



Cert Unites Us

RAM MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2024

ram



RAM MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2024

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FORT SMITH REGIONAL ART MUSEUM 479.784.2787 | WWW.FSRAM.ORG 1601 ROGERS AVENUE | FORT SMITH, AR 72901

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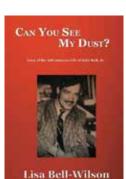
COVER ART

Glass sculpture by Ed Pennebaker
Tammy Harrington - Fish and Hands
Boehm Porcelain
Royal Doulton - Indian Brave
Marjorie Williams-Smith - Black Fields - Tall Cotton
Monica Moore - The Hearts Project: A Covid-19
Memorial





Gourd Bowl with Lid by The Wright Weave





"Can You See My Dust?" book by Lisa Bell-Wilson





Watercolor prints by Michele Jackson



Stained glass earrings by Cheri Bohn



On the Horizon acrylic on

Shop online at **shop.fsram.org** or in person at 1601 Rogers Avenue, Fort Smith, AR 72901 479.784.2787

Friends,



Underneath the visual treasures found at RAM are layers of activity: the hundreds of friends, families, youth, and artists streaming in for lessons, tours, talks, collaborations, and shopping every month; and the staff's planning, executing, marketing, and fundraising for all of the above.

In a new section of the magazine, you'll find RAM's Annual Review. It includes a list of new objectives defined at a recent Board of Directors retreat. Many current objectives are being reached as well:

 Toward our goal of securing formal accreditation with the American Alliance of Museums by 2026, we have completed five required Core Documents: Strategic Plan, Collections Management Policy, Disaster Preparedness Plan, Institutional Code of Ethics, and Mission Statement.

- RAM continues the objective of developing social media for even greater attendance, organization awareness, and reduction of paper use.
- Recently upgraded camera security systems and humidity control systems provide excellent security for RAM's collections.
- The additional enhancement of our ADA accessibility with sliding entrance doors, complementing the ADA compliant elevator serving all three of our building's levels and braille signage, give our public a great advantage.

Since 1948, this charitable organization has enriched the regional Arkansas and Oklahoma community by promoting and exhibiting cultural awareness through visual art. Grow with us, and keep us growing. On behalf of our Board of Directors and staff, we appreciate you immensely.

Michaelang

Michael Hall, Executive Director



RAM concluded it's 75th year with the interment of our time capsule.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

This past year at RAM has been an extraordinary journey of creativity, learning, and community engagement. The museum's 75th year concluded with the Fall Family Day and Holiday Art Party—with our largest attendance yet—as well as the interment of the RAM time capsule. In April, the creatively enthralling "Evening in Amsterdam" Gala raised spirits and funds for future programs and exhibitions.

RAM galleries displayed a wide array of exhibitions, from the American landscapes of Martin Peerson to the figurative pastel works of Virmarie Depoyster, to the large-scale installations by Kristen Tordella-Williams that help us examine the impact of personal and communal labor on our environmental and

physical landscape. The exhibition by Amy Scoggins, Reclaimed, captivated audiences of all ages. RAM also partnered with the River Valley Adult Learning Center to celebrate Hispanic art with our Empoderado exhibition. Our RAM Annual Invitational, *Inclusive*, currently on view, also boasts more than 90 local, regional and national artists. See the list in the sidebar for stillto-come events for 2024 and early 2025.

RAM programming continued with visitor favorites such as Homeschool Art Classes, Drop in and Draw, RAM Saturdays and Paint 'N Sip, while we also expanded our offerings to include a Steampunk Workshop, a Lighted Vase Workshop, several Bead-Making Workshops and an Art Therapy Class.







Riveting lectures by artists Virmarie Depoyster (above left), Madjer Linares, Katie Harper, and a book signing with Lisa Bell-Wilson (left) as she launched Can You See My Dust?, about her father, John Bell, Jr., added embroidery to the cultural fabric RAM provides.





Exhibitions by Martin Peerson and Elizabeth Weber captivated audiences of all ages, as did the incredible art at the RAM Annual Invitational (left). RAM also partnered with the River Valley Adult Learning Center to celebrate Hispanic art with our Empoderado exhibition (above).





Supporters gathered at the "Evening in Amsterdam" fundraising gala in celebration of art history and the future of RAM.





The Fort Smith Regional Art Museum previewed the highly anticipated exhibition John Bell, Jr.: A Painted Legacy. For more about this traveling exhibition, and how to display it in your museum or place of business, see page 22.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

RAM Annual Invitational

May 25 - August 25, 2024

Zoe Crook

May 25 - August 18, 2024

Monica Moore: The Hearts Project, a COVID Memorial

July 26 - December 1, 2024

Opening reception: July 26, 5 - 7 pm

Art of Living Artists

July 26 - December 1, 2024

Opening reception: July 26, 5 - 7 pm

Tammy Harrington: Quiet Moments

July 26 - December 1, 2024

Opening reception: July 26, 5 - 7 pm

UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

Ed Pennebaker: Growth and Diminishment

August 31, 2024 - January 19, 2025 Opening reception: August 30, 5 - 7 pm

Students of Sonja Ayres

August 31, 2024 - January 12, 2025 Opening reception: August 30, 5 - 7 pm

Selections from the Permanent Collection

December 7 - April 27, 2025

Marjorie Williams-Smith

December 7 - April 27, 2025

Jeffry Cantu

January 25 - June 1, 2025

Susan Chambers

June 7 - October 5, 2025

Sallisaw High School

June 7 – September 28, 2025

RAM Annual Invitational (2025)

May 3 - September 7, 2025

EVENTS

Fall Family Day & Market

Saturday, October 5, 11 - 3 pm

Membership Spooky Soiree

Saturday, October 28, 5:30 - 8 pm

Holiday Art Party

Saturday, December 9, Noon - 4 pm





of the Permanent Collection

(Above left) Julie Mayser - Ribbon of Light (Above) Visitors enjoy the exhibition (Below) Pat Lappin - On the Road to Rudy

APR 27 | JUL 21

Landscapes of the Permanent Collection showcased the beauty of the natural world through landscape artworks housed in RAM's permanent collection. Art enthusiasts and nature lovers were captivated by the vibrant landscapes of artists such as Pat Lappin, Charles Peer, and Julie Mayser, just to name a few.

Many visitors came in from the heat and immersed themselves in the wonders of the great outdoors in the comfort of "our" indoors.



