

A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a bright yellow t-shirt and blue jeans, is sitting on a wooden bench and painting on a tall wooden easel. He is holding a red crayon and is focused on his work. The scene is set outdoors on a sunny day. In the background, there is a large, white, classical-style building with columns and a balcony, which is the Racine Art Museum. The building is surrounded by lush green trees and bushes. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall atmosphere is bright and cheerful, suggesting a pleasant day of outdoor art activities.

Focus: R | A | M

Racine Art Museum
Annual Contributors
Report 2019+2020



Expressing Our Gratitude

A Note of Thanks
from RAM Executive
Director and
Curator of Collections
Bruce W. Pepich

While spring 2021 predicts brighter days ahead, Racine Art Museum offers kind thoughts to everyone who has endured physical and economic hardships as a result of the global pandemic. RAM is especially mindful of all those who have suffered disproportionately from COVID-19. We also thank first responders, medical professionals, and all essential workers for their ceaseless dedication and caring.

RAM and Wustum are pleased to serve as **safe public spaces** where you can enjoy viewing artworks with others. At a time when we are all reexamining the ways in which we communicate and interact, art museums can help. To carry on meaningful dialogues that cross existing racial, political, and economic barriers, empathy can help enhance our understanding of each other's ideas and concerns. By presenting works of art and inviting people to interpret artists' messages, museums help us improve our communication skills and better understand other points of view. Art also demonstrates that many of us share similar interests such as a respect for work made by hand, an appreciation for talent, and the enjoyment of expanding our imaginations.

Over the last year, the museum's online presence has greatly expanded with new offerings like virtual exhibition tours on RAM's YouTube channel, virtual art classes and workshops via Zoom, improvements to the **RAM Online Store**, and several live events via social media. These can all be found at ramart.org. The COVID quarantine invited staff to change focus, and inventively and successfully pursue a long-term goal of creating more online programming to better serve local, regional, and national audiences.

RAM is extremely grateful to you for continuing to support our efforts while many sources of earned income—such as admissions, tuition, and retail sales—have suffered. The museum is also thankful for financial assistance received from Federal and State governments, the Wisconsin Arts Board, and four matching challenges leading to three successful fundraising campaigns in 2020. You, our members and donors, have played an essential role in helping RAM survive, and even thrive, during this challenging time. We are **very grateful** for your contributions and look forward to welcoming you back to our two campuses. Stay safe and well!

Bruce

(cover)

At RAM's Wustum Museum
of Fine Arts 2019

(above)

Kids Art Day 2019 at Wustum

(opposite)

SAVOUR 2019 Fundraiser at Wustum

Photography: Azure Mahara Photography

We are pleased to recognize the following generous donors who supported RAM and Wustum through financial contributions during the last two previous years. Because we were unable to produce a 2019 Report last year, the categories listed reflect a cumulative total of gifts during 2019 and 2020. Although we hope this list is complete and accurate, if there are any errors, please call Abbey Bornemeier at 262.619.3539 so we may immediately correct our records.

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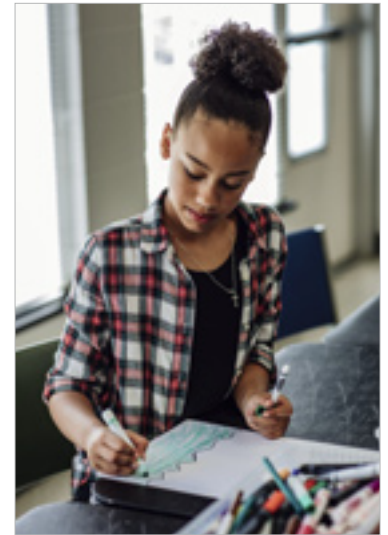
Any given year can present financial challenges, but 2020 was especially difficult. RAM and Wustum were closed to the public for several months—resulting in a loss of revenue from studio art classes, admissions, memberships, and events. This decrease in otherwise reliable support occurred at the same time as unplanned spending to upgrade technological infrastructure, and quickly adapt

from in-person to virtual delivery of mission-critical programming.

In July 2020, some experts in the field reported that one third of US museums were at risk of closing permanently due to the pandemic. RAM had to temporarily lay off 34 part-time employees who work as teachers, receptionists, maintenance, exhibition preparators, and store associates. During the closure, 15 employees worked from home and met virtually several times a week to create and implement alternative ways to engage with audiences.

