memory Loss

A three-day conference hosted by RAM to help museum and healthcare professionals develop successful cultural programs for people with memory loss.

#### Ways you can support RAM and Wustum

#### Include RAM in your Planned Giving or Estate Plans

RAM is honored to recognize two dear friends and long-time Racine residents who named the museum as a partial beneficiary in their estate plans and whose gifts were received during 2014: Karen Belle Tancill and Serge E. Logan.

Many people remember RAM through gifts of real estate, wills, trusts, life insurance, or retirement plans. Any gift can be unrestricted or designated by you to support specific museum functions including education programs, exhibitions, collections, or RAM's endowment. Your attorney or financial advisor can explain the best plan(s) and tax advantages for your situation. All you need to get started is RAM's legal name: Racine Art Museum Association, Inc. and tax ID: 39-1018155.

Since Jennie E. Wustum's bequest in 1938, estate gifts from generous members and friends have been vital to RAM's success and longevity. After remembering loved ones, please consider RAM as a partial beneficiary. Even five or ten percent will go a long way.

#### Become a Member or Give a Gift of Membership

Membership means unlimited free admission, discounts on Museum Store purchases, reduced rates on art classes, waived entry fees for artist competitions, and more.

#### **Matching Gifts**

Many employers have a matching gift program that can double or even triple your gifts. Check with your workplace for a matching gift form and we will do the rest.

#### Donate a Work of Art

RAM's permanent collection of contemporary crafts and works on paper is nationally known and built primarily by gifts from generous collectors who have donated or bequeathed works of art.

If you have any questions about supporting RAM, please feel free to contact Laura D'Amato via her direct phone line, 262.898.1412, or email Idamato@ramart.org.

(above)

SPARK! Cultural Programming for People with Memory Loss at RAM's Wustum Museum

Silent Auction at RAM Royal Affair

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**Body Language: New Acquisitions** of Figurative Work at RAM



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Steven Platt

Michael and Janet Pobar JoAnna Poehlmann This summer, RAM invites you to experience the work of artists exploring the boundaries of creativity. Two- and three-dimensional works capture the imagination in more than one exhibition featuring "out of this world" subjects such as sci-fi and fantasy while All in the Family investigates the dynamics of making art among related artists.

A Whole Other World: Sub-Culture Craft reveals the intersection of art with cultural subjects that inspire devoted



### **Summer Exhibitions**

A Whole Other World through September 6 All in the Family through October 4

"fan" followings. This exhibition specifically addresses the science-fiction and fantasy-based themes of *Doctor Who, Star Wars*, steampunk, and superheroes.

Focusing on work directly inspired by these themes, or by the winding of these kinds of topics in and out of popular culture, this show features a variety of objects and images. Whether carved wood reliefs of characters from *Doctor Who*, a **30-foot-long cross-stitch tapestry** of the *Star Wars* saga, steampunk jewelry, ensembles and jetpacks, or knit superhero costumes, the work delights and impresses.

Those whose works are represented in this exhibition emphasize the value of the handmade, combining their skills and imagination with compelling stories and characters drawn from or inspired by modern science fiction, fantasy, history, and invented worlds. Fans of pop culture generally or in specific areas, these individuals create work that reflects the dynamism of contemporary creativity.

Primarily drawn from RAM's collection, *All in the Family: Featuring Kelly and Kyle Phelps* showcases the work of families of artists—couples, parents and children, and siblings. This exhibition suggests how shared environments might shape the creative process. What similarities may exist generationally, as visible through works of art? Whether or not artists are creating collaboratively, it is interesting to consider how they may affect one another's working processes or sources for ideas.



Perhaps surprisingly, RAM's collection includes a large amount of artworks by people who are connected through intimate circumstances such as marriage or bloodline.

All in the Family presents examples of their work side-by-side and raises questions about how artists are influenced, especially at home.

