TRIBUTE LETTER FROM MAGGIE SCARLETT

It is with a sense of pride and extreme gratitude that this Annual Report of the National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States is dedicated to its founders, Bill and Joffa Kerr. Their 1987 gift of over three hundred masterpieces of art focused on the genre of wildlife was only the beginning of their stunning contributions to the Museum. During the ensuing years, they have stood at the helm of this institution and provided the vision, knowledge, and leadership that caused it to be recognized by an act of Congress as the United States’ premier museum of wildlife art; grow its permanent collection to include more than 5,000 pieces of fine art; and build and move into a dedicated, award-winning 52,000-square-foot building. The latter is modeled after a medieval Scottish castle but seamlessly blends into the Wyoming landscape from its perch overlooking the National Elk Refuge.

One wonders if, like the renowned German-American artist Carl Rungius, whose paintings have formed the core of the Museum’s collection from its founding, the Kerrs’ hearts belonged to the West after their first visit to Wyoming in the 1970s. It was here that their goal of sharing their art (and all that it symbolized) with a greater community became a reality.

At the dedication of the new Museum building in 1994, Bill Kerr remarked, “May [the NMWA] long serve those who come to this place in search of the wild, the natural, the forgotten, and the serene.”

As the Museum moves towards its 40th anniversary in 2027, its achievements resonate with Bill’s statement: an annual visitation of tens of thousands of people, highly acclaimed education and research programs, stunning exhibitions, and expansive community outreach.

In 1994, when the doors of the new building opened, a plaque with the following message from Museum Trustees, Staff, Volunteers, and Members was installed. Its message is timeless:

“To Bill and Joffa Kerr,
With gratitude for your uncommon vision and effort to enrich our world, our community, and our lives.”

Sincerely,
Maggie Scarlett, Trustee Emerita
LETTERS FROM THE CHAIRMAN & DIRECTOR

It is with great delight that this inaugural Annual Report for the National Museum of Wildlife Art of the United States is presented.

Through the vision of its founding members, the Museum was created in 1987. In 2008, by order of Congress, “of the United States” was added to our moniker. Today our permanent collection of more than 5,000 pieces is the world’s premier assemblage of wildlife art. The Museum enriches and inspires appreciation and knowledge of humanity’s relationship with nature; it educates visitors about this art genre and connects them to the splendor of the natural world.

The accomplishments of this fiscal year stand on the shoulders of the Museum’s founders who poured their unbridled passion for wildlife art, along with untold hours of work, into the institution. That, along with the subsequent progress of Staff and Trustees, has elevated the Museum to the world class institution it is today. Bucking a nationwide trend of declining traffic, our organization is proud to announce visitor growth this year.

Our endowment has also grown. Due largely to generous contributions from our patrons, as well as sound financial council, the Board is elated to report 60 percent growth over the past two years. We deeply thank our supporters, large and small, for their vision in contributing to this dynamic institution.

Artwork from our permanent collection has traveled the country and the world this fiscal year, increasing the scope of the Museum’s leadership. With masterpieces on display in Germany, and a Memorandum of Understanding signed in the People’s Republic of China, the genre to which we are dedicated is gaining international appreciation.

In Jackson, our exhibits continue to sizzle. We recently hosted Herb Alpert, who installed 12 of his spectacular sculptures on our Sculpture Trail overlooking the National Elk Refuge. These unique creations hint of wildlife in smoke-like plumes. Ironically, the “Wildlife Museum Fire,” ignited by lightning near the Museum this past summer, happened only weeks after Alpert’s visit. Thanks to outstanding staff and professional firefighting response, the Museum and its artwork were saved.

One of the valley’s greatest challenges is hiring talented employees. Throughout our organization, we employ the best creative talent in our industry. We are excited to continue to bring fresh talent to our team. As Trustee Emerita Maggie Scarlett said, “At the end of the day, it’s our people who make the Museum succeed.”

The Museum has had an excellent fiscal year and is poised for an exciting new era of growth and education.

Sincerely,

Scott Kirkpatrick, Chairman of the Board

Since its inception in 1987, the Museum has been recognized as a leading institution for the collection, interpretation, display, and conservation of some of the world’s finest wildlife artwork. Over the past 33 years, our permanent collection has grown tremendously. We have added significant paintings, sketches, archival materials, and sculptures; 20 of the latter are permanent installations on a three-quarter-mile Sculpture Trail built in 2010.