SPONSOR

APR 27 | JUL 21

Be sure to visit and explore the interiors captured in Amy Scoggins' exhibition, *Reclaimed*, which focuses on the meditative practice of painting and capturing the historic yet dilapidated Eva Gotlib building in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Scoggins says, "This body of work is more than a plein air study of historic architecture—though it is also that—painted in the thrilling discomfort of the dark and frozen shells of buildings, without electricity or plumbing, covered in dust and debris. Transcending that, however, is the rebirth that occurred for my soul within those caverns. It was here that I found myself able to catch my breath, after nearly twenty years of artistic retirement and medical trauma with our children. In that pause and quiet, I picked up my brushes to see if they held any purpose for me.

"I began this work in the Eva Gotlib building on Garrison Avenue in Fort Smith, a former antiques store established by Eva and Jerry Gotlib. She was a survivor of Auschwitz, and he, a labor camp escapee.

"Alone with the few abandoned antiques scattered throughout the 20,000 square feet, I was emboldened by the solitude and darkness. I began to catalog my experience with these dusty remnants and developed a comaraderie with them. Quickly, very quickly, every corner of that place began to speak to me with images, stories, and potential."





MERRILL Lawson Hembree Group **SPONSORS**

Mercy

AMY SCOGGINS REGLAIMED

Inclusive **RAM ANNUAL INVITATIONAL 2024**

MAY 25 | AUG 25

The walls of the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum are never more alive than when filled with artwork by many artists sharing works united by a common theme. This year's *RAM* Annual Invitational theme, Inclusive, allowed artists to experiment with and actively seek out and consider different perspectives in their work. These different perspectives can be about something as straight forward as switching to a new medium or as profound as being reminded that inspiration can be found within all things and all cultures.

This year, artists featured standard framed paintings, three-dimensional works of art, and at least one work that merged both—Amy Scoggins' second-place winner entitled *The* Caretaker and the Warrior. Viewers of this exhibition can also enjoy large scale charcoal portraits, a colorful and slightly scary creature mask, pottery, and collage.

The RAM Annual Invitational is a national competitive exhibition that has been hosted by the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum since its inception in 1948. The purpose of this exhibition is to encourage and recognize professional artists and foster art appreciation in the community. All works in this exhibition are for sale.



FIRST PLACE Oluwatobi Adewumi Caution - Red Flag





SECOND PLACE

Amy Scoggins (shown in photo) The Caretaker and the Warrior



THIRD PLACE

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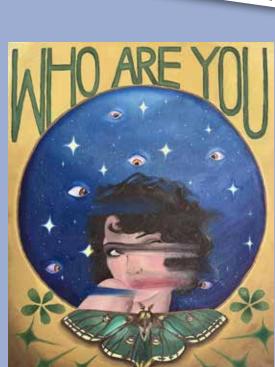




Lauren Carson Understanding

ZOE CROOK STUDENT ART EXHIBITION





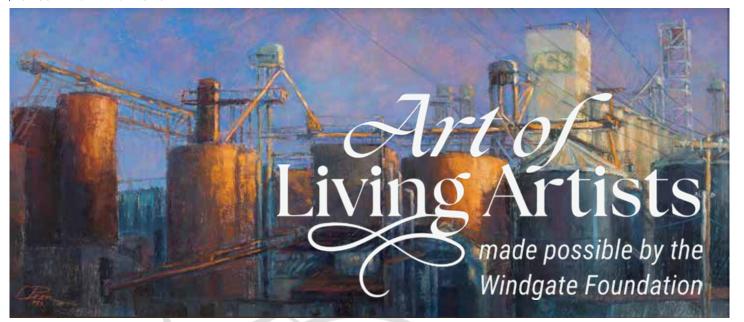
MAY 25 | AUG 18

Join us for an exhibition of student work by Southside High School artist Zoe Crook, Working mainly in acrylic and oil, Crook's artwork is inspired by nature, classic novels, and surrealist artists such as Hieronymus Bosch and Dorothea Tanning.

"I've always been a curious person who has always loved being outside and looking around at brightly colored flowers or intricate bugs. This gave me a very natural progression into being an artist." - Zoe Crook

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Bob & Nancy Card



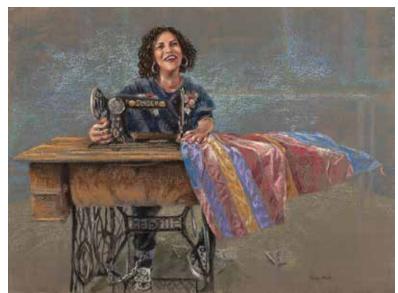


JUL 27 | DEC 1 Reception: Friday, July 26, 5–7 pm

A great way to explore a variety of impressive artworks is to view the rotating exhibitions in RAM's Sandi and Sandy Sanders Gallery for the Permanent Collection. With this new gallery built in 2021, RAM shares the artworks this charitable organization has purchased or received as gifts since the 1960s. They number more than 800.

This tremendous collection got a fresh boost in August 2021 when it received a 3-year grant from the Windgate Foundation for the acquisition of art of living artists. Founded in 1993, the Windgate Foundation's purpose is to advance contemporary craft and strengthen visual arts education in the United States.

This exhibition highlights the acquisitions made with the Windgate Living Artists Grant. The artists included in the exhibition are artists of varied ages and backgrounds, and their works represent a wide range of topic and media.







SPONSORS





Quiet Moments

TAMMY HARRINGTON



JUL 27 | DEC 1 Reception: Friday, July 26, 5–7 pm

Tammy Harrington, the 2023 *RAM Annual Invitational* winner, is influenced by the Chinese folk art of paper cutting. Her artwork is a blending of her interpretations of traditional Chinese designs into personalized figural and nature-based compositions in her exhibition *Quiet Moments*.

Harrington says, "These patterns represent the duality of my existence as a Chinese American. Depending on the moment, I teeter between how Chinese and how American I am perceived to be by others. This is represented by how patterns attach to the figure and surround it. The still figure can exist in a calm, soothing space or in a state of chaos and commotion, as if she is caught in turbulent waves or stormy winds. The red latticework is the stable entity, the geometric severity straining to contain the visual hodgepodge. This captures the journey of who I am—my past, my present, and where I may go."



SPONSOR

David & Delli Tyler

(Top) *Shift* (Above) *Transcendent*

THE HEARTS PROJECT

A COVID-19 MEMORIAL



JUL 27 | DEC 1 Reception: Friday, July 26, 5–7 PM

Created by artist Monica Moore, *The Hearts Project* is an installation displayed in the lobby that features 2,700 (of 13,068) hand-cut paper hearts, one for each Arkansan who lost their life to COVID. The hearts both symbolize lives lost and create a visual representation of the scope of the pandemic in our state.

