

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

IMAGE—Inside the Glass Galleries: MoNA Link Student Tour, 2021 Photo by Tim Mickleburgh (Dan Friday: Future Artifacts—2021 exhibition)

Students from Madison Elementary School engage in a sketch and creative writing exercise led by Nicolette Harrington, MoNA Link Coordinator.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of Northwest Art collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits art created in the Pacific Northwest, supports artists, and strives to integrate art into the lives of all people.

## **COLLECTIONS & EXHIBITIONS**

MoNA collects and exhibits contemporary art from across the Northwest, including Alaska, British Columbia, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington.

### **EDUCATION**

MoNA's Education Department provides an inclusive environment and stimulating programming that supports the development and expression of all people.

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### Dear MoNA Community,

As we begin the 41st year of the Museum of Northwest Art, positive changes have been made to our beloved organization.

First, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Joanna Sikes, who has served as our Executive Director for the past four years. During her tenure, Joanna has strived and succeeded in reconnecting the Museum with artists, members, key donors, and most importantly, the community we serve. In addition, Joanna has developed a highly dedicated, high-quality staff, orchestrated two successful "virtual" Art Auctions and helped create a strong financial balance sheet that will allow MoNA to continue to grow into the future. Ms. Sikes has now moved from Executive Director to Director of Development, focusing on fundraising, donor relations, and grant development, all critical to building long-term financial growth and stability. Thank you, Joanna! It is to your credit MoNA is in such great shape as we enter our 41st year!

Our new Executive Director, Stefano Catalani, comes to the Museum with seasoned operational experience gained from his tenure at Bellevue Arts Museum and Gage Academy of Art. We are fortunate to have Stefano join us. We look forward to his leadership and, most notably, his enthusiasm to build MoNA as a highly recognized regional museum of Northwest Art.

Our MoNA store is profitable, and it is a fun place to visit and shop. The Store, the entire Museum staff, the docents, and the scores of MoNA volunteers are as dedicated and motivated as always in providing the best experience of the treasure of Northwest Art for the whole community. Financially, MoNA is now in the most vital position it has been in many years. Thanks to our donors and members' outstanding support, combined with excellent stewardship of the mission and guidance from both board and staff—again, a credit to Joanna!

Given the institution's finances, it is now our intention to address and execute the longawaited repairs to the roof, the heating and ventilation system, and the restoration of the south wall, with work to begin immediately following the 2022 Art Auction. These much-needed repairs are possible thanks to the generosity of past and current donors like you. MoNA is on the right path to financial and organizational sustainability with your continued support.

This year, the 30th Annual Art Auction will blend on-site viewing with virtual online bidding, a process that has worked well in the past two years. In addition, we hope to have a live event during the Art Auction whereby we can gather together, share our passion for art, the Museum's mission and strengthen the foundations for the future. Without a doubt, we can all agree it is time for a party!

To conclude, I want to personally thank you, the MoNA community, for your ongoing support. The Museum would not be here without your generous help, constant encouragement, and candid feedback. The entire board, staff, docents, and all our volunteers thank you for your unremitting support.

One of the pleasures of being the Executive Director is to share the stories that unfolded over the year in the Annual Report. Starting with my first report in 2018, the Museum has continued to build a solid financial foundation with a constant focus on how to prepare for the future. Education programs and exhibitions continued to stay relevant to the diverse communities we serve, free of charge and accessible to all.

The 2021 exhibitions presented artwork by two Northwest Artists at different stages in their careers, each with unique, strong creative styles and different cultural roots.

Max Benjamin is an abstract painter who, for over 61 years, continues to paint every day in his rural studio on Guemes Island. His brushstrokes have more in common with the abstract style of New York than the Mystic artists of the Northwest. *Future Artifacts*, Dan Friday's first museum exhibition, introduced his unique way of working with blown and sculpted hot glass, infused with his heritage as a member of the Lummi Nation. The hand-tied fishing nets, woven baskets and textiles, and the story of the longhouse inform the artwork.

The Education Team's mission, to reach out into the community, received grant support from a wide group of sources such as Arts WA, private and public Foundations. As a result, **MoNA Link** continued to build a legacy of art teachers in public schools, adhering to the highest standards for teaching the arts. **Early Enrichment** classes filled the galleries with laughter as young children sat on the floor, ready to begin with great excitement. **The Art Box Lending Library** for classroom teachers offers art boxes filled with art materials at no cost.