We appreciate those who have gone before us, laying a solid foundation and creating an atmosphere that enhances the opportunities for individuals to interact with wildlife and nature through art. Ongoing support in the form of contributions, sponsorships, grants, and membership plays a key role in how the Museum operates today—always striving for excellence and seeking to provide a unique opportunity for individuals to reflect on and interact with the wildlife portrayed in the pieces in our collection.

On behalf of the Museum Staff, Board, and Volunteers, we thank those who have provided the financial support needed to achieve and advance our mission, vision, and core values. The Museum would not have the same reach or impact without your support. I invite you to visit the Museum and experience the difference your financial support has made—in our facilities, programs, and artwork, both inside our magnificent building and on our Sculpture Trail.

May each of us reflect on how the decisions we make in our own lives impact wildlife and nature.

Sincerely,

Steve Seamons, Director
THOMAS D. MANGELSEN: A LIFE IN THE WILD

CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP:
Thomas D. Mangelson, Gentle Giant, 2003, Fujiflex Crystal Archive Print Framed. 50 x 70 inches.
Joe Riis photograph, courtesy Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Cody, Wyoming, USA.

LIVING LEGENDS: DISCOVERING THE MASTERS OF WILDLIFE ART

INVISIBLE BOUNDARIES: EXPLORING YELLOWSTONE’S GREAT ANIMAL MIGRATIONS, CREATED BY THE BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST
Exhibits are at the core of the Museum’s mission “to impart knowledge and inspire appreciation of humanity’s relationship with wildlife and nature through art and education.” Because of our generous donors, each year the Museum is able to complement its 5,000-piece permanent collection with important and engaging temporary exhibits. The 2018-19 exhibit season was a grand success.

**ART ON THE MOVE**

In 2019, pieces from the Museum’s permanent collection were loaned to Frankfurt, Germany’s Schirn Kunsthalle (seven Wilhelm Kuhnert paintings) and the Ukrainian Museum in New York City (ten Andy Warhol silkscreen prints). The Museum’s Joffa Kerr Chief Curator of Art Dr. Adam Harris co-curated the exhibit at the latter, *Andy Warhol: Endangered Species*.

**COLLECTORS CIRCLE 20TH ANNIVERSARY, 1998-2018**

This exhibit was curated to celebrate the rich history of acquisitions by this special NMWA membership group as it marked its 20th anniversary. Since it began, Collectors Circle has helped the Museum acquire over 100 works of art for the permanent collection. The exhibit showed pieces from every year and also the diverse range of artwork the Collectors Circle has acquired, including Rosa Bonheur’s *Chamois Mother and Baby* (a gift from the 2003 Collectors Circle), John James Audubon’s *Virginia Opossum*, which was the first work purchased by the Collectors Circle (in 1998), and Albrecht Durer’s *Saint Jerome Penitent in the Landscape* (1998 Collectors Circle).

“The works purchased by Collectors Circle represent the broader collecting goals of the Museum,” said Dr. Adam Harris, the Museum’s Joffa Kerr Chief Curator of Art. “Included are paintings, sculptures, and prints ranging from historic masterworks to the best in contemporary art. All acquisitions further the Museum’s mission to explore humanity’s relationship with nature through art.”


**INVISIBLE BOUNDARIES: EXPLORING YELLOWSTONE’S GREAT ANIMAL MIGRATIONS, CREATED BY THE BUFFALO BILL CENTER OF THE WEST**

This extraordinary interdisciplinary exhibit combined science and art to explore the meaning of wildlife migrations in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, which the Museum sits in the middle of. It garnered the highest number of sponsors (26) in NMWA history.

**KIDS COLLECT**


**THOMAS D. MANGELSEN: A LIFE IN THE WILD**

This retrospective exhibit of legacy images by Jackson Hole-based photographer Thomas D. Mangelsen took viewers on a round-the-world adventure from Alaska to Antarctica, Manitoba, Amboseli National Park (Kenya), India, and Grand Teton National Park.

**LIVING LEGENDS: DISCOVERING THE MASTERS OF WILDLIFE ART**

Dr. Adam Harris, the Museum’s Joffa Kerr Chief Curator of Art said *Living Legends: Masters of Wildlife Art* featured artwork that “established the artistic foundation upon which the Museum’s heralded collection has been built.”

**STUDENT EXHIBITS**

**ONLINE STUDENT EXHIBIT**

Forty-eight local students worked with Museum educators to create sketches and paintings inspired by the exhibit *Thomas D. Mangelsen: A Life in the Wild*.

**STATE OF THE ART: STUDENT ART SHOW**

The 2019 theme of this annual show for students in kindergarten through 12th grade was “Dreamscapes.” It featured almost 400 artworks and included a video installation for the first time.