We urge viewers to survey the 2,700 paper hearts on display for this first installation and imagine what 13,068 hearts would look like or even what 1,134,660 hearts would look like (U.S. total deaths since 2023) and to consider what has changed for you since the pandemic more than four years ago.

EXHIBIT SPONSOR

PROJECT SPONSOR





Ed Pennebaker GROWTH & DIMINISHMENT



AUG 31 | JAN 19, 2025

Reception: Friday, August 30, 5–7 PM

Armadillo Dreams

Ed Pennebaker is a master at combining mixed media and found objects to create dimensional works that amaze and delight. His background in glass techniques, such as flame working, hot casting, cold working, and fusing bring a brilliant dimension to many of his works.

"My mixed media, minimal, environmental sculptures are intentionally vague and abstract. I especially enjoy the patina of old objects and like to see the effects that the chaos of life has on the things we make and use.

"My exhibition, Growth & Diminishment, addresses the circle of life all things go through—birth, growth, flowering, reproducing, diminishing, death, and decay."

– Ed Pennebaker

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Sonja Agres

Aug. 31, 2024 – Jan. 12, 2025 Reception: Friday, August 30, 5–7 PM

Sonja K. Ayres was born in Fort Smith, AR. She moved to California at an early age, but as an adult moved her own family back "home." Ayres began painting in 1970. Native American themes, horses, landscapes and fly-fishing scenes are some of her favorites, and she is a highly sought after portrait artist. Ayres was inducted into the Master Artist Program at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum in 2010 and teaches art and pottery-making.

This exhibition will feature the students of Sonja Ayres. These artists vary in age from 9 years old and up, reminding us that it's never too soon or too late to become a student of the arts.

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The Dr. Henry J. Udouj, Jr. Family



Visitors enjoy one of RAM's Permanent Collection exhibitions.

SELECTIONS FROM THE PERMANENT **COLLECTION**

DEC 7, 2024 | APR 27, 2025

An art museum is similar to an iceberg, in that the artwork that hangs on the walls for the public's day-to-day viewing is only a portion of the stored, collected and cared-for collection. Through acquisitions and donations over 75 years, the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum is sharing its art collection with the public in the Sandi and Sandy Sanders Gallery for the Permanent Collection in a series of rotating exhibitions.

This exhibition features art with a diverse array of subject matter and media, showcasing choice pieces from the collection while also highlighting some of the museum's new acquisitions and donated works.

SPONSOR



The Creator Has a Master Plan

MARJORIE WILLIAMS-SMITH

DEC 7, 2024 | APR 27, 2025

Silverpoint is an especially challenging medium, but that is part of the allure, and Williams-Smith has been working with it since 1985. The effect of light on the silver lines creates a shimmering quality that is quite different from any other drawing.

Silverpoint is the perfect medium for Williams-Smith's subject matter: nature. She uses these natural forms as symbols for the spiritual energy that exists within us all.

"The work progresses slowly as I concentrate on relationships between shapes, light, shadows and textures. Line is my primary tool, as it is hatched and cross-hatched to create the subject. The color of the page is also important that it provides contrast and space for the form to move and speak."

- Marjorie Williams-Smith

SPONSORS









JEFFREY CANTU

JAN 25 | JUN 1, 2025

Jeffry Cantu studied art at University of Arkansas - Fort Smith. In his art, Cantu has been influenced by his Mexican culture and Asia—he was stationed in Japan when he was a member of the United States Navy.

Cantu specializes in three-dimensional design and mixed media abstract works but creates artworks in a variety of mediums in all scale ranges. His sculptures use repetition, movement, form, unity, organic shapes, and abstraction, as well as a variety of materials, like cornhusks, bamboo, twine, rope, and clay, to create intricate and often colorful installations.

"It is an expression of my contemporary, cultural search-of-self, using materials that are mainstays of my ancestry."

- Jeffry Cantu

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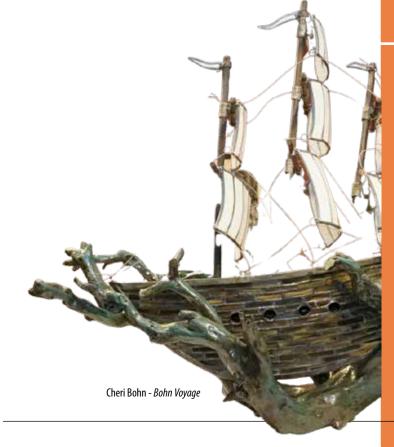
2025 RAM ANNUAL INVITATIONAL

MAY 3 | SEP 27, 2025

The Call for Works and Theme will be announced in January.

The Annual Invitational is a national competitive exhibition that has been hosted by the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum since its inception in 1948. The purpose of this exhibition is to encourage and recognize professional artists. In addition, this exhibition aligns with the museum's mission to foster art appreciation in the community. All works will be for sale. All proceeds will benefit RAM's exhibits, educational programing, and the participating

Cash prizes and a RAM purchase award will be granted. Cash awards will be made at the Juror's discretion. Museum Purchase Award will be selected by RAM's Executive Director and Permanent Collection Committee. The People's Choice Award will be based on votes collected throughout the course of the exhibition. The winning piece will be announced on social media when the exhibit closes.



The Sparks Sculpture Garden

Circling the RAM building is the Sparks Sculpture Garden. The beautiful abstract pieces may be seen from the street, or as you stroll outdoors after viewing the galleries.

The Fort Smith Regional Art Museum invites you to come view three newly-installed outdoor sculptures by Hot Springs, AR artist Longhua Xu!

Xu has created countless pieces of public art for parks, schools, and hospitals, as well as numerous pieces for private collectors. Xu continues to explore new avenues of expression with stone carving, relief sculpture, bronze, pottery, oil, acrylic, and even architecture.

Xu's outdoor sculptures will be on view in the Sparks Sculpture Garden at RAM through June of 2026, and are a prequel to his gallery exhibition opening at RAM in February 2026.

Also included in the Sparks Sculpture Garden are works by artist Robyn Horn and Jaak Kindberg, a mural wall painted by Katelyn Noel Knick, and coming soon: *Passion Flower* by artist Tom Flynn.



A Longhua Xu dragon currently "lives" on the RAM patio.

The Touch Gallery

The ongoing Touch Gallery of sculpture in the RAM lobby is part of the museum's collection where visitors can interact with the pieces. It allows guests to learn the forms, dimensions, techniques, materials, etc. of various artwork. The pieces in this gallery were generously donated by former RAM Director and his wife, Louis and Suzie Meluso, and serve as a great example of how museums can create inclusivity in public spaces and also enhance experiences for all.