Nonetheless, RAM is proud to report that there were several financial silver linings during 2020:

- Applied for and received a **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** forgivable loan from the Small Business Administration
- Applied for and received a **CARES Act Operations Grant** from the Wisconsin Arts Board
- Applied for and received a **Cultural Organization Grant** from the Wisconsin Department of Administration to help with COVID expenses and funding for technological equipment and infrastructure



- Two individuals each sponsored the creation of professionally-produced videos that were widely-shared electronically, encouraging financial support for RAM's mission



- Received a matching grant challenge from the **Osborne and Scekic Family Foundation** for a very successful spring campaign encouraging donations and membership renewals
- Received a matching grant challenge from the **Andis Foundation** for **#GivingTuesday** on December 1, 2020 that met and exceeded gift totals from 2019
- **Osborne and Scekic Family Foundation, Ruffo Family Foundation, and David Charak** provided one-to-one matches of up to \$56,000 resulting in the most successful **RAM Year-End Campaign** to date

Thanks to your support, RAM has no plans to terminate any of its exhibitions, related programming, or collection strategies—even with the challenges faced throughout the past year. Thanks to our funding partners—individuals, businesses, and foundations—RAM is able to embrace the opportunity to continue modifying and presenting its mission-based cultural services as we travel through these unprecedented times.

(this page)
Studio Art Classes at Wustum

(opposite)
Kids' Art Class at Wustum

Copper \$500-999

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Current Exhibitions

The Art of the Cup
at RAM
through
August 7

Racine and Vicinity:
All Media
Juried Exhibition
at Wustum
June 16 – August 14

The first 2021 exhibition at RAM, *The Art of the Cup*, features over 55 artworks made of clay, glass, and metal, including some sets with multiple pieces. Balancing traditions of the past with those of the present, the contemporary makers whose works are featured create cups that reflect their styles and interests. Mugs and goblets are included to offer comparisons and contrasts. The variety of approaches includes functional parts of tea sets—such as mice cups who seem to scurry away from a cat teapot—and non-functional sculptural works like a piece that represents the illusion of a cup sinking into a puddle of coffee.



The Art of the Cup was the only exhibition to change at RAM this winter as, being mindful of the pandemic and staff resources, the decision was made to extend the popular exhibitions that opened last fall in all of RAM's other galleries. This date extension has also had the added benefit of allowing RAM to concentrate on other ways to share exhibition and collection content with audiences, with a primary focus on virtual programming. When quarantine restrictions kept RAM and



Wustum closed in 2020, staff worked to organize virtual opportunities for engagement. These efforts continue into 2021 as RAM envisions ways to further incorporate **virtual alternatives** into future programming. Options include virtual exhibitions, live-streamed exhibition tours, digital gallery guides, Zoom conversations with artists and others from both within and beyond the art world, informational videos on works from **RAM's collection**, and social media posts that highlight artists and exhibitions programming.



The pandemic has encouraged flexibility in other ways as well. Due to stay-at-home orders enacted last spring, RAM's Wustum Museum had to move its longest running exhibition, *Racine and Vicinity Show: An All Media Juried Exhibition*, from 2020 to 2021.



A glimpse into local talent, this juried exhibition showcases work from artists residing throughout Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth counties, along with RAM members from outside the area. Juror **Diana Bolander**, Assistant Director/Curator at Rahr-West Art Museum in Manitowoc, Wisconsin selected work as well as the awards for this year's exhibition. This summer exhibition is open at Wustum, **June 16 – August 14**.

(top to bottom)

Robert Arneson

Sinking Cup-a-Coffee, 1972

Glazed whiteware, china paint, wood, and vinyl, edition 4/50

Racine Art Museum,

Gift of Karen Johnson Boyd

Geo Lastomirsky

Cup and Saucer #3, 1991

Earthenware

Racine Art Museum,

Gift of Gail M. and Robert A. Brown

Karl F. Borgeson

Cloud Cups, 1970

Whiteware with glazes and lustres

Racine Art Museum,

Gift of Karen Johnson Boyd

Collection Photography: Jon Bolton

Jerrold Belland

Fourth Floor View: Winter, 2020

Acrylic

Courtesy of the Artist

René Amado and Nate Hunter received two of the five **RAM Artist Fellowships** awarded in 2020. With that honor comes a stipend for each recipient as well as a concurrent solo show in the **RAM Artist Fellowship Exhibition 2021** at Wustum. Amado is the first recipient of an **Emerging Artist Award**, a new category launched in 2020. Curator of Exhibitions **Lena Vigna** spoke with Amado and Hunter.

