

# Out & About

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## “DUETS”

at Racine Art Museum



# Purposeful Pairings

## 'Duets' exhibit at RAM pairs contemporary craft artists

LEE B. ROBERTS

lee.roberts@journaltimes.com

A new exhibition at the Racine Art Museum offers viewers a chance to see a wide variety of craft objects from the museum's collection — sculptural figures, teapots, jewelry, ceramics and more — in a new light.

Called "Duets," the exhibit purposefully pairs the work of contemporary craft artists, showing their pieces side-by-side in order to highlight the similarities and/or differences between them. While some works by different artists may be related in concept or form, others may share similar colors and patterns. And the way they are displayed in this show allows viewers to explore how the objects "talk to one another," according to Lena Vigna, curator of exhibitions at RAM.

### Common ground

In the pairing of artists Christina Cordova and Sergei Isupov, for example, the figures each has created are made out of different types of clay — hers in earthenware, his in porcelain — and vary in size — hers almost life size, while his are much smaller.

Yet, both artists' creations are, in their own way, examinations of the human condition, with a lot of things going on within them, Vigna said. "Even the stance of the characters is somewhat similar," she said.

Other pairings, such as the work of glass artist Joel Philip Myers and jeweler Earl Pardon, bring together artists working with very different materials, yet sharing similarities in their choices of color and pattern, Vigna said. Viewers can also see pairs of artists who use different techniques, to achieve similar results. And, in some situations — such as the pairing of artists Anne

### If You Go

**WHAT:** "Duets: RAM Pairs Contemporary Craft Artists"

**WHEN:** Now through Jan. 22. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

**WHERE:** Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St.

**COST:** Museum admission is \$5 per adult; \$3 for students and seniors (ages 63 and older) and free for children younger than 12, with adult. Admission to RAM is free on the first Friday of every month, with extended hours until 9 p.m., on those days, April through December.

**INFO:** Go to [www.ramart.org](http://www.ramart.org) or call 262-638-8300.

Kraus and Matt Nolen — visitors may need to look more closely, to discover the differences between the two.

While both Kraus' and Nolen's creations are made of glazed whiteware, they have similar colors and patterns and involve storytelling. Kraus' piece tells a more personal narrative, while Nolen's work has a more social commentary focus, Vigna said.

### Making connections

Because it is not noted on the exhibition labels who is paired with who, it is up to the viewer to decide where and what the dual connections might be, Vigna said. In some instances, the work of the paired artists is displayed within the same exhibition case, but elsewhere viewers may need to look to another case to find the other half of a pair.

"Duets" also features some newly acquired works, as well as pieces from RAM's collection that have been shown before, but in different settings and

### ALSO AT RAM

Also currently on exhibit at RAM are two shows that will add sparkle and shimmer to your summer:

■ **"Go for Baroque: Opulence and Excess in Contemporary Art,"** running through Sept. 4. This show, in RAM's upstairs galleries, offers everything from golden, glittering crowns to larger-than-life wigs, made completely out of plastic wrap. There's also plenty of jewelry, in media ranging from polymer to paper; big, colorful wall hangings; beautifully detailed sculptures; a unique chandelier and much more.

■ **"Precious Metals: Shining Examples from RAM's Collection,"** running through Oct. 2. Viewers are invited to explore the concept of preciousness and how value is assigned to objects in this exhibit, which is a companion show to "Go for Baroque." Its many shiny works of art include those that you might expect to see in a metals show, and some you might not. Be sure, too, to make your way down the hall, past the elevators, where "Precious Metals" continues in a smaller gallery space. More about these and other exhibits and programs at RAM is available at [www.ramart.org](http://www.ramart.org)

groupings. The exhibit offers much to think about, as well as to see.

"Duets" will continue through Jan. 22 at RAM, 441 Main St. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

RAM admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, and free for children younger than 12 (with adult). Admission is free on the first Friday of every month, and extended hours (until 9 p.m.) are offered on first Fridays, April through December. For more information, go to [www.ramart.org](http://www.ramart.org) or call 262-638-8300.

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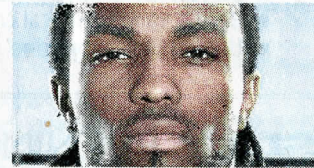
## 'Duets'

Exhibit at RAM

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## A quick study

Raiders DB Erick Sanders learns fast **SPORTS, PAGE C1**



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# Tiny house plan progresses

## Project helping homeless veterans advances

**RICARDO TORRES**  
ricardo.torres@journaltimes.com

RACINE — Local homeless veterans may soon have an opportunity to get into transitional housing.

Members of Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin met with Mayor John Dickert on Wednesday and hope to have five tiny houses ready for residents before winter.

The location of the future tiny house village has yet to be announced, but it will be called the James A. Peterson Veteran

Village. Peterson was a volunteer for Veterans Outreach before being killed by a drunken driver last year.

Jeff Gustin, cofounder and director of Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin, said the meeting was to make sure the project is "done right" and to answer any questions Dickert had.

"This is not a shelter," Gustin said. "We give veterans a hand up, not a handout. This is transition housing to keep veterans off the street."

Veterans Outreach also runs a food pantry, Gustin added, which has 200 visits monthly and gives out 10,000 pounds of

## What they have so far

The Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin have:

**One** house complete

**Five** currently being constructed

A goal of \$125,000 with over **\$60,000** raised

food monthly to veterans and their immediate families.

Gustin said they're currently creating blueprints for a com-

munity building that will have a kitchen with food stocked from their pantry, showers and a meeting space to help the veterans with any issues they have.

"We're going to bring services to our site," Gustin said, adding it will allow veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse or financial issues a space where they can meet with counselors and experts.

Currently in Racine, Gustin said he knows of veterans who could really benefit from something like this tiny house village. But he said if veterans can find



**GREGORY SHAVER.**

GREGORY.SHAVER@JOURNALTIMES.COM

Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin hopes to have 15 tiny houses built to move veterans off the streets.

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