The Dr. W.E. Knight Porcelain Gallery Nature in Porcelain

RAM is home to the Dr. W. E. Knight Porcelain Gallery, an exhibition made possible through the generosity of Linda Udouj in memory of Dr. Henry J. Udouj, Jr.

While the Porcelain Gallery is home to pieces by Ispanky, Royal Doulton and Cybis, its claim to fame is housing the largest collection of Boehm porcelain on display in the state of Arkansas, numbering over 130 pieces.

The RAM Conference Room Featuring works by artist John Bell, Jr.

No trip to RAM would be complete without viewing artwork by acclaimed local artist John Bell, Jr. In addition to having two John Bell, Jr. pieces on view in the Sandi and Sandy Sanders Gallery for the Permanent Collection at all times, we have also opened the doors of the RAM Conference Room, where you can now find a selection of John Bell, Jr. paintings on view as well.

The RAM Media Area - COMING SOON!

Located in the Dr. W. E. Knight Porcelain Gallery, visitors are invited to sit down and view a wide range of digital programming including prerecorded lectures and interviews by local, regional, and national artists as well as curatorial insight into selections from our Permanent Collection. COMING SOON!

LECTURES AND TOURS





Lectures and tours at the museum

Lectures

Lectures at RAM provide an exciting opportunity to hear directly from artists, community members, and historians. Whether you're a seasoned art lover or just beginning to explore the world of art, these events are an invaluable way to connect with the creative minds shaping the art world today.

Friday, September 6, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Artist Lecture with Tammy Harrington

Saturday, September 13, 5:30 – 6:30 pm Artist Panel with Monica Moore and collaborators of The Hearts Project

Friday, November 1, 5:30 – 6:30 pm Artist Lecture with Ed Pennebaker

Friday, February 28, 2025, 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Artist Lecture with Marjorie Williams–Smith

Group Tours

Tours for both students and adults (or school field trips!) will be led by trained gallery educators for a 60–90 minute museum experience. The first half will be spent touring the galleries and the second half will be spent finding a favorite artwork and sketching their own works of art from that image or sculpture.



Guided Tours

Select Sundays, 1 pm

- August 4 & 18
- September 8 & 22

Guided by a trained gallery educator, tours include our five galleries and information about the techniques and processes of multiple artists.



Art supplies provided. Ages 16+ to paint, 21+ to sip Members \$25 / Non-members \$35

Discover your inner artist at our Paint 'N Sip class at the Regional Art Museum! Whether you're an experienced painter or just looking for a fun, creative evening out, this class offers a unique blend of artistic instruction and social enjoyment. Participants are guided step-by-step by a professional artist to create their own artwork inspired by the great masters. Beer and wine are welcome before/during the class. Come 15-20 minutes early to get settled in and enjoy the evening with other artists. Charcuterie board and light snacks provided.

See what's on the schedule and reserve your spot: fsram.org/education.



Sept. 20, 5 - 7 pm Wheatfield with Crows by Vincent Van Gogh



Oct. 18, 5 - 7 pm False Mirror by Rene Margritte



Nov. 11, 5 - 7 pm Starry Night by Vincent Van Gogh



Dec. 20, 5 - 7 pm Winter Stream by Walter Baum



Drop In and Draw

Join us every Thursday, 1-3 pm

A place and a time to draw? A live model for reference? Drop in and commune with other artists and draw (or paint) from a live model every Thursday afternoon.

We provide tables and easels but bring your own art supplies.

FREE – Just drop on by!





Ages 16+ Members \$25/Non-members \$35

This series of unique, hands-on workshop is designed for individuals of all skill levels who are eager to explore the world of art through various media. Whether you're a seasoned artist looking to expand your repertoire or a complete beginner ready to dive into a new creative process, this program has something for everyone.

See the art lineup:

Friday, Aug. 23, 5 – 7 pm Assemblage

Friday, Nov. 25, 5 – 7 pm Winter Lighted Vase

Friday, Dec. 20, 5 – 7 pm Glass Gem Suncatcher

HOMESCHOOL ART CLASSES

Tailored specifically for homeschool students, these dynamic and engaging classes offer a unique blend of art history, hands-on practice, and critical thinking. Each class is conducted by our experienced educators who guide young artists through various artistic techniques.

Join us every other Tuesday for a different art project and lesson!

FREE – Registration Required



Art supplies provided. All ages. Free to the public.

Create a different make-and-take art project each Saturday from 12 – 3 pm.

FREE – Just drop on by!



19



RAM's Fall Family Day is partnering with the Fort Smith National Historic Site and many other downtown attractions to offer a day PACKED with fun. Mark your calenders for Saturday, October 5, 11am – 3 pm for make-and-take Fall crafts in the RAM Education Center, local artists' wares on the patio, scavenger hunts in the galleries, hot dogs, and more!

Experience the GIFT of art and join us Saturday, December 9 from 12 - 4 pm. We'll have FREE holiday crafts, cookies, a photo backdrop, and pictures with Santa (12 - 2)!



Welcome to the RAM Activity Pages!

Word Search

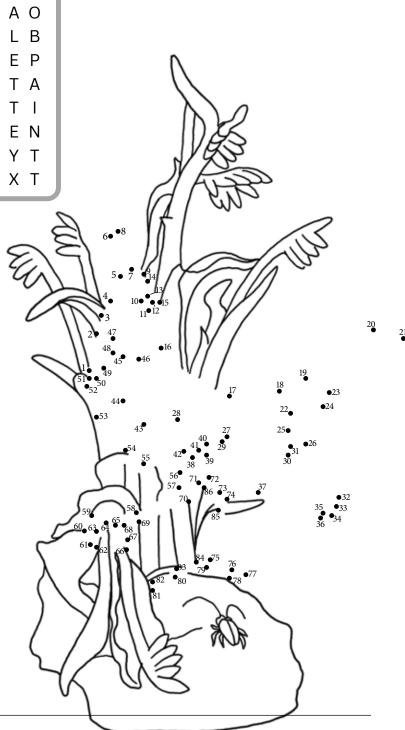
Directions: Find and circle the words.