Would you please describe your work?

René Amado: When photographing, my aim is to always capture the true essence of a moment or chosen subject. I try to disturb or manipulate the scene as little as possible. When editing, I go off of the feeling I get from the image in order to enhance what I've captured [with the camera].

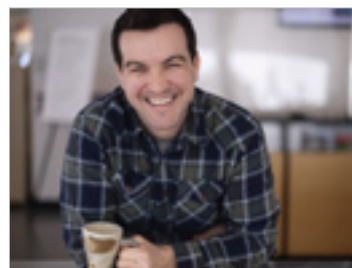
More formally, I would describe my style as documentary, photojournalistic, lifestyle-oriented, and candid. Subjects I explore artistically include lowrider culture, graffiti, candid portraits, landscapes, models in relation to the idea of beauty, and street scenes.



What inspires you most these days? What do you think about most nights?

Amado: In the past year, it wasn't hard for me to find inspiration through the events that occurred all around us—so many stories and scenes to capture. People's ability to push through and overcome challenges really impacted me—made me feel like it was my absolute duty to capture and share as much as I could. And on the quiet days,

my inspiration came in the form of sunrises, sunsets, and nature. Most nights I lay down thinking about all I didn't do that day or what needs to be done the next day. It's terrible, I know.



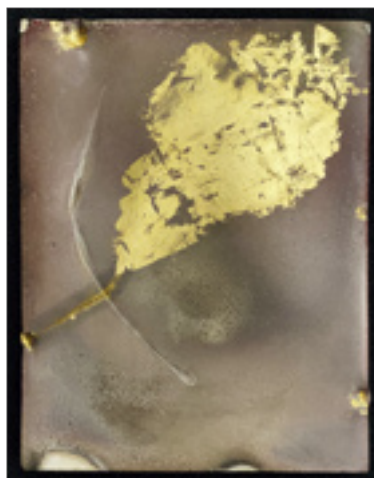
Would you please describe your work?

Nate Hunter: I primarily work in ceramics and fire with wood, which imparts flame and color effects that cannot be created with any other form of firing. I have been using these unique formal elements as a way to explore the pain, scars, and marks that life brings to us. In my investigation, I have learned one major thing—the objects I created were designed to survive

the torturous flame and heat. This has encouraged me during the last year—[I see the pots as metaphors for humanity and realize that] these trials will pass and, just like the pots after the firing, we will be stronger for it.

What inspires you most these days? What do you think about most nights?

Hunter: I have been fully wrapped up in the idea of building an experimental wood-fired kiln. My new design will help me to learn the process and experiment with new and exciting techniques. I plan on using the fellowship money to buy the materials I need to build the kiln.



RAM Artist Fellowship Exhibition 2021

Sponsored by
**Osborne and Scekic
Family Foundation**
September 1 –
November 27, 2021

(top to bottom)

RAM Artist Fellowship Recipient – Emerging Artist René Amado

Photography:
Cam Langendorf, Varitay Studios

René Amado

Disobey, 2020
Digital inkjet print
Courtesy of the Artist
Photography: René Amado

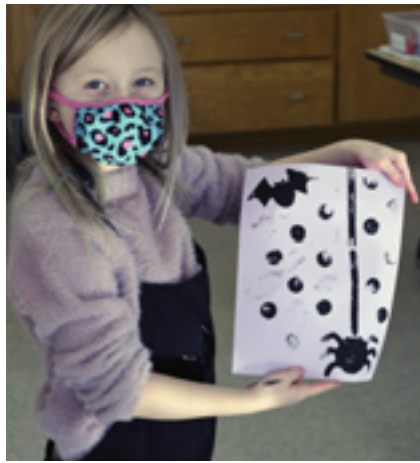
RAM Artist Fellowship Recipient Nate Hunter

Photography:
Cam Langendorf, Varitay Studios

Nate Hunter

Redemption 1, 2021
Porcelain, wood ash, 14k-gold leaf,
24k-gold powder, and resin
Courtesy of the Artist
Photography: Nate Hunter