Membership increased due to new members, and equally as important, returning members. The membership program is now a vital revenue stream. **GiveBIG** and **Giving Tuesday** fundraising programs continued to increase and were very successful. The Annual Art Auction was the most successful since 2018 due to the overwhelming support of the artists and the community of bidders.

The **Curatorial Maintenance Project** of the Museum Northwest Art Collection was launched in 2021 to review the care and current condition of the works in the collection. The images with detailed information will soon be available to scholars, visitors, staff, and researchers online.

I want to send a warm thank you to the amazing supporters who made the programs and exhibitions possible and to the dedicated Museum Staff, Board of Trustees, Docents, and Volunteers. The Museum of Northwest Art is a creative place that is admission free 365 days a year, and which will continue to be for many years to come, due to *your* involvement and care.

### Looking forward to 2022.

### Dear MoNA Community,

I am honored and tremendously excited to serve as the new Executive Director. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for the confidence they have placed in me to lead such a storied institution. But, above all, I am excited to build on MoNA's strong work to serve and represent all communities by means of collecting, preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting the art created in the Pacific Northwest.

I look forward to working with the Museum Board, the Director of Development, Joanna Sikes, who has done a fantastic job stewarding the Museum through difficult times as former Executive Director, and the amazing Staff who bring extreme dedication and talent to the arts. As well as to engage all of you, the community at large through my commitment to art, culture, inclusivity, and the deep-seated belief that art can touch, transform and reshape our perception of life.



IMAGE—Max Benjamin, CCXXXVII, no date, oil on canvas Max Benjamin...A Road Well Traveled—2021 exhibition

# **BOARD & STAFF** As of January 1, 2022

### STAFF

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Maggie Paul Collections Manager

Tate Ohl Collections Assistant

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Nicolette Harrington MoNA Link Coordinator

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IMAGE—Dan Friday, Lummi Lightning Bear, 2020, hand sculpted hot glass Dan Friday: Future Artifacts—2021 exhibition

Museum of Northwest Art

# MONA AT A GLANCE

Total number of museum visitors: 23,095

Members: 450

Total permanent collection acquisitions: 17

Number of artists exhibited: 51

Adult outreach participants: 475

Number of students served via classroom visits: 1,050

Number of youth outreach participants: 1,634

**IMAGE**— Dan Friday, The Sun Sets on the Salish Sea, 2020, Audio Visual with mixed media, *Dan Friday: Future Artifacts*—2021 exhibition

# **FINANCIALS**

Total Income	\$989,847	Total Expenses	\$620,943
Contributions	\$242,696	Wages, Benefits, & Taxes	\$414,020
Grants	\$195,609	Exhibition & Permanent Collection	\$63,370
Events, Net Proceeds	\$212,898	Educational Programs	\$11,514
Membership	\$42,490	Utilities	\$24,921
Store, Gross Profit	\$134,452	Repairs & Maintenance	\$23,774
Endowment Earnings, Classes & Interest	\$13,462	Insurance	\$14,380
Forgiven Debt <sup>1</sup>	\$148,240	Other Expenses <sup>2</sup>	\$68,964

Net Surplus	\$326,880	Store Net Income	\$50,435
Earnings Before Non-Cash Expense	\$368,904	Gross Profit	\$134,452
Depreciation Expense (Non-Cash)	\$39,164	Total Direct Expenses (including Store	\$84,017
Other Non-Cash Adjustments	\$2,860	Staff Wages, Benefits & Taxes)	

\*1 Income from Forgiven Debt related to loans from the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program \*2 Includes: Store Expenses; Supplies; Office Equipment & Software; Postage; Design & Printing; Marketing; Fundraising; Real Estate Taxes; Storage Facility; Licenses & Permits; Dues & Subscriptions; Interest; Bank Fees; Mileage; Accounting Fees; Miscellaneous

# **EXHIBITIONS**

### WINTER MAX BENJAMIN...A ROAD WELL TRAVELED

### January 23, 2021—May 9, 2021

Max Benjamin was born in San Diego in 1928. After serving in the Navy, he used his GI benefits to study art at the University of Washington. In 1959, he traded the security of a job at Boeing for a log cabin down a long winding road on Guemes Island—to paint.

Max has always traveled his own road; for 61 years, he stayed true to his style. His early paintings had more in common with NY's Abstract Expressionism or European art movements than the Northwest mystical style. He continues to paint every day in that now expanded log cabin.



