

# GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA COMMITTEE NATIONAL MUSEUM of WOMEN in the ARTS NEWSLETTER - FALL 2023

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Jeanne Levy, Editor



Pictured Left to right: Darlene McClusky, Jan Leonard, Chair, Linda Woodsmall-DeBruce, Beth Viehland

## **SPRING FUND RAISER**

Thanks to the generosity of Linda Woodsmall-DeBruce, on May 25, sixty members were led on an extensive tour of her and her husband, Paul's, personal art collection followed by a cocktail reception in their spacious back patio. The very successful fund raiser will help fund Women to Watch, the primary focus of the local Committee, as well as other projects that support women artists in and around the Kansas City area. Thanks, also to Beth Viehland and Darlene McClusky, who planned the event with Mrs. Woodsmall-DeBruce.

### ***NATIONAL MUSEUM for WOMEN in the ARTS***

The long-awaited public re-opening of the museum in Washington, D.C., is scheduled for October 21, 2023. The extensive renovation has taken over two years and included improving access, gallery space, mechanical systems, and the building's structural integrity. Prior to the opening, several events for members and donors are scheduled. Accompanying the re-opening, a campaign, *SPACE TO SOAR*, has been launched to secure the future of the building and its collection, as well as to further the Museum's mission to promote the art made by women. Donors to the campaign will receive invitations to several special events prior to the opening, as well as to have their gifts recognized in the Museum's publications.

### ***WOMEN TO WATCH***

The first major exhibition to be presented in the newly renovated galleries will be the seventh iteration of Women to Watch, which will open to the public on April 14, 2024 and close on August 4, 2024. Artists from every part of the world, except Africa and Australia, have been identified by curators Virginia Treanor and Orin Zahra. Mona Cliff, the nominee from Kansas City, will receive a stipend to enable her to attend the pre-opening and opening events. These include a luncheon/reception for artists and committee members on April 10, as well as an opening reception that evening for the artists and members. Plans to organize a group of members to attend have not been made, but the National committee has suggested that those wishing to attend should make hotel reservations well in advance of the opening. A limited number of rooms at the Sofitel have been reserved, April 8 to April 14, for attendees at a cost of \$439 + tax per night, and other possible hotels in the area have been suggested. These are:

Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square  
806 15th St. Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202)730-8428 - please identify yourself as part of April 2024 NMWA Group

Conrad Hotel  
950 New York Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 844-5900

Eaton Hotel  
1201 K Street, Washington D.C. 20005  
(202)289-7600

Washington Marriott at Metro Center  
(202) 737-2200

Hotels (continued)

St. Regis  
923 Black Lives Matter Plaza, Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 638-2626

Hay-Adams  
800 16th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 638-6600

**BOARD CHANGES**

There have been a number of recent changes in the Board Membership. **Lynn O'Sullivan**, who managed the Reservations page for Arts Outings and Events, has resigned after four years of admirable service to the members.

**Susie Unruh** has agreed to manage the Reservations page beginning in September. Susie relocated to this area about five years ago to be closer to family, after her husband passed away. She joined the Greater Kansas Area Committee at the urging of Pam Damon about two years ago and has become an enthusiastic participant in the Art Outings and other events sponsored by the group.



**Helen Wewers** brings a rich background in art to her position as Consultant to the Board. She is a former Junior High School teacher with an MA degree from Emporia State. A very busy volunteer, over the years she has fulfilled a wide range of positions in a wide range of community and charitable groups, including Planned Parenthood, MOSCA, Kansas City Friends of Alvin Ailey, Shawnee Mission Educational Foundation and many others. She and her husband, Frank, are world travelers and have collected art as they traveled, especially Asian art. Among the local arts organizations the couple support are

KCAI, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Charlotte Street Foundation and the Kansas City Artists' Coalition. Helen has been member of the Greater Kansas City Area Committee since 2007. (Photo by Tom Stykowitz)

### **ART OUTINGS**

Jan Leonard and her committee have announced the following Fall Art Outing.

October 12 2:00 p.m. Visit to Mona Cliff's studio, 2570 Cedarville Ave. Lawrence, KS. Possible places for lunch in Lawrence before the visit are being considered. To share travel, please contact Arlene Finney at 816-769-3949 or [arlene.finney@kc.rr.com](mailto:arlene.finney@kc.rr.com)

### **Women to Watch Update**

Sun Young Park, a recent nominee for Women to Watch Exhibition, has received a Charlotte Street Visual Artists Award for 2023. The award carries a cash prize of \$10,000.00 and includes an exhibition at the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, November 17, 2023 - May 12, 2024. Her "ceramic and mixed-media works capitalize on her imagined relationships between objects and the emotional dynamics of disparate ideas, experiences, objects and textures." (Dana Self, reviewer, KC Studio Magazine, Sept-October 2023, page 63) Park also has been awarded the Bryron C. Cohen Award from the Charlotte Street Foundation.

### **Evelyn Hofer Exhibition**

*Eyes on the City: Photographer Evelyn Hofer's Underrated Eloquence* opened at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art on September 16 and will continue through February 11, 2024. Tickets are \$22.00 but include entry to *Monet and his Modern Legacy*, which opens October 28. Hofer is known best for her photographs of ordinary people in cities around to world.

### **In Memorium**

Helen Fisher, charter member and active Board member for many years, passed away on May 20, 2023, at the age of 104. She will be remembered by all who knew her as bright, curious, interested in the people she met along her way, always ready to listen and to help if she could. Memorial contributions in her honor can be made to The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art where she was a docent for many years ( Checks payable to Nelson Gallery Foundation), Old Mission United Methodist Church Foundation Scholarship Fund ([www.oldmission.org](http://www.oldmission.org)), or Emma Fisher Memorial Fund for Trees for Tomorrow ([www.treesfortomorrow](http://www.treesfortomorrow)).



