

GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA COMMITTEE NATIONAL MUSEUM of WOMEN in the ARTS **NEWSLETTER** WINTER 2021

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Jeanne Levy, Editor

WOMEN TO WATCH - 2024

The National Museum has announced the focus for the next iteration of Women to Watch. The theme will explore artists' visions of a new world responding to the thematic question: "How have our societal conditions impacted artists' versions for the future or inspired them to create alternative current realities?" The exhibition will invite all media works including digital works. The announcement references several representative artists, including Wangechi Mutu, Debbie Grossman, Vibha Galhotra and Beatriz Cortez. The entrance fee will be \$10,000.

Arlene Finney, who so ably chaired the previous four local Women to Watch committees, will chair the committee for 2024 as well. As a first step, a curator to select women artists will be selected. The Curator will issue a call to women artists for submissions, and the process will begin. The next Women to Watch exhibition will open in the National Museum for Women in the Arts in galleries currently under renovation.

WOMEN TO WATCH UPDATE

Two artists who submitted work for Women to Watch - 2015 ORGANIC MATTERS have been in the news recently. A large fabric work by **Sara Sonie'Joi Thompson-Ruffin** has been acquired by the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. "20 Odd" is a quilt roughly 4 x12 feet on which she worked for about 5 years. It was a part of an exhibition at the Carter Art Center titled "Journey: 400 Years 1619-2019" that Julian Zugazagoitia, Director and CEO of The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, saw when he led a group of museum members to view the exhibition. The Nelson-Atkins website describes the work as follows:

"In 1619 the crew of The White Lion brought 20 enslaved African people to the British colony Jamestown, Virginia. This marked the start of 250 years of slavery in North America. The 20 silhouetted figures in the center of this quilt are cut from different fabrics with African countries printed on them - a signal that although their individual identities have been lost, these men may not have all come from the same place." (quoted by Alice Thorson In *KC Studio*, September/October 2020, p.88)

The second artist is Lara Shipley, whose photograph, “In the Ozarks There are Lights (Devil’s Promenade)” was chosen for inclusion in the exhibition in Washington. The photograph is one of a series Shipley, and her collaborator, Antoine Dolezal, recently published as *Devil’s Promenade*. Attempts to reach Shipley for further information were not successful.

2021 DUES

The GKC NMWA Board voted to extend all memberships through fiscal 2021 because the recent COVID restrictions demanded the cancellation of essentially all 2020 membership activities. Despite those restrictions and cancellations, the planning for Women to Watch 2024 and other future goals continue. Donations to help support these on-going activities are very welcome, and may be sent to:

Greater Kansas City Area Committee of NMWA
P.O. Box 22495
Kansas City, MO 64113

NEW DOCUMENTARY ON FRIDA KAHLO

Is there room for another documentary about Frida Kahlo? Yes there is, especially when the documentary is produced by Phil Grabsky and directed by Ali Ray. The film is “Frida Kahlo” (2020). The two team up on a journey of extensive research into Kahlo’s unusual life, following her trail in Mexico and Europe to turn over every leaf. Grabsky and Ray place Kahlo in the context of her time and of her relationships. They explain her choice of dress, the physical and emotional challenges in her life, and the motivations for her endless self-portraiture. Grabsky, who devotes himself to creating the best art films for the public, is known for 30 years of excellent documentaries including “Leonardo: The Works” (2019); Great Art Series; Exhibition on Screen:Young Picasso, and many more gems. The film may be rented and streamed in the comfort of you home; the rental fee is \$12. Find it here: <https://nelson-atkins.org/tivoli/frida-kahlo/> (Review submitted by Chris LeBeau)

ARTIST-MEMBER UP-DATE

Cheryl Acosta has announced a series of open houses, and open studio events for those who may be searching for gifts for Valentine’s Day or other occasions. She has taken very careful precautions to protect shoppers, including requiring masks, hand sanitizers, careful disinfecting of all handled items before returning them to stock, and limiting the number of visitors to three persons. The dates are:

Open House	Saturday, Feb. 13, 12:00n - 5:00 p.m.
First Friday	Friday, Feb. 5, 12:00n - 7:00 p.m.
Studio Hours	Monday-Friday, 12:00n - 6:00 p.m.

For appointment: Text: 787-507-6161 or email: cherylevedesigns@gmail.com

IN MEMORIUM

Ruth Moss, a charter member of the Greater Kansas City Area Committee, passed away on December 9, 2020, at age 99. No services were planned by the family at the time of her death, but friends who wished to do so were encouraged to make contributions in her memory to The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, where Ruth was a docent for 50 years.