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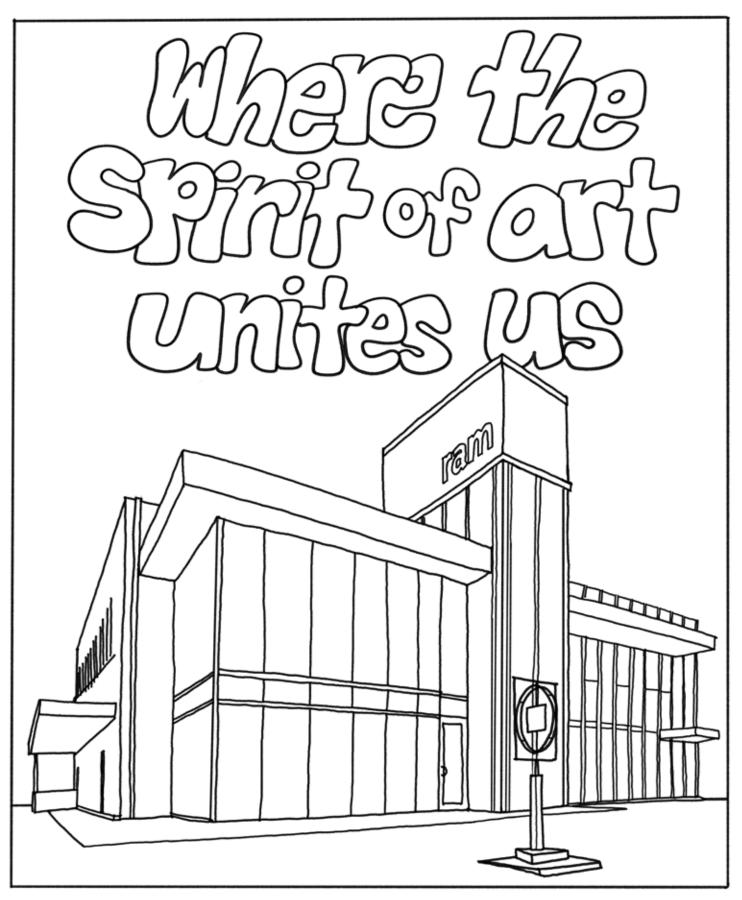
Circle the art supplies hidden in the puzzle to the left.

BRUSH PAPER CHARCOAL **PALETTE PASTEL ERASER PENCIL** GLUE RULER **PAINT** TAPE **MARKER**

> Connect the dots to discover the bird from the Porcelain Gallery.



Color the RAM building (markers work best).



Transportation is not the hard part.







Choosing which of John Bell's 47 masterpieces to study first is!

"To be surrounded by all of these wonderful John Bell paintings an important historical record of our community—with their colors so vivid ... it's really wondrous."

Tom Wing, Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Drennen-Scott Historic Site, University of Arkansas - Fort Smith





RAM Traveling Exhibition

The Fort Smith Regional Art Museum is thrilled to launch the 47-artwork, 8-education-panel traveling exhibition of some of Fort Smith native John Bell, Jr.'s most loved works.

Bell, who lived from 1937 to 2013, brought the 19th century to life in his historic settings of streetscapes, landmark churches, pastoral beauty, and outlaw country. Original film images were used to produce amazing color-correct, highly detailed, UV-protected canvas prints of Bells artworks that will now warm the hearts and inspire the minds of people everywhere.



The educational panels of the exhibit reveal the unique tenacity with which Bell powered forth, within the confines of physical handicap due to his condition of cerebral palsy at birth.

RAM thanks the **Walter O. Caldwell Charitable Foundation** for making this development of RAM's John Bell, Jr. Legacy Project possible. Spread the word, and inquire today for details on how you can reserve dates for this art exhibition for your workplace or favorite pubic institution.

"We believe hosting this exceptional exhibition in our space next year will greatly enrich our cultural offerings and engage our community profoundly."

- Ruthie Pride, Delta Cultural Center Curator

"This traveling exhibition will be an important tool for making John Bell, Jr. a nationally recognized artist as is his due."

- Michael Hall, RAM Executive Director

For more information about this traveling exhibition from the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum, please contact Casey Seamans, Gallery Manager, at casey@fsram.org.

New York City, Dolores River Canyon,
Northern New Mexico, Cape Cod, Maui,
Sonoma County Hills, Yosemite National
Park, Pebble Beach, Great Smoky Mountains
National Park, Chama Valley, White Sands
National Monument, The Sierra Nevada,
The Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Ranier,
Death Valley National Monument,
Monument Valley, Sequoia National Park,
Big Bend National Park, Grand Teton
National Park, Juneau

America's natural and manmade wonders are sights to see.

Here's a way for everyone to see them, through the lens of renowned photographer Ansel Adams.



ANSEL ADAMS: MASTERWORKS

From The Collection of The Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Redding, CA

In a career that spanned more than five decades, Ansel Adams (1902-1984) became one of America's most beloved landscape photographers and one of its more respected environmentalists.

This collection of 47 works by Ansel Adams represents about two-thirds of a selection he made late in his life to serve as a succinct representation of his life's work.

These works reveal the importance Adams placed on the drama and splendor of natural environments that might not, to the ordinary passing hiker, have revealed their secrets. Want to bring this to the River Valley? RAM is seeking an underwriter. The cost: \$30,000. The value of sharing these images of America's wonders with people of all ages in our region? Priceless.

Please contact Julie Moncrief, Development Director, at 479-784-2787.

"He takes something we know we should love and shows us its value in such a way as to erase all further doubt."

 Robyn G. Peterson, Ph.D., Director of Collections and Research/Curator of Art Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Redding, California



New RAM Mission Statement:

The Fort Smith Regional Art Museum champions art in our region by providing enriching experiences that are accessible for all. The spirit of art unites us.

Members, donors, the business community, artists, volunteers, and granting organizations make possible RAM's fostering of art appreciation—now for the 76th year! The following are highlights of FY24 (July 2023–June 2024) and the RAM Board of Directors' newly established objectives.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement:

RAM exhibitions feature a wide spectrum and diversity of regional artists and their work. Our educational programs serve a multigenerational, multicultural audience in Arkansas and Oklahoma as well as public, private and homeschooled children. We cater to families with children and serve a growing Hispanic community, an indigenous Native American population, and a notable Vietnamese American group. RAM's staff and Board stress diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in all programming and exhibits.



Members of the community at the opening reception for *Reclaimed*, the art of Fort Smith artist Amy Scoggins.

