

FRIDAY, JUNE 10 | 11:00 AM | MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART: CANNON GALLERY

\$12 MILLION GIFT BOOSTS MICHIGAN'S STATUS IN PROMOTING ART BY WOMEN

The Muskegon Museum of Art will soon be home to one of the only museums in the world to have a dedicated space devoted solely to the work of women artists, thanks to gifts totaling \$12 million from two of the country's leading art collectors, Steven Alan Bennett and Dr. Elaine Melotti Schmidt.

Their donation includes more than 150 works of art - painted by women in the figurative realist style - and a \$1.5 million cash gift toward the highly-anticipated and much-needed museum expansion that will more than double the size of the museum.

QUICK FACTS

DONATION:

- The donation will position Muskegon among fewer than five museums in the world that have dedicated spaces for displaying the work of women.
- 150 works of art by 115 different artists, including Artemisia Gentileschi, Mary Cassatt, Agnes Martin, Elaine de Kooning, Harmonia Rosales, Julie Bell, Andrea Kowch, Katie O'Hagan, and dozens of others representing contemporary and historical women figurative realist painters.
- Bennett and Schmidt have collected figurative realist paintings by women artists since 2009 creating The Bennett Collection, and in 2018 established The Bennett Prize – a \$50,000 biennial award designed to propel the careers of women painters who have not yet realized full professional recognition. It is the largest art award offered solely to women painters.

EXPANSION:

- Formal Groundbreaking Ceremony will take place Saturday, June 11 at 4:30 PM.
- The \$11.2 million project is expected to be completed in 2024.
- The 26,000 sf expansion will double the size of the museum, creating new galleries for changing exhibits and spaces for education, collections, and visitor amenities including 4,000 sf ground-level gallery, outdoor sculpture plaza, a museum shop, classroom spaces, additional gallery/event space connecting the new entry to the existing museum, and 3,730 sf roof terrace for events.
- The Muskegon Museum of Art opened in 1912 and houses over 5,000 pieces in its collection. This expansion will allow the museum to display more of its art at one time. At the rate the museum rotates artwork, it would take more than 40 years to display the entire collection.

KEY PEOPLE

- Frank Bednarek: Muskegon Museum of Art Board of Trustees Chair
- Kirk Hallman: Muskegon Museum of Art Executive Director
- Steven Alan Bennett and Dr. Elaine Melotti Schmidt
- Lead Design Firm: Ann Beha Architects, Boston, MA
- Collaborating Design Firm: Mathison | Mathison Architects, Grand Rapids, MI
- Owner's Representative: Construction Simplified, Grand Rapids, MI

MEDIA CONTACTS:

MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART:

Kristina Broughton
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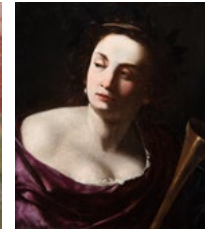
THE BENNETT COLLECTION

Amanda Rogalski
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IMAGES



Agnes Martin (1912-2004).
Portrait of Daphne Vaughn
encaustic on canvas, 20" x 16"
ca. 1948



Artemisia Gentileschi (1593-1653)
Self-Portrait as Clio, the Goddess of History
oil on canvas 22" x 20"
ca. 1640



Andrea Kowch (born 1986)
Dream Chaser
acrylic on canvas, 60" x 48"
2013



Architectural rendering of the Muskegon Museum of Art Expansion

DIGITAL PRESS KIT

Scan the QR code below to access the Digital Press Kit or visit www.muskegonartmuseum.org/media-room/press-releases

- Fact Sheet
- Press Releases
- Images of Artwork
- Architectural Renderings
- Key People



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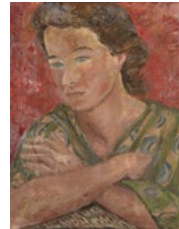
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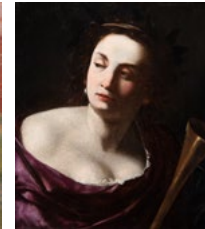
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