**MAN-MADE BEASTS**

The theme of the 2019 annual student-curated show was “Man-Made Beasts.” Jackson Hole High School juniors Kendyl Gersten, Lucy Kimmel, and Aspen Waldron created an exhibit with artwork by more than 50 students.
During the most recent fiscal year, thanks to its donors, staff, and volunteers, the Museum offered 220 educational programs attended by more than 5,500 local and visiting adults and children. Included in these programs are school tours, artist workshops, photography symposiums, in-gallery concerts, student art exhibitions, and Sneak Peek exhibition previews for adults.

EXPANDING OUTREACH
Today, more than 30 percent of Teton County’s population is Hispanic. The Museum has begun to engage this part of the local community by translating permanent collection interpretive labels, select website pages, and the “Did You Hear That” Museum audio tour into Spanish. We also host evening sessions for Spanish speaking families.

PERMANENT COLLECTION AUDIO TOUR
The Curatorial and Education Departments created “Exploring Wildlife Art,” an audio guide to the Museum’s reinterpreted permanent collection.

BISONCAST
With financial assistance from the Tony Greene Memorial Art Education Fund, the Museum’s Education Department began planning for a series of short videos; each episode will highlight art from the permanent collection.

PAINTING FOR SENIORS
Andrew Kneeland, the Museum’s Lillian Thomason Gemar Education Intern, led a six-week painting class for 15 seniors from the Senior Center of Jackson Hole. The class filled to capacity and was extended due to demand.

DOCENTS
Volunteer docents gave 141 pre-scheduled tours (to 2,630 people) in the Museum’s galleries. Coordinator of Volunteer Resources Rachel Smith successfully recruited eight new docents.
**Awards**

Matt Forsythe won the annual **Bull Bransom Award** for his illustrations in *The Gold Leaf*, written by Kirsten Hall and published by Enchanted Lion Books.

**$4,000 Art Leadership Scholarship** was awarded to Corah Pitman Miller in honor of Dick Jennings.

**Two Scholarships** (each a $2,500 value) were awarded to teens Elise Malterre and Thomas Mercer to attend the annual Photography at the Summit Workshop at the Museum.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Visitors to our Children’s Discovery Gallery sculpt **29 Pounds of Clay Annually**

- During a service project, teens from Massachusetts’ Becket Chimney Corners YMCA **Weeded the Sculpture Trail and Adjacent Areas**.

- 45 percent of visitors surveyed said the point of **Wildlife Art is to Promote Ecological Conservation and Preservation**

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The NMWA is the **First Museum in Wyoming** to offer Spanish translations of all permanent collection artwork labels.
EVENTS

WESTERN VISIONS®

PLEIN AIR FEST, ETC.

MIX'D MEDIA

BLACKTAIL GALA
Museum events offer not only education, entertainment, and outreach for locals and visitors, but also allow donors the opportunity to be a part of exciting fundraising efforts that support the Museum and its permanent collection.

ANNUAL EVENTS

PLEIN AIR FEST, Etc.
Held every June, Plein Air Fest, Etc. launches the Museum’s summer season and highlights the Sculpture Trail. About fifty artists participate; each creates a complete plein air painting in one day. The pieces are auctioned off via silent bid in the early afternoon. 2018’s Best in Show award went to painter Bill Sawczuk, who has work in the Museum’s permanent collection.

WESTERN VISIONS®
The Western Visions® Show & Sale is the Museum’s biggest fundraiser and draws artists and collectors from around the world. It is held during the Jackson Hole Fall Arts Festival. Annually, Western Visions® recognizes four artists for particularly outstanding work. In 2018 painter William Alther won the Red Smith Award for Forage Interrupted. John Seery-Lester’s Ice Pack won the People’s Choice Award. Robert Glen won the Trustee’s Purchase Award for his bronze sculpture Three Greater Kudu, which is now part of the Museum’s permanent collection. George Boorujy won the Bob Kuhn Sketch Award for African Wild Dogs.

BLACKTAIL GALA
Contemporary artworks acquired for the Museum’s permanent collection in 2019 at this annual February event included: the video installation Animal Land by Lauren Strohacker and Kendra Sollars; Allison Leigh Smith’s The Common Thread; Penelope Gottlieb’s Hemerocallis fulva; and Julie Buffalohead’s Six Pack Colonialism.

ONGOING EVENTS

FIRST SUNDAYS
On the first Sunday of every month the Museum offers free admission for Jackson Hole and Teton Valley locals. During the winter, this day includes family-friendly programming and kid-approved activities inspired by current exhibits.