Core Values:

and consensus

- Deliver excellent customer service and access
- Be innovative and responsive to diverse audiences

is a favorite tradition of fun,

of families.

art, and hot dogs for hundreds

- Provide engaging programming, exhibitions and publications
- Educate and welcome all who walk through the RAM doors
- Pursue growth and responsiveness within our community
- Maintain a competitive and efficient business operation with complete transparency
 Show passionate and determined energy with a
- sense of humilityMake sensible decisions arrived at through teamwork

Looking Forward: New Objectives

- Research ideas for enhancing the Educational Center with interactive teaching tools and modernization of the classroom space. 8/31/24
- Develop an improved preventative maintenance schedule for the RAM building and infrastructure. 9/30/24
- Research expansion of museum site footprint. 3/1/25
- Refurbish Education Center. 5-1-25
- Enhance Staff structure including addition of Curator of Education. 7/1/25



(Abaya left) The PAM

Spreading the news:

In FY24, RAM gained a 63% increase in total social media reach with 204K visitors.

Surpassing pre-COVID numbers:

RAM's exhibitions and program attendance climbed steadily to regain our 10,000 annual visitors and is poised to surpass that in FY25.

Ramped Up: The RAM Annual Invitational

Chosen for this year's *Inclusive* themed exhibition were 92 works by artists from 15 states and three foreign countries, the largest Invitational ever! The nationwide Invitational's purpose is to encourage and recognize professional artists.

Ready for the Road: John Bell, Jr. Traveling Exhibition

With thanks to the Walter O. Caldwell Foundation, the new *John Bell, Jr.: A Painted Legacy* traveling exhibition of 47 canvas prints of the Arkansas native son's most iconic paintings is ready for mission: to share the magnificent art and inspirational story of John Bell, Jr. throughout Arkansas and beyond.

RAM on the Go:

RAM provided art education outreach in FY24 to Chaffee Crossing Farmers & Artisans Market, Fort Smith National Historic Site, Fort Smith Museum of History, Fort Smith Public Schools' Celebration for Community Connections, Arts on Main, and the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education Research Institute Health and Wellness Center (RIHWC).

Opening the Art Window for Youth

In FY24, RAM continued its traditional Summer Art Camp, HomeSchool Program, School Field Trips, Art Therapy Class, and Scout visits to give 515 youth the space, supplies, and encouragement to experience the wonders and benefits of creating art.

Saturdays with 736 Families:

RAM Saturdays, the weekly, free make-and-take craft class, welcomed 736 families in FY24. RAM has become a "home away from home" on the weekend for families who love to relax together and experiment with creativity at this drop-in class from noon to 3 pm.

(Above left) The RAM Annual Invitational always draws a crowd with many artists and an array of art styles, materials, and techniques.

(Above right) Teens learn by doing— designing and painting murals at Summer Art Camp.



Smiles during RAM Saturdays.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Members of the community connected with nature through the creations of artist Elizabeth Weber.

Visitors attend the opening of the UAFS student exhibition in the RAM Student Gallery Sponsored by Arvest Foundation.

Guided painting takes place with RAM's popular Paint 'N Sip classes.

RAM showed support for organ donors with an outdoor art installation, "Bee a Donor," for National Donate Life Month.

13 Solo Exhibitions, 9 Group Exhibitions:

Artists with works on display in FY24 numbered 264 individuals hailing from 21 Arkansas cities, 7 Oklahoma cities, and from Missouri, Texas, Florida, Norway, West Africa, El Salvador, and Tamaulipas.

152 Shining Stars in Student Gallery Sponsored by Arvest Foundation

Some of RAM's most applauded exhibitions are those taking place in the Student Gallery. Art classes from UAFS, Southside Highschool, Alma Elementary and Bost exhibited their phenomenal talent, as did solo exhibitors. Solo artist Ayree Maner, now a senior at Greenwood High School, received an invitation to exhibit in the Arkansas Governor's Mansion following her RAM show.

282 Hot Dogs

RAM's Annual Fall Family Day packs in fun on all three floors and the patio, too. In the 3-hour event in October, 282 kids and parents enjoyed a free hot dog lunch, arts, games, and music galore.





150 Masterpieces

RAM's monthly Friday night Paint 'N Sip class fills up fast; participants recreate works by the Great Masters. This year participants took home their own Van Gogh, Magritte, Kandinsky, Monet, Hockney, and more.

Keeping Old Friends, Making New

FY24 welcomed 79 new members and donors, for a total of 313 individuals helping make our mission possible.

A Journey Together for Fun(ds): RAM's "Art 'Round the World" Gala

RAM's annual fundraising gala has begun anew, exploring great cities and their famous artists, food, and culture. Paris, Amsterdam ... where next? *Find out on page 29*.

For more information or to schedule an informational tour, please reach RAM Executive Director Michael Hall or Development Director Julie Moncrief.

RAM Board of Directors

The Fort Smith Regional Art Museum Board of Directors is dedicated to helping sustain our art objectives for our local and regional community. Members serve 3-year terms and bring a wide variety of skills to the museum. Continuing their service, or new to the Board, are:

David Tyler, *President*Ghan & Cooper Commercial Properties

Dr. Georgia Hale, Vice Chairman and Vice President
Retired Provost & Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, UAFS

Karen Lewis, *Treasurer and Secretary* Community Volunteer

Paul Hankins, *Past President* Retired Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, UAFS **Michael Hall**, Ex-Officio Member RAM Executive Director

Mireille Belinga Owner, Akib'art Gallery

Debbie Bogner Hankins & Company Certified Public Accountants

Scott Clark
Owner, Sodie's Wine & Spirits, and UnCork'd

Robin Westphal Clegg Robert Westphal & Co.

Lawson Hembree Lawson Hembree Group – Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

Michael Johns ArcBest Mila Masur Executive Director, Clayton House

Joan McCoy

Storm NolanPartner, CSK Hotels

Community Volunteer

Sandy Sanders Community Volunteer

Becky Schneider Community Volunteer

The Honorable Sam Terry
Sebastian County District Court Judge

Dr. LaVona TraywickProfessor of Physical Therapy, ACHE

Linda Udouj Community Volunteer

RAM Staff

By Michael Hall, Executive Director

Our staff of six is small but efficient and well qualified to execute RAM's service to the regional community. Gallery Manager Casey Seamans has 10 years' tenure and is intimately familiar with the provenance of every piece of art in RAM's collection while personally knowing most of the artists responsible for those works. Development Director Julie Moncrief was born and raised in the region, and through her years of community engagement knows almost every key cultural leader in the community. Her journalism degree proves a great asset to us. Interim Director of Education Petra Radcliffe is currently helping oversee the Education Department while we seek either a full- or part-time Curator of Education. She will continue providing engaging classes for children and adults as she has done with great skill for numerous years. Office Assistant and **Development Coordinator Michelle DiMascio** comes from a diverse background in the hotel industry and corporate America and brings insight as we develop fundraising events and consider new ways to partner in our culturally rich area. She also capably manages our devoted volunteers and interns. Museum Technician/Digital Media/Marketing Coordinator Bridget **Duncan** has pioneered so much new outreach through social media. She benefits from her university credentials and realworld training in fine arts. Her talents range from cutting-edge computer technology to curatorial specialties in art, spanning centuries of history. Bridget assists in every facet of exhibits and curation with a specialty in photography that also enhances our marketing efforts.