This show features a concentration of collaborative

sculptural work borrowed from emerging artists **Kelly and Kyle Phelps**. The Phelps are African-American twin brothers whose work addresses the complex role of the middle class in contemporary society. Drawing on their own blue collar upbringing in a Midwestern factory town, they explore the "plight" of the anonymous laborer through **gritty, visceral reliefs and small-scale sculpture**. Working together, the artists build narratives that combine socio-political topics regarding race and class with personal memory and experience.

(opposite)

Free Hands-On Family Art Project at RAM

(above)

A Whole Other World: Sub-Culture Craft at RAM

(left)

Kelly and Kyle Phelps in their Studio Photography: Greg Rust Edward and Ann Polan Michael and Pamela Polan Polyform Products Company, Inc. Polymer Clay Retreat at Shrinemont

Jude Poplawski

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# RAM Makes Time for Tea in Madison

Through September 3, the exhibition *Time for Tea: Contemporary Ceramic Teapots from Racine Art Museum's Collection* is on view at the Dane County Regional Airport in Madison. Forty teapots by various artists showcase individual styles, approaches to subject matter, and responses to a traditional form.

RAM established a concentration of ceramic teapots in 1999 when Donna Moog gifted over 250 teapots. Since then, RAM has added over 100 teapots from donors including Dale and Doug Anderson, Karen Johnson Boyd, Gail M. and Robert A.



Brown, David and Jacqueline Charak, and Iris and Jay Leonard with the Kohler Foundation, thereby establishing one of the largest public collections of contemporary artist-made teapots in the U.S.

Already described as "excellent" and "fabulous" by airport visitors, this exhibition offers a high profile venue where the teapots will be seen by over 1.5 million people. These contemporary art objects are shining examples of a modern take on tradition.

Daniel and Karen Ross David and Aretha Ross

Isabel Rossey Mrs. Edwin Rossini Alice Rossman Marie Roth

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Marilyn Rothschild

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(above)

#### Volunteer Recognition Event at RAM

(opposite)

Martin and Judy Bibby Bellhop Teapot, ca. 1985

Whiteware with glazes and lustres Racine Art Museum,

The Donna Moog Teapot Collection

Photography: Michael Tropea, Chicago



New Acquisitions: Contemporary Art Jewelry at RAM

Nancy Wheeler

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# **RAM Legacy Circle**

Honors those who have notified us of estate gifts to RAM.

Jill Ault

Jerry and Dianne Belland

Devra Breslow

Camille and Alex Cook

Lloyd E. Cotsen

Paula Donovitz

Helen Gabriel

Jean and Alex Mandli, Jr.

Betty Miller

Bob and Holly Ottum

Lisa Englander and Bruce W. Pepich

Alan and Judy Reid

Betty E. Ritzman

Bill and Mary Walker

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# Works of Art to RAM's Collection

Renie Breskin Adams

Joan Barnett

Nancy Barnett

Dennis and Colleen Bindley

Thom Bohnert

Dennis Cannaday

David and Jacqueline Charak

Camille and Alex Cook

Reverend Ronald O. Crewe

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Dennis Rocheleau

Steven D. Russell

Yoko Sekino-Bové

Susan Sihler

Lynn Wimmer

Katharine Wood

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# Goods, In-Kind Services, Artworks, or Books

Marie Abbott

Tom and Judy Addison

Adventure Rock

Matthew and Lisa Andis

Arkansas Arts Center

John and Jane Batten

Samantha Belles

David Desimone, Black Point Estate

Tricia Blasko

Jamie Breiwick

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Jane and Tom Devine
Mike Fox, efaucets
James Erickson
Ron and Jeanne Ernst
Kathryn Howard, Fit Tech

David and Judi Flegel Jane Devine, Forrer Business Solutions

Leopold Foulem

Funky Hannah's Beads & Art

Marsha Gold Hannah Gollin Goodkind Restaurant

Sidney and Deanne Gottfried

Grand Geneva Green Bay Packers Hans Hansen Furniture

Laura Dronzek and Kevin Henkes

Mark and Cindy Hertzberg

Hot Shop Glass Humble Home

Images by Camela Studio & Gallery
The Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

J & N Ultra Tan

David Mann, John H. Batten Airport

Johnson Outdoors Inc. R.S. Johnson Fine Art

Scott Johnson Ken Kaebisch

H. William Keland

Kenosha Public Museums John Michael Kohler Arts Center Anne Kohs & Associates, Inc.

