In the Galleries

Starting Something New: Recent Contemporary Acquisitions and Gifts (v. 4)

This exhibition presents the Mead’s most recent acquisitions and gifts and has been refreshed with new works of art. Spanning four decades, from the 1980s to today, the exhibition highlights how artists experiment with media and use historical events, ideas, and images to address politics and the nature of art.

On view through July 18, 2021.

Founding Narratives

Founding Narratives presents artworks produced in the United States between 1800 and today that offer opportunities to consider the role of art in creating, reinforcing, and challenging stories about national identity. Drawn entirely from the Mead Art Museum’s extensive collection of American art, the exhibition raises questions about representation and the absence of representation in national narratives and in the establishment of a national art, about the significance of “firsts,” and about the interpretative frameworks that museums offer about artists and artworks.

On view through July 18, 2021.

The Living Room

The Living Room was organized by Del’yna Hadgu, an Amherst College senior and Mead student museum educator, in collaboration with the Black Art Matters Festival. The show presents Mead collection artworks by Black artists that feature aspects of Black life, family, or the home. It creates a space parallel to a living room, exploring the idea of what it means for Black visitors to feel “at home” within the museum.

On view through July 18, 2021.

Black Art Matters Student Showcase

Accompanying the Black Art Matters festival, on-campus students, faculty, and staff can stop by the Mead to explore a visual arts showcase of work by Black student artists in the Rotherwas Room organized by Zoe Akoto, Class of 2021. Additional works of art will be featured online as part of the virtual festival on March 4, 2021, at 7 pm EST.

On view March 3–April 18, 2021.

Welcome! The Mead is open and free to on-campus students, faculty, and staff.

We're excited to welcome Amherst College faculty, staff, and students back into the Mead this fall. To "Protect the Herd," we've modified our visitor protocols and procedures, following the recommended guidelines from the CDC and Amherst College. Click for more information on Amherst College's testing procedures and general personal safety practices. Click here to find what you can expect when you visit the Mead during COVID-19. We look forward to welcoming our friends, neighbors, and out-of-town visitors back to the Mead after the COVID-19 crisis.

Academic Year Hours:
Closed on Monday
Tues-Thurs, Sun: 9am-10pm
Fri- Sat: 9am-5pm

Stay connected with us.
Following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, and use #MeadArtMuseum to share your experience.
Website: amherst.edu/museums/mead
Socials: @MeadArtMuseum
A Conversation with June Edmonds

Marketing and Public Programs Specialist Danielle Amodeo and Curator of American Art and Art of the Americas Lisa Crossman are teaming up to bring you a series of artist interviews with creators whose work is on view now at the Mead. These videos are in production and will be released throughout the year. We’re pleased to announce that our first subject is June Edmonds, whose work is on view now at the Mead.

June Edmonds uses abstraction to examine color, repetition, movement, and balance as modes of spiritual contemplation and connection to her African-American roots. Edmonds presents skin color and tone as psychological constructs by relying on pattern and abstract painting. Edmonds’ Convictions VI from her Flag series is featured in the Founding Narratives exhibition. Tune in to learn more about Edmonds’ inspiration for this series, her thoughts on the exhibition, and her artistic practice.

This video will be available via the Mead’s YouTube channel at youtube.com/meadartmuseum.

Virtual Tours

The Mead is currently closed to all off-campus visitors. However, you can now view art up close, read wall labels, and take a closer look at exhibition resources with virtual tours! Our virtual tour offerings are made possible by generous support from the Arts at Amherst Initiative. Click the links below to explore these exhibitions online.

- Founding Narratives virtual tour
- Starting Something New virtual tour
- Embodied Taste virtual tour

On Our Feed

Explore Starting Something New

Contemporary art thrives at the Mead! While the Mead is closed to off-campus visitors, we are excited to spotlight gallery shots of Starting Something New. Drawn from recent museum purchases and an extraordinary gift of 180 contemporary artworks, Starting Something New is one of the Mead’s most comprehensive contemporary art exhibitions. Visit the Mead’s Instagram page to explore photos of the exhibition!

Inside the Art Market

Fresh art is coming to the Mead Art Museum! Leading up to Collecting Contemporary Art at the Mead: Student Presentations and Public Vote, we will feature four fantastic contemporary artists that students, interns, and museum staff have identified for consideration. Visit the Mead’s Instagram feed to learn about students’ top picks for the Mead’s next acquisition and see some of our favorite works of contemporary art that are currently on the market. Tune in to students’ live presentations and cast your vote for which work of art the Mead should purchase next!