My mission as Executive Director is to keep this staff focused in their departments while maintaining a close teamwork environment. In my 40 years of managing museums and advising other museums as an independent contractor, I have never come across such a devoted, capable, and energetic group of individuals as our RAM staff.

RAM thanks our Members, Donors, Partners and Sponsors (see pages 32-34) who help keep RAM's exhibitions, classes and programs available for all at no charge. View the following RAM Partnership and Gala Sponsorship opportunities, and join them! Take action today for a full year of recognition, benefits, and support for your community.

RAM BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Support the Arts. Reap Benefits. Enjoy a Partnership with RAM.

Your tax-deductible sponsorship of RAM's programs ensures the availability of dynamic, high-quality art exhibitions and education programs and engages your employees, family, or friends with the arts.

Partner benefits last a full year from start date. Complete the donation form at www.fsram.org/partnerships or request a form from development@fsram.org today!

The RAM Partnership Universal Benefits:

- Full year of logo recognition through RAM's social media, website, magazine, and lobby digital screen
- Advance notice of all RAM programs and exhibitions
- 10% Member Discount for gift shop or fee-paid programs for employees
- Free entry to Exhibition Opening Receptions for all employees
- Reserved copies for your office of biannual RAM Magazine
- Recognition on RAM Donor Wall



Friend: \$1,000 Universal benefits plus:

- 1 Exhibition Sponsorship with logo recognition on gallery wall and all mailed/digital publicity
- 1 "Looking Versus Seeing" Art Tour (up to 15 people)
- 2 Complimentary Paint 'N Sip Tickets
- 30% Discount on Facility Rentals
- 2 Annual Gala tickets

Advocate: \$2,500 Universal benefits plus:

- 1 Exhibition Sponsorship with logo recognition on gallery wall and all mailed/digital publicity
- 1 Education Program Sponsorship with logo recognition on all mailed/digital publicity
- 1 "Looking Versus Seeing" Art Tour (up to 15 people)
- 4 Complimentary Paint 'N Sip Tickets
- 30% Discount on Facility Rentals
- Annual Gala Bronze Sponsorship, including logo recognition and four tickets

Supporter: \$5,000 Universal benefits plus:

- 2 Exhibition Sponsorships with logo recognition on gallery wall and all mailed/digital publicity
- 1 Education Program Sponsorship with logo recognition on all mailed/digital publicity
- 2 "Looking Versus Seeing" Art Tours (up to 15 people)
- 6 Complimentary Paint 'N Sip Tickets
- 1 Complimentary Facility Use for reception or meeting
- Annual Gala Silver Sponsorship, including logo recognition and six tickets

Presenter: \$10,000 Universal benefits plus:

- 3 Exhibition Sponsorships with logo recognition on gallery wall and all mailed/digital publicity
- 1 Education Program Sponsorship with logo recognition on all mailed/digital publicity
- 3 "Looking Versus Seeing" Art Tours (up to 15 people)
- 1 Complimentary Paint 'N Sip Class for 15
- 2 Complimentary Facility Uses for reception or meeting
- Annual Gala Gold Sponsorship, including logo recognition and 10 tickets

Founder: \$15,000 Universal benefits plus:

- 3 Exhibition Sponsorships with logo recognition on gallery wall and all mailed/digital publicity
- 2 Education Program Sponsorship with logo recognition on all mailed/digital publicity
- 3 "Looking Versus Seeing" Art Tours (up to 15 people)
- 2 Complimentary Paint 'N Sip Classes for 15
- 2 Complimentary Facility Uses for reception or meeting
- Annual Gala Platinum Sponsorship, including logo recognition and 10 tickets

Title Sponsor: \$25,000 Universal benefits plus:

- 4 Exhibition Sponsorships with logo recognition on gallery wall and all mailed/digital publicity
- 3 Education Program Sponsorship with logo recognition on all mailed/digital publicity
- 4"Looking Versus Seeing" Art Tours (up to 15 people)
- 2 Complimentary Paint 'N Sip Classes for 15
- 3 Complimentary Facility Uses for reception or meeting
- Annual Gala Diamond Sponsorship, including logo recognition and 20 tickets



Florence

MARCH 29, 2025 | FORT SMITH CONVENTION CTR

Step into the Renaissance and allow Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Caravaggio, and Botticelli to welcome you to the beautiful city of Florence, Italy. Travel with your friends to the 15th-century Italian Renaissance, a most pivotal time in art and thought, and delight in historical fun, from apertivo to dessert, auctions, entertainment, and dancing.

Wear your best Mona Lisa smile, or perhaps the thoughtful gaze of David, and have a magnifico time!

GALA SPONSORSHIPS

Your Gala Sponsorship supports Ram and its efforts to provide high quality art education, promote appreciation of visual art, and expand community access to art.

Receive a Gala Sponsorship with your RAM Partnership (facing page) or through one of the following donation levels.

Universal benefits:

- Full year recognition on www.fsram.org and in biannual RAM Magazine
- Social media recognition
- Recognition on RAM Annual Donor Wall

Bronze Sponsor: \$700 Universal benefits plus:

- Company name on event invitations
- 4 tickets
- Company logo on the event's printed and projected signage

Silver Sponsor: \$1,000 Universal benefits plus:

- Company name on event invitations
- 6 tickets
- Company logo on the event's printed and projected signage

Gold Sponsor: \$5,000 Universal benefits plus:

- Company logo on event invitations
- 10 tickets
- Company logo on the event's printed and projected signage

Platinum Sponsor: \$7,500 Universal benefits plus:

- Company logo on event invitations
- 10 tickets
- Company logo on the event's printed and projected signage
- Three dedicated social media acknowledgements

Diamond Sponsor: \$15,000 Universal benefits plus:

- Company logo on event invitations
- 20 tickets
- Premier placement of company logo on the event's printed and projected signage
- Five dedicated social media acknowledgements

Individual Tickets: \$150

RAM Member Discount: \$135

Reserved Table of 10: \$2,000

DEVELOPMENT | JULIE MONCRIEF





RAM is grateful to all who volunteered and participated in this year's gala as we gave a hearty Proost to art!