Art Education
Virtual Classes
and Workshops
Safe Face-to-Face
SPARK! Success



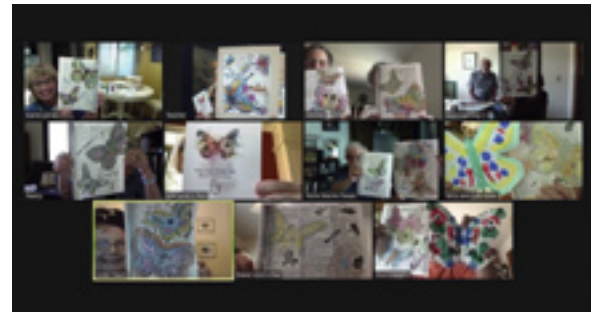
The **RAM Education** team has been providing virtual programs for 2nd, 5th and 8th graders throughout the Racine Unified School District (RUSD). While engaging in the arts online is very different, RAM educators have taken on this challenge and created many new programs suited to virtual learning, including a **Zero Waste Art Initiative**. This RAM program partners with local industry leaders to collect their usable waste and make aesthetically interesting art.

While Wustum continues to host virtual classes and programs, the studios are open for safe in-person class enrollment. Adjustments have

been made to adhere to **strict COVID-19 safety protocols**, including mandatory mask wearing, touch point and shared material wipe downs, and limited enrollment to adhere to limited space capacity. In fact, class takers receive an even more intimate art making experience than ever before, with a very low student to teacher ratio. **Talk about a silver lining!** Time to pick up your paintbrush and join us at Wustum for a spring or summer class. For details, visit ramart.org/education.

SPARK! Success

Reports circulating nationally during the pandemic show our older generation as one of the most alienated demographics, suffering from extreme isolation. As part of RAM's ongoing commitment to creating and sustaining accessible programs, the Education team knew the importance of staying connected with our family of participants in the **SPARK!** program—a free engagement program for people with memory loss and their care families. Educators reached out to our **SPARK!** friends immediately and suggested ways they could stay artistically engaged through the creation of curated activity lessons. Next, RAM buddies were established for our **SPARK!** participants.



These wonderful volunteers were paired with a care family and asked to interact regularly with them through emails, phone calls, and letter writing.

Happily, in June 2020, the museum was able to launch virtual **SPARK!** programs. Every care family receives an art engagement kit—dropped off by their **SPARK!** buddy a few days before the virtual session—exploring a theme. Each is packed full of art supplies and items to stimulate the senses. While this group misses being together in-person,

these virtual programs have become the lifeblood of **SPARK!**. Each session has created such a sense of togetherness and joy—we laugh, we cry, we sing, we move, we make art, we listen, we share, and we are still a successful, **SPARK!** family.



RAM applauds all educators during these times, especially elementary, middle, and high school ART teachers who have devoted

themselves to making this new normal as comfortable as possible for their students. Thank you for rising up to the challenge creatively and compassionately.

(top)
Kids' Art Class at Wustum

(middle)
SPARK! via Zoom

(bottom)
Kids Day 2019 at Wustum
 Photography: Azure Mahara Photography

(opposite)
RAM 10th Annual International PEEPS Art Exhibition
 Photography: Azure Mahara Photography

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(left)
In the RAM Galleries 2019
 (above right)
Free Hands-on Art 2019 at Wustum
 Photography: Azure Mahara Photography

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 Sallie Tyson-Olmsted
 Steve Vance-Welsh and Mary Ubuntu
 Susan Urbush
 Randy Urry
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 Kristina Watanabe
 Laurie Waters
 Carol A. Watkins
 Theresa Barry Watson
 Meredith Watts
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 Jayne Weiske
 Kirsten and Jay Weiss
 Luan S. Wells
 Brady and Anita Welsh
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 Gillian White
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 Julie Wilmering
 Kelly Witte
 Jan Wolff
 Holly Wolf-Mattick
 Shyla Wollman
 Katharine Wood
 Richard Worrell
 Russell and Katherine Wortley



Pam Wortley
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Free Hands-on Art 2019 at Wustum
Photography: Azure Mahara Photography

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The Trio Foundation of St. Louis
Willard and Mary Walker
Walker Forge, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Young Jr.