**IMAGE**—Max Benjamin, *Guemes Island*, 1991, pastel on paper, Collection of Michele and Al Lesmeister

GUEST CURATOR—Susan Parke

ARTIST—Max Benjamin

### SUMMER / AUTUMN DAN FRIDAY: FUTURE ARTIFACTS July 3, 2021–January 3, 2022

Dan Friday, a glass artist and a member of the Lummi Nation, has worked for Dale Chihuly, Paul Marioni, Preston Singletary, and other glass artists for the last twenty years. He taught at the Pilchuck School of Glass and has had residencies at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, WA, and the Dream Community in Tai Pei, Taiwan. Recipient of the Discovery Fellowship through the Southwestern Association for Indian Arts, his work can be seen in galleries across the United States.

His unique way of working with glass infuses his heritage using simple themes, forms, and subtle silhouettes. His narrative work is a personal expression or a means of processing a life event, often with an underlying statement.

Friday presented his work along with woven and textile pieces of contemporary Coast Salish Weavers, hand-tied fishing nets, and the story of the longhouse, to explain, respect, and display the splendid artistic, cultural, and history richness of the Coast Salish peoples.

CURATORS—Carla Bucknell (weavings), Dan Friday (glass)

**ARTISTS**—Dan Friday, Caitlin Aleck, Allison Burns, Anjeanette Dawson, Angela George, Denita Holmes, Fran James, Raven Jefferson-Morse, Danielle Morsette, Troy Olsen, and Dr. Susan Pavel, and Jim Washington



**IMAGE**—Dan Friday, *Raven Totem*, 2021, sculpted glass

# **EDUCATION**







**1,634** Number of youth outreach participants



**63** Number of adult program participants



**1,475** Number of outreach art kits



**475** Adult Outreach participants

**1,050** Number of students

393

9

served via

Number of

visited the museum

Number of

new MoNA

Moments

podcast

episodes

students that

classroom visits









**34** Number of art boxes checked out

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you for being supportive of the Museum's art education programs. In 2021, as learning experiences continued to be altered by the pandemic, we saw that connecting in person mattered even more after months of remote learning. We work collaboratively with fourteen classroom teachers, providing them with training to build their capacity to develop and implement an effective art curriculum. We continue to build community through museum programs and provide teachers with resources to provide art experiences for their students.



**IMAGE**—2021 MoNA Link Teacher cohort. Photo from the 2021 Summer Institute

### **MoNA LINK**

The **MoNA Link Program** provides teachers with opportunities to make, experience, and better understand art, to help their students achieve visual art state learning standards. Using the method *Visual Thinking Strategies* (*VTS*), educators are trained to talk, teach, and integrate art in their classrooms to enhance the learning of other core subjects.

In 2021, fourteen teachers enrolled in the MoNA Link twoyear professional development opportunity that encourages teachers to use MoNA as a community resource and provide instructional support. This year, teachers participated in training days focused on visual art learning standards, techniques in using various media, types of drawing, and learning new ways of talking with students about their art. They were introduced to authentic resources for teaching local indigenous cultures and practiced using VTS in their classrooms.

### 2021 Annual Report



IMAGE—In the MoNA Art Studio: class activity, 2021

(MoNA Link continued) To prepare for museum field trips, MoNA Education staff introduced MoNA Link students to the Museum through pre-tour class visits. During a museum tour, students participated in a VTS discussion and engaged in a hands-on activity in the MoNA Art Studio. "Mobile Museum Visits" were provided when student groups could not visit the Museum due to COVID-19 restrictions. Teachers and Museum staff continue to work collaboratively to create numerous resources that connect art to core curriculum.

"The workshop was valuable because I see now how important **Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS)** is and how it will build observation skills, communication skills, and critical thinking too!" —**MoNA Link Teacher** 

"The museum installations are so inspiring yet approachable and allow my students to want to express themselves."—MoNA Link Teacher

### FAMILY & YOUTH PROGRAMS

Our Family Programs are designed to bring new visitors to the Museum while providing opportunities for enrichment and arts engagement to repeat visitors. In 2021, we hosted **Early Enrichment** in person again, welcoming families back into the galleries! The program served 129 people, reading stories in the galleries and making art in the **MoNA Art Studio** like finger-painting and paper collage. In partnership with Skagit Watershed Council as part of their Illuminight Celebration, we also hosted a Luminary Globe Workshop.

### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

Adult Programs include art classes and workshops that promote lifelong learning and talks, lectures, and panels to inspire and provoke. For example, MoNA hosted online talks "A Poetic Apothecary" by Judith Adams and "American Democracy's Indigenous Roots and Future" by Fern Naomi Renville as part of the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau Program. Zoom art classes included a card-making workshop and a color theory painting class. We also hosted a free in-person collage workshop, inspired by the theme of the Standing, Still exhibition in the Outside In Gallery.

**THE OUTSIDE IN GALLERY,** MoNA's Education Gallery, is a dedicated space bringing local voices from the community into the Museum, providing a platform for those voices to be heard. It is made possible through generous grants from the **Skagit Community Foundation** and **US Bank.** 

### WINTER STARS IN THE SKY/ESTRELLAS EN EL CIELO

(January 23—May 9) The art in this exhibition was created by young artists from Camp Korey, a member of Paul Newman's SeriousFun Children's Network. Since 2005, it has served over 31,000 campers bringing year-round camp programming to children with life-altering medical conditions, always free of charge.

### CURATOR—Camp Korey

ARTISTS—2020 Virtual Summer Campers: Amanda D., Nichol E., Alex H., Kathy H., Kim S., 2020 Virtual Summer Campers, Campers from 2009-2019: Isaia C., Kaiden H., Nate J., Finn M., Emma M., Erin M., Makenna M., Grace R., Izzy R., Nola R., Rachel S., Scarlet S., Unknown, Tanner V., Skeletal Dysplasia Campers 2013: Mayyadah Z., and all campers

### SUMMER / AUTUMN STANDING, STILL/EN PIE, AÚN

(July 3—October 10) *Standing, Still* strived to capture both the societal standstill caused by the pandemic and the resiliency of communities, who emerged standing after their experiences. Eleven artists explored the topic of COVID-19 through first-person stories and creative expression, creating a united narrative. The show linked storytelling and empathy to promote mutual understanding and compassion for others.

**CURATORS**—Co-curated by Hanna Corneliussen and Danielle New, emerging museum professionals and graduate students from the University of Washington Museology Program

ARTISTS—Monyee Chau, Blair Goldstein, Barry Johnson, Jody Joldersma, Lorena Krause, Dawn Laurant, Ries Niemi, Lisa Sheets, Burke Smithers, Lynn Whitford, Miggie Wong

### AUTUMN /WINTER ILLUMINATING SKAGIT/ ILUMINANDO A SKAGIT

(October 23—February 13, 2022) This exhibit took visitors on a luminous journey throughout the Skagit watershed, which starts at the mountain peaks of the North Cascades and heads downriver, leading into the Salish Sea. The show displayed luminous examples of our watershed's wildlife and habitat and provided visitors with educational resources to protect them.

**CURATORS**—Holli Watne, Community Engagement Coordinator and Arts and Science Educator for Skagit Watershed Council, and Richelle Potter, Art and Science Educator and Luminary Arts Teacher for Friends of Illuminated Wildlife

**ARTISTS**—Kathleen Bisagna, Richard Brocksmith, and Nichole C. Rose



IMAGE—Camper Artwork, Stars in the Sky



**IMAGE**—Jody Joldersma, *Solitude in a Room of One's Own*, 2016, acrylic, paper, photograph, pencil, on wood. 24" x 18," **Standing Still** 



**IMAGE**—Nicole C. Rose, *Triceratium Diatom*, paper and reed, 2021, *Illuminating Skagit* 

### MoNA OUTREACH

MoNA's Outreach programs are focused on building community relationships, delivering a wide variety of programming, encouraging shared cultural experiences, and increasing access to resources for youth and families in Skagit County. This year we partnered with Camp Korey, CCS Farmworkers Center, the Children's Museum of Skagit County, Foundation for Academic Endeavors' summer programs, and the Skagit Watershed Council. Through your support, we distributed **1,475 free art kits** to students and families, grew the **Art Box Lending Library** with four new boxes, and launched the **Art Lesson Archives**—an expanding collection of comprehensive lesson plans inspired by Northwest artists accessible online for free.



**IMAGE**—Student engaging with the 2021 Weaving Art Kit

For more information about our education programs contact us at: education@museumofnwart.org

# NORTHWEST ART COLLECTION

### **CURATORIAL MAINTENANCE PROJECT**

The project started September 21, 2021, as an effort to identify, condition report, number/ tag, and photograph all artwork in the on-site Museum collection storage area. In addition, this project will enable the MoNA Staff to better activate and use the Museum's Northwest Art Collection for exhibitions and aid in its direct care.