MIX’D MEDIA
Held almost monthly, Mix’d Media nights offer free participatory and interactive programming thematically connected to a new exhibit, and Museum galleries are open late.

YOGA ON THE TRAIL
Teachers from several valley yoga studios lead free, weekly yoga classes on the Museum’s Sculpture Trail between mid-July and late-August. Classes are B.Y.O.M. (bring your own mat).
FINANCE & OPERATIONS
Fiscal Year May 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019

REVENUE FY 2019
- 57% Contributions & Sponsorship
- 13% Investment Change
- 8% Western Visions Sales
- 7% Admissions Sales
- 6% Museum Shop Sales
- 4% Facility Rental & Other
- 4% Memberships
- 39% Exhibits, Collections & Curatorial
- 15% Management & General
- 10% Educational/Volunteer/Intern Programs
- 10% Western Visions
- 8% Fundraising
- 6% Museum Shop - Cost Of Goods Sold
- 5% Marketing
- 3% Admissions
- 2% Facility Rental & Other
- 2% Membership

EXPENSES FY 2019

FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS
- Cash & Equivalents $2,564,546
- Investments $581,715
- Inventory $127,734
- Receivables $35,470
- Prepaid Expenses $47,906
- Long-Term Investments $20,741,394
- Beneficial Interest in Remainder Trust $1,726,767
- Property & Equipment $11,665,796
- TOTAL ASSETS $37,491,328

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES
- Accounts Payable $245,724
- Accrued Expenses $92,689

NET ASSETS
- Undesignated $12,039,929
- Board Designated Reserves $669,220
- Board Designated Endowments $3,334,658
- Donor Endowment & Accumulated Earnings $19,133,504
- Other Donor Restricted Assets $1,975,604
- TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS $37,491,328

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR $872,699
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INVEST IN YOUR MUSEUM: You can help with time and/or financial support in so many ways!

Make a DONATION.

BECOME an individual or business MEMBER.

Many companies MATCH GIFTS made to nonprofit organizations by employees.

Become a member of our Chiefs’ Legacy Circle by including a PLANNED GIFT in your estate.

For membership and financial gifts contact the Development Office (donations@wildlifeart.org, 307-732-5444).

If interested in volunteering contact Rachel Smith, Volunteer & Education Assistant (rsmith@wildlifeart.org, 307-732-5443).

2018-19 FISCAL YEAR MUSEUM STAFF

Kim Andrews  Accounting Associate  Tammi Hanawalt  Associate Curator of Art  Robert Mull  Security  Victor Tzompa-Hernandez  Custodian/Maintenance

Tiffany Bajor  Executive Assistant to the Museum Director  Joffa Kerr Chief Curator of Art  Debbie Phillips  Marketing Coordinator  Debra Vassar  Manager of Retail Operations

Gayle Bartlett  Museum Shop Associate  Carolyn Hawxhurst  Museum Shop Associate  Fallon Ryan  Development Coordinator  Marc Weimar  Security

Joe Bishop  Director of Facility & Security Services  Mike Hofhiens  Director of Operations  Steve Seamos  Museum Director  Emily Winters  Registrar

Margaret Creel  Development Associate  Lisa Holmes  Chief Financial Officer  Lisa Simmons-Jordan  Associate Curator of Education & Outreach  Taylor Woods  Marketing Manager

Luis Diaz  Security  Whitney Jensen  Museum Shop Supervisor  Rachel Smith  Volunteer & Education Assistant

Katy Fox  Programs & Events Assistant  Jane Lavino  Sugden Chief Curator of Education  Jennifer Tremby  Supervisor of Group Tours & Visitor Services

Elizabeth Frates  Preparator  Bob Martin  Security  Allie Tscheulin  Membership & Database Associate

Amy Goicoechea  Director of Programs & Events  Suzy May  Director of Development  Ernesto Tzompa-Hernandez  Custodian/Maintenance

Wendy Merrick  Events Manager  

OUR WISH LIST

$350: Fables, Feathers, and Fur art supplies

$1,000: Translate Museum App mobile tour into Native American and Spanish languages

$350: Animal costumes for Children’s Discovery Gallery

$2,500: Send a staff member to the American Alliance of Museums Annual Meeting & Museum Expo

$650: Archival storage boxes

$750: Member identification admission stickers

$800: Archival storage foam and tissue

$4,500: Underwrite summer Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

$1,000: Touchscreen computer for Clymer Studio

$10,000: A hydraulic lift for the loading dock

A passenger van (new or gently used) to transport artwork and guests