Jerry Komassa Mariko Kusumoto Lake View Rec Plex Lakefront Brewery

Lakeview Recplex

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Michael Lee Miranda Levy

The Frank Lobdell Trust

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Patsy Garner, Massage Wellness Center David McCune International Art Gallery

Metal Museum Judith Miller Milwaukee Ballet

Milwaukee Public Museum

DC Moore Gallery

Museum of Contemporary Art

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Paul and Allie Choate, Outlaw Restaurant

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Shedd Aquarium

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Sixth Street Theater Chris and Stephanie Sklba Skylight Opera Theatre Something Different Neil and Ashley Staeck

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Kristie Williams

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#### **Estate Gifts 2014**

Karen Belle Tancill Serge E. Logan

## **Memorial Gifts 2014**

Made in memory of:

Barbara F. Berger William Blaesing Evelyn N. Covell Dorothy Creecy

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Sylvia and Willy Quadracci

Richard Schneider Lillian M. Schultz Antonia Schwed Eleanor Smith Gail F. Smith Lucille Theis

#### Mommy and Me Art Class at Wustum



# Conversation in the Studio

**Curator of Exhibitions** Lena Vigna Speaks with RAM Artist Fellowship Recipient Jim Sincock



Vigna: Please share the basics of your art career thus far. How long have you been a part of the Racine/Kenosha community?

Sincock: I trained in fine art photography in the mid-eighties at Milwaukee Center for Photography and Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design. I exhibited a little bit during that time, but got distracted with commercial photography as a business. Around 2000, I began focusing on my art again and getting into the occasional group exhibit, but really didn't try to make it a full-time pursuit until 2012. I was involved in the Kenosha art community for a few years in the mid-eighties when I ran the former Gallery 124 (now Anderson Arts Center). I later lived in Milwaukee for several years, and then Boulder. Colorado. In the fall of 2013, I moved back to Wisconsin and started to look into the Racine & Kenosha art community once again.

Vigna: Would you please describe your work—what materials you use, what subject matters do you explore?

Sincock: My work is an introspective and meditative look at landscapes, both natural and manmade. I also create dreamlike still-life scenes. The depiction of quiet places, both physical and imaginary, is a recurring theme in my work. It is also about seeing the unseen; most of my pieces depict places most people would walk by without noticing.

Visit ramart.org to learn more about Sincock and the RAM Artist Fellowship Program.

## Education

Plein Air Art Event Returns to RAM's Wustum Museum Saturday, July 11

The second annual Plein Air Art Event will be held on the beautiful Wustum Museum grounds on Saturday, July 11. The gardens will be in full bloom, ready to inspire artists to depict their beauty. Wander the 13 acres and pick a favorite spot to capture. Paint the fountain, one of the many varieties of flowers on the property, the gazebo, the 1856 Italianate house, or one of the many sculptures.

What makes this Plein Air Art Event unique? It is open to adults and children. Adults have the option of painting 9:00 am - 12:00 pm or 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Kids ages 7-16 alsohave two painting opportunities, 1:00 – 2:30 pm and 3:00 – 4:30 pm. Art educators will be on hand to help guide the kids' plein air painting sessions (Must be accompanied

by an adult). Stay for the or shine.