In the future, the photographs taken during this project will be available to scholars, visitors, staff, and researchers, on the Museum's website.

"It has been a privilege to work on the **Curatorial Maintenance Project**. The collection itself is way more sophisticated and immense in quality than I ever imagined for a small museum. Working in the art world for most of my life, my appreciation of the quality of this large collection has confirmed my belief that MoNA can compete with any large city museum in collection significance. The dedication of the MoNA staff to completing this project is commendable. I look forward to continuing to help in any way I can."—Nancy, Volunteer



**IMAGE**—Volunteer, Gary Giovane and Collections Assistant, Tate Ohl working on the Curatorial Maintenance Project, 2021

### **SELECT 2021 ACQUISITIONS**



IMAGE—Alden Mason, Tina Pigeon, 1990, acrylic on canvas, gift of Paul and Lita Luvera



**IMAGE**—E.P. Ziegler, *Outpost Tree at Nellie Juan*, Alaska, no date, oil on board, in memory of Robert Daniel Heffernan, Jr.

**IMAGE**—Dale Chihuly, *Artist*, 1990, glass, gift of Lin Folsom

To learn about how to donate artwork to MoNA's Northwest Art Collection contact us at: collection@museumofnwart.org

# **MoNA STORE**

Thank you to all our gracious guests and artists for a spectacular 2021 from the MoNA Store! While having our best year ever, we increased sales by nearly onethird over the previous year and brought in unique works and new artists to enrich our homes and lives. We look forward to 2022 with high expectations to build on last year's accomplishments and continue to develop meaningful partnerships with Pacific Northwest visual and craft artists. The Store is brimming with jewelry, glass art, pottery, cards, books, home decor, and more!

To augment our success, we look forward to collaborating with our new Executive Director, Stefano Catalani, to bring his vision and talents to the Museum and Store. Thank you to all who visited our Store.

We eagerly anticipate seeing you in the new year!



IMAGE—Roger Small, Osaka Sun, framed oil on canvas

Contact us at: monastore@museumofnwart.org (360) 466-4446 X 106

# VOLUNTEERS

MoNA extends its deepest gratitude to all volunteers who gave their time and talents throughout 2021! Thank you for helping the Museum re-open its galleries, supporting the staff in creating online and remote programs, and going above and beyond amidst difficult times. We could not have done the work we do without you!

Interested in volunteering? Learn more at: monamuseum.org/volunteer-opportunities



**IMAGE**—Volunteer Tour Leader, Kari Stickle, leading a Museum Tour, 2021

**IMAGE**—Exhibition Installation Volunteer, Lucy Mae VanZanden

### THE MONA DOCENT ASSOCIATION

MoNA's docents are a highly dedicated group of volunteers; they are art lovers committed to the success of the Museum's educational programs and exhibitions. Their many talents make an enormous impact on the Museum. In addition, as museum ambassadors and tour guides, docents foster appreciation and understanding of the Museum's exhibitions, artists, and artworks, ensuring a rewarding experience for all guests. Thank you to the Docent Team for your hard work in 2021!



IMAGE—2021 Docent Walkthrough with exhibition artist, Dan Friday

# SUPPORTERS

Thank you, supporters and members, who advance and believe in our mission to enrich the lives of our communities through ART. Your gifts help secure MoNA's financial future!

### Friends of MoNA (\$20,000+)

Arts Fund Leonard and Norma Klorfine Judi Mullikin Jacqueline Dinsmore Stegner

### Friends of MoNA (\$10,000 - \$19,999)

Maria A Palensky Ellsworth and Eve Alvord Ann and Donald Caldwell Karl Holzmuller

> IMAGE—Max Benjamin's Painting Easel Max Benjamin...A Road Well Traveled —2021 exhibition



### Friends of MoNA (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

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### Friends of MoNA (\$2,500 - \$4,499)

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**IMAGE**—(Ciover and backcover image) Alden Mason, *Snake in the Garden of Eden*, 1980, acrylic on canvas Gift of Robert and Shaké Sarkis, MoNA Northwest Art Collection

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IMAGE—(Ciover and backcover image) Alden Mason, Snake in the Garden of Eden, 1980, acrylic on canvas (detail), gift of Robert and Shaké Sarkis MoNA Northwest Art Collection

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