Evening in Amsterdam was a Ball!

"Evening in Amsterdam," the second Art 'Round the World gala, held April 27, gave guests a chance to shake hands with Old Masters of The Netherlands, sip Starry Nights, nibble bitterballen, devour chicken schnitzel, win great silent and live auction gifts, and celebrate with the Larry B Soul Experience Band. With a hand-built windmill towering in the Fort Smith Convention Center Rotunda (thank you, Gary Cameron!), surrounded by tulips, this year's gala was a true creative masterpiece, thanks to:

Co-Chairs Joan McCoy and Pat Moore Friends of RAM Volunteer Group

Décor by Wise & Co

Fort Smith Little Theatre: Gary Cameron, John Hall, Ian Miller, Brett Short, Coleman Smith, and Tina Dale Smith

Chef Spencer Anderson, Fort Smith Convention Center

Daren Bobb, TV5 Evening Anchor, Emcee

Just Art & Dance: TK Rakoski and Megan Ratliff

Al Grzech & Friends Jazz Quartet

Larry B Soul Experience Band

Amy Scoggins, Live Painter

Jan Nordin, Contrail Auction Services

6" x 6" Canvas "Amsterdam Art" Artists:

Michele Jackson

Paula Linder

Lynette Denton

Jo Anne Roberts

Cindy Gushing Sugg

We recognize our Treasured Gala Sponsors on Page 35.

Travel with us Saturday, March 29, 2025, to the Italian Renaissance with "Evening in Florence." Mark your calendars! See page 29 for sponsorship information.



Lisa Jan-Bohne' Clay Marti Corff Sharla Derry Sandra Dixon Jeanette Foreman Joan Irish

Helen Kliner

Cathy Mason

Eden Miller

Jim Perry

Brett Short

Who loves a creative challenge? RAM! Especially when it has a 3-fold mission:

- 1. to provide RAM supporters a delightful evening in an Old Master city, mere miles from home
- 2. to introduce RAM to new friends
- 3. to raise funds to keep this nonprofit museum inspiring young and older alike!



Pictured from left viewing "Treasures of Tutankhamen" are Friends of RAM Marti Corff. Linda Thigpin, Pat Moore, and Joann Neal.

Friends of RAM Tour Tutankhamen's Tomb at RAM

At a recent Friends of RAM meeting, Marti Corff, who leads RAM's Sunday Guided Tours, described the fantastic details of the Treasures of Tutankhamen exhibit in the Boehm (pronounced Beam) Porcelain Gallery on RAM's lower level. An immediate tour was demanded!

It is easy to be enthralled when viewing the main Boehm attraction in the gallery: the porcelain figures of birds and other wildlife that are represented in the Vatican and 133 other institutions around the world. (Upon receiving a gift of Boehm in 1959, Pope John XXIII said, "One hesitates to go too close for fear the birds might fly away.")

However, tucked in a corner are the miniature replicas of some of the thousands of treasures found in King Tut's tomb in 1922. The treasures had been hidden for more than 3,000 years before Howard Carter discovered the tomb. Helen Boehm, widow of the porcelain master Edward Marshall Boehm (1913- 1969), continued the company upon his passing, and in 1976, she traveled to Egypt upon invitation so that her team could study the treasures in order to replicate them. In addition to the gleaming gold utilized in the funerary mask, you'll see diamonds, rubies, and sapphires in the eyes of the Egyptian gods and other icons. Come see! For information on the Friends of RAM volunteer group, email michelle@fsram.org. This volunteer group meets monthly.



Tax-deductible Engraved Bricks Salute the Past and Future

When RAM buried the 75th Anniversary Time Capsule last December, we were thrilled and grateful to be able to cover it with a perfect stone marker donated by Cotner Monument. This local company was celebrating its 150th anniversary as RAM celebrated our 75th. Now, RAM is collecting donated, engraved bricks that will surround the stone marker, forming a great tribute to the community effort that has made RAM what it is . . . and what it will be.

It's easy to donate a brick: just visit RAM's website, www.fsram. org, and click the Support tab, or pick up a form at the Front Desk. Orders are placed once a quarter, with the next order placed October 15. The brick collection is coming along well! Your \$150, \$250, or \$500 brick donation, whether its wording is your name or in honor/memory of a loved one, will help RAM and commemorate your passion for art and community.



Membership Spooky Soiree Saturday, October 26, 6 - 9 pm

Join together with your art-loving friends for a "Spooky Soiree." We'll get creative with costumes, have a little parade, and award prizes! Let RAM's Board and staff show our appreciation to you, the true backbone of the museum. Enjoy food, drinks, music, and treats!

(And if you want a simple costume, we still have some masks left from last year's Member Masquerade!) Mark your calendars!

Thank You for Remembering RAM in your Annual or Planned Giving

- Please consider joining the many RAM supporters whose donations result in a tax benefit through an IRA Qualified Charitable Deduction. If you are 70 ½ years of age or older, you can donate to RAM directly from your IRA, without that donation being counted as taxable income when it is withdrawn.
- Giving appreciated assets like stocks directly to RAM is a great way to make a donation without touching your cash. In doing so, you may not need to pay capital gains taxes on the stock's appreciation, effectively increasing your donation and decreasing your tax exposure.
- · Planned gifts to RAM through your will, trust, beneficial designation on your IRA or life insurance policy or other deferred gift provide you with an opportunity to create a lasting legacy for future generations while maximizing the tax benefits of a donation.

Please consult your tax or financial professional for more information on any of these methods of charitable donations.

RAM's Federal Tax ID number is 71-6056672. Thank you for your consideration.

Be a Member of RAM



RAM Membership Universal Benefits:

- Advance invitation to exhibitions and events
- Free admission to Opening Receptions and Artist
- Listing in and reserved copy of RAM Magazine
- Gift of RAM Swaq
- 10% discount in Museum Store and for fee-paid events including Annual Gala, and gift memberships
- RAM Member Appreciation Party
- Knowledge that you are supporting our area's visual art museum that meets national museum standards and has enhanced lives since 1948!

\$50 - Individual

• RAM Member Universal Benefits

\$75 – Family

• RAM Member Universal Benefits for one or two adults and children under 18

\$200 - Contributor

- All Family Member benefits
- Reciprocal membership at 1,300 museums through the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association

\$600 - Associate

- All Contributor Member benefits
- 2 Annual Gala tickets
- Private museum tour for 10 individuals
- 20% discount on facility rentals

\$1,000.00 - Director's Circle

- All Associate Member benefits
- Name on RAM Donor Wall

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Thank you for your support!

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