

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE WELLIN MUSEUM OF ART AT HAMILTON COLLEGE COMMEMORATES ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY WITH NEW COMMISSIONS, A DOCUMENTARY FILM, AND EXHIBITION *DIALOGUES ACROSS DISCIPLINES*



Tour of the exhibition *Dialogues Across Disciplines: Building a Teaching Collection at the Wellin Museum*. Photo by Janelle Rodriguez. Work pictured: Michael Rakowitz (American, b. 1973), *H-19, from Room H, Northwest Palace of Nimrud*, from the series “The Invisible Enemy Should Not Exist,” 2021.

Clinton, NY—On the occasion of its tenth anniversary, the Wellin Museum of Art at Hamilton College is celebrating this milestone by highlighting a decade of collaboration, community engagement, and innovation. Since opening in 2012, the Museum has prioritized working closely with contemporary artists to commission new work and develop exhibitions that support new directions in the artists’ practices. As a teaching museum, the Wellin focuses on interdisciplinary learning, introducing new ideas and perspectives to engage the curiosity of its visitors. Looking back at the Wellin’s history, another trend emerges: the Museum has seeded success for exhibiting artists, launching them on new trajectories in their careers.

Says Tracy L. Adler, the Johnson-Pote Director of the Wellin Museum, “At a time when museums are continuing to change, we at the Wellin strive to stay nimble and responsive to that evolution. We have the opportunity to try new things, collaborate deeply, and think innovatively about what a museum brings to a community.”

Artists Reflect

A [documentary film](#) by Brett Novak, commissioned by the Wellin, and titled “Wellin Artists Reflect at 10 Years,” is on view in the Wellin’s galleries and featured on its website. It includes interviews with artists Margarita Cabrera, Jeffrey Gibson, Karen Hampton, Julia Jacquette, Yun-Fei Ji, Yashua Klos, Sarah Oppenheimer, Michael Rakowitz, Umar Rashid/Frohawk Two Feathers, Alyson Shotz, Elias Sime, and Renée Stout—all artists who have had solo shows at the Museum. Each of these exhibitions debuted major new works—a selection of which was acquired for the Wellin’s collection. The film was underwritten by a grant from the Daniel W. Dietrich ’64 Fund for Innovation in the Arts.

Interactive Timeline

A new [interactive timeline](#) on the Wellin’s website highlights key moments in the Wellin’s history: major exhibitions, the launch of new programs, media attention, awards, and publications.

Dialogues Across Disciplines

The tenth-anniversary exhibition, [Dialogues Across Disciplines: Building a Teaching Collection at the Wellin Museum](#), is on view through May 20, 2023. It features more than 140 works drawn from the collection that mirror Hamilton’s liberal arts mission by highlighting a plurality of voices and viewpoints, using art as a means of addressing subjects relevant to a range of disciplines from the humanities to the sciences. This exhibition is curated by Tracy L. Adler, Johnson-Pote Director, and Alexander Jarman, Assistant Curator of Exhibitions and Academic Outreach, in collaboration with Marjorie Hurley, Educator and Docent Program Supervisor, and Liz Shannon, Collections Curator.

Featuring a selection of works acquired over the last ten years, *Dialogues* highlights the Museum’s efforts to build a globally representative teaching collection. Examples include **Margarita Cabrera**’s print-based *Iron Will* (2013); **Jeffrey Gibson**’s original video *I Was Here* (2018); **Karen Hampton**’s textile work *Gerrit Smith, from the series "Abolitionists"* (2015); **Jacob Lawrence**’s lithograph *Tools* (1977); **Nate Lewis**’s mixed media *Orchestra in the Valley* (2021); **Roberto Lugo**’s ceramic vessel *First* (2020); **Jamea Richmond-Edwards**’ collage-based painting *Devotional for the Divine Mind* (2021); **Cara Romero**’s photographs *Julia* (2018) and *Naomi* (2018); **Elias Sime**’s tableau *Tightrope: Familiar Yet Complex 2* (2016); **Yinka Shonibare MBE**’s woodcuts with collage *Cowboy Angel I - IV* (2017); and **Laurie Simmons**’ large-scale, black and white photograph *Walking Microphone with Skirt* (1989).

Members of the Hamilton community—students, faculty, and staff—have added their personal and expert perspectives by writing wall texts which accompany the works on display in the *Dialogues Across Disciplines* exhibition.

As part of the Wellin's newly-launched Creative Commission series, there are two commissioned original artworks by Akea Brionne and Donté K. Hayes created on the occasion of the exhibition for the collection. Other recent acquisitions are featured throughout the show.

Redefining the Teaching Museum

Through collaborations with artists, curators, students, faculty, scholars, the community, and the broader contemporary art world, the Wellin has established a new model for a teaching museum.

The Wellin is deeply engaged with the curriculum of courses on Hamilton's campus, and it is in use daily for class visits, research projects, performances, and events. Courses using the museum have included Art and Art History—of course—but also Africana Studies, Anthropology, Architecture, Creative Writing, Dance, Neuroscience, Philosophy, Psychology, Women's and Gender Studies, and so many others.

Since its opening in October 2012, the Wellin has welcomed 95,450 visitors, held over 600 class sessions, acquired more than 2,000 works of art, and hosted 32 visiting artists, scholars, and curators. It has mounted 36 exhibitions, 243 public programs, developed 11 institutional partnerships, and trained 155 student docents.

Background

The Wellin opened in 2012 under the leadership of Johnson-Pote Director Tracy L. Adler, who continues in that role today. In 2006, the lead gift of \$10 million from Wendy and Keith '50 Wellin set plans in motion for the future Museum, which is named for Ruth and Elmer Wellin, the parents of Keith Wellin.

Featuring over 7,000 works of art and artifacts— more than 2,000 of which have been acquired since the Wellin opened in 2012—the Museum's collection represents a broad range of cultures, historic periods, artistic practices, and movements. The Wellin's collection includes works of art that have been on campus almost since the College's founding 200 years ago as well as new works of art by emerging and established artists working around the world today.

About the Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art

A teaching museum on the campus of Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, the Wellin invites visitors to discover the arts and form unexpected connections through groundbreaking exhibitions, a globally representative collection, and engaging programming. The Wellin Museum opened in 2012 with Tracy L. Adler as its founding director. Its 30,537-square-foot building was designed by Machado Silvetti and features a 27-foot-high visible archive, over 5,000 square feet of exhibition space, and other amenities that foster common exchange and learning. The Museum collection includes over 7,000 objects representing a broad range of cultures, historical periods, artistic practices, and movements. Through its exhibitions, public programs, and educational outreach, the Museum promotes interdisciplinary approaches that are vital to a liberal arts education. <https://www.hamilton.edu/wellin>

The Ruth and Elmer Wellin Museum of Art's programs are made possible, in part, with funds from the Daniel W. Dietrich '64 Arts Museum Programming Fund; the Johnson-Pote Museum Director Fund; the John B. Root '44 Exhibition Fund; the Edward W. and Grace C. Root

Endowment Fund; and the William G. Roehrick '34 Lecture Fund. Additional support for this exhibition has been provided by the Daniel W. Dietrich '64 Fund for Innovation in the Arts.

Social Media

Join the conversation on social media by tagging @wellinmuseum and using the hashtags #WellinMuseum, #DialoguesAcrossDisciplines, and #DialoguesWellin.

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