Registration is required. Visit ramart.org for further details and to register.

artists reception and award announcements for first, second, and third prizes beginning at 5:00 pm. The event is rain

(above) Jim Sincock, Trikaya

(right) 2014 Plein Air Art Event at Wustum



For summer breezes, wrap yourself in sumptuous textiles from the RAM Museum Store. Beautiful marbleized silk scarves and shawls, as well as men's ties and bowties by artist Jill Wagoner start at \$70. Use a new Selfie Stick (\$14) to photograph yourself in a Shibori dyed silk scarf or woven linen shawls by artists like Randy Darwell and Laura Hunter, from \$22.





#### **Museum Store**

Star Wars, Selfie Sticks, and Summer

Start you trip to the next galaxy with a stop at the Museum Store for *Star Wars* and *Dr. Who* pop-up books, graphic novels, coffee mugs, salt and pepper shakers, and laser key chains. Prepare for the RAMasquerade event on October 17 with steampunk caged bracelets by Erica Zap, nuts and bolts necklaces by Alchemy, and *Swingle* earrings by Thomas Mann. Also, choose from hydrangea sterling earrings by John Iverson and the loopy paper chain gems of Seung-Hea Lee.

The Museum Store is your wedding and birthday gift **one stop shop**. We box, wrap, and ship to your destination. Can't decide? A gift certificate is always in good taste.

## **RAM's Named Endowment Funds**

We are grateful for the individuals, corporations, and foundations whose gifts to support specific aspects of the museums' operations will sustain RAM well into the future.

#### Art Library

Dorothy Creecy John Shannon and Jan Serr

#### **Exhibitions**

Dale and Doug Anderson Marcia and Alan Docter Veronica D. Regas Windgate Charitable Foundation

#### Education

William B. Boyd

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#### **Collections Care and Acquisitions**

Karen Johnson Boyd
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# Museum Operations and Mission Sustainibility

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(above left) **Thomas Mann**, Earrings

(above right)

Seung-Hea Lee, Necklace

(back cover banner)

Free Hands-On Family Art Project at RAM

(back cover above)

James Haggerty

Darth, 2014 Staples on painted board Courtesy of the Artist

(back cover below)

Cheong-ah Hwang

Captain America, 2010

Paper Courtesy of the Artist

Additional photography throughout by Tricia Blasko, Susan Buhler-Maki, and Jessica Z Schafer



# RAM

Racine Art Museum Association 441 Main Street, Box 187 Racine, Wisconsin 53401-0187 262.638.8300

RAM's Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts 2519 Northwestern Avenue, Racine p 262.636.9177 ramart.org

Visit Us

Museum Hours

Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm Closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. Wustum is closed on Sundays.





#### **Art Exhibitions**

At Racine Art Museum

Through July 26, 2015
Charlotte Kruk: Consumer
Couture – The Politics of Having

Through September 6, 2015 A Whole Other World: Sub-Culture Craft

Through October 4, 2015
All in the Family:
Featuring Kelly and Kyle Phelps

July 12, 2015 – January 24, 2016 Contemporary Glass at RAM: The Daniel Greenberg and Susan Steinhauser Collection

August 7, 2015 – July 24, 2016

Joan Backes: Falling Leaves
and Painted Branches

September 25, 2015 – January 3, 2016 Lost and Found: Featuring Kim Alsbrooks and Nikki Coupee September 25, 2015 – January 3, 2016 Urban Wood Encounter 2015: RAM Explores Contemporary Furniture

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage

Permit # 1605

PAID Racine, WI

October 18, 2015 – February 6, 2016 Standing on Ceremony: Functional Ware from RAM's Collection

RAM Collects: Contemporary Polish Fiber from Camille and Alex Cook

At RAM's Wustum Museum

Through August 15, 2015
Sci-Fi, Superheroes,
and Steampunk:
RAM Community Art Exhibition

Nebulous: Abstract Works from RAM's Collection

August 28 – November 28, 2015 **RAM Artist Fellowship Exhibition**Presented by the Osborne

and Scekic Family Foundation