You can count on the **Racine Art Museum Store** to always be full-service. Since the pandemic started, helping you shop has been our number one goal. The Store offers safe in-person shopping with social distancing and, if you prefer, curbside pick-up of online selections or items ordered by calling 262.638.8200. Shop safely online at racineartmuseumstore.org. Exciting new items are added weekly. The Museum Store also hosts a used and collectible book site on **Amazon**—search for **Racine Art Museum**—where you can find items to fill your personal library. We gladly ship books all over the US every week.

As spring blossoms, peruse the Store's great selection of new games, journals, notecards, and greetings cards for all occasions. New puzzles by artists **Charley Harper**, **Beth Van Hoesen**, **John Simpkins**, and Wisconsin's **Tom Uttech** will delight and challenge you.

As more commercial galleries close and opportunities for artists to show their work become increasingly limited, the RAM Museum Store has begun to carry more editioned and one-of-a-kind pieces for your viewing pleasure. New arrivals include **Betsy Youngquist's** whimsical neckpieces and small tabletop sculptures featuring lustrous rhinestones combined with vintage ceramic dolls' eyes. Fiber artist **Michael Rhode** has produced a group of woven brooches that relate closely to his colorful abstract wall hangings. Shop racineartmuseumstore.org from the comfort of your living room for



works by great American artists including **Joyce Scott**, **Frances Myers**, **Mark Adams**, **Margaret Ponce Israel**, and **Charley Harper**.

The Museum Store is also pleased to present signed copies of **Quiet Elegance: The Jewelry of Eleanor Moty** (\$65). This beautifully designed and illustrated book covers the career of internationally known artist **Eleanor Moty** who spent much of her career living, working, and teaching in Wisconsin. The Store continues to carry her editioned jewelry as well as her stunning

brooches which highlight uniquely captivating, large stones in mounts that enhance their personalities. You'll also find a wonderful selection of brightly colored spring jewelry with something for every budget. No need to resist temptation—treat yourself without breaking the bank!



The **RAM Museum Store** could easily be called a delectable dessert, topping off any fulfilling visit to the museum. It's a tasteful way to conclude your cultural experience. Even better, bring some creative treats home to prolong your enjoyment.



Additional photography throughout by RAM Education Staff



Museum Store

Your Favorite Place to Shop this Spring

(from top to bottom)
Joyce Scott, *Glass Bead Necklace*

Betsy Youngquist, *Seashell*

Michael Rhode, *Woven Brooch*

Margaret Ponce Israel
Walking People, ca. 1970

(back cover banner)
Kids Art Day 2019 at Wustum
Photography: Azure Mahara Photography

(back cover below)
Beth Lipman
Still Life with Detritus, 2013
Glass, wood, and paint
Racine Art Museum,
Gift of Kohler Foundation, Inc.
Photography: Robb Quinn

Additional photography throughout by RAM Education Staff



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
262.636.9177
ramart.org
racineartmuseumstore.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Racine, WI
Permit # 1605

Visit Us

Current Museum Hours
Wednesday – Saturday
Noon – 4:00 pm
Closed Sundays, Mondays,
Tuesdays, Federal holidays,
and Easter.



Art Exhibitions

At Racine Art Museum

Through May 8, 2021
**In Stitches: Contemporary
Approaches to Needlework**

June 2, 2021 – February 12, 2022
**Component Parts: Artworks
Made of Multiple Elements**

Through July 3, 2021
Collection Focus: Mary Giles

**Silhouette: Capturing the Human
Form in Contemporary Prints**

**Expect the Unexpected: Unusual
Materials in Contemporary Art**

July 21, 2021 – January 22, 2022
**Alien Invasion: (Un)Familiar
Forms in Contemporary Art**

Through July 24, 2021
**Someone's Cup of Tea: Contemporary
Teapots from RAM's Collection**
Windows on Fifth Gallery

August 6, 2021 – July 2022
**Playful/Pensive: Contemporary
Artists and Contemporary Issues**
Windows on Fifth Gallery

Through August 7, 2021
**The Art of the Cup: Variations
on Cups from RAM's Collection**

August 18, 2021 – January 15, 2022
Collection Focus: Mara Superior

At RAM's Wustum Museum
June 16 – August 14, 2021
**Racine and Vicinity Show 2021:
All Media Juried Exhibition**

September 1 – November 27, 2021
**RAM Artist Fellowship and
Emerging Artist Exhibition 2021**
Presented by the Osborne
and Scekcic Family Foundation

December 15, 2021 – April 23, 2022
Watercolor Wisconsin 2021