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Black Student Artist Spotlight

In the lead-up to the fourth annual Black Art Matters Festival, the Mead is proud to highlight the work of Black student artists, performers, dancers, musicians, and writers at Amherst College who are participating in this year’s festival. Check out @MeadArtMuseum, @MRCAmherst, @AmherstBSU, and @AmherstCollege throughout the month for a sneak peak at the art that will be on display and to celebrate Amherst’s Black artists!

This campaign is presented in partnership with the Arts at Amherst Initiative, Black Student Union, Multicultural Resource Center, and the Amherst College Office of Communications.

#5WomenArtists

Visit the Mead’s Instagram to learn more about women artists who are essential to our museum work and understanding of art history. We’ll spotlight women artists in our collection, as well as alums, partners, and friends of the Mead.

This campaign is presented in partnership with the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC.

Enter The Living Room

We will spotlight the Mead’s new exhibition The Living Room, organized by DeLyna Hadgu, Class of 2021. Check out the Mead’s Instagram to dive into this student-curated exhibition!

The Solidarity Book Project

Mead staff will be participating in the Solidarity Book Project, organized by Sonya Clark, Class of 1989, professor in the Department of Art and the History of Art. Visit our social media channels to learn more about what solidarity means to us and join in taking the solidarity challenge.

In Case You Missed It

Heather Agyepong Artist Talk with Aneeka Henderson

In October 2020, the Mead hosted an artist talk with Heather Agyepong facilitated by Aneeka Henderson, assistant professor in the Department of Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies. You can now watch a recording of this artist talk on our YouTube channel. Click here to watch the recording!

Performance with Suhail Yusuf Khan & Conversation with Yael Rice

In October 2020, the Mead hosted a live sarangi concert by Suhail Yusuf Khan, followed by a conversation with Yael Rice, assistant professor in the Department of Art and the History of Art and the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations. Click here to watch the recording!

Jes Fan Artist Talk

In November 2020, the Mead partnered with the Department of Art and the History of Art and the Queer Resource Center to host a virtual artist talk with contemporary artist Jes Fan, facilitated by Niko Vicario, assistant professor in the Department of Art and the History of Art. You can now watch a recording of this artist talk on our YouTube channel through March 10, 2021. Click here to watch the recording!

January

Contemporary Art at the Mead - Student Proposals and Public Vote!

This year, the Mead’s annual Collecting 101 student acquisitions program is on hiatus. However, thanks to generous support from Advisory Board Member Scott Nagle, we’re partnering with "The Art Market" taught by assistant professor of art and the History of Art Niko Vicario to keep students involved in selecting the next work of contemporary art for the Mead. This year, we’re also going virtual, and invite all of the Mead’s audiences to join us on Zoom to hear students make proposals, and vote in real time for the artwork the Mead will acquire.

This program is presented in collaboration with Niko Vicario's class The Art Market and the Department of Art and the History of Art. This acquisition is made possible by a generous gift from Scott Nagle (Class of 1985).

Friday, January 29, 2021 | 11:30-1pm EST via Zoom
Free & open to all! Registration required.

March

Fourth Annual Black Art Matters Festival

In partnership with the Black Student Union, Amherst College Multicultural Resource Center and the Arts at Amherst Initiative, the Mead is proud to support the fourth installment of the Black Art Matters Festival. Black Art Matters Festival is an affirmation and celebration of Black student artists and creators in the Five Colleges. This year, the festival will present an arts showcase by Amherst College students online via Zoom.

Thursday, March 4, 2021 | 7-9pm EST via Zoom
Free & open to everyone! Registration required.

Creative Resilience Workshops with Chelvanaya Gabriel and Mars

Self-care can be hard to prioritize, but it is also a form of essential labor that helps you center yourself in your daily life and work. Join us for a series of workshops led by local artists Mars and Chelvanaya Gabriel designed to teach creative resilience as a model for self-care. These workshops are designed to center BIPOC experiences of labor and self-care.

Creative Resilience Workshop #1

Essential Work: An Embodied Awareness of White Supremacy

What is essential work? Essential work is self-care. For many, self-care is a luxury; in this workshop, we learn that it is a NECESSITY in abolishing white supremacy. We will co-create space for your inner voice and bring revelations to how that reflects in the outward reality of white supremacy and racism. It’s time to eradicate racism at the source. Naya and Mars guide you in creating a relationship with your voice and the true power behind its intention.

This program is presented in partnership with the Arts at Amherst Initiative, Multicultural Resource Center, and Queer Resource Center.

Thursday, March 18, 2021 | 4:30-6:30pm EST via Zoom
This program limited to 15 participants. Registration is required. If registration is full, please contact damodeo13@amherst.edu or call 413-542-5651 to be added to the waitlist.

Mingle at the Mead

Stop by the Mead to catch up with old friends, or make new ones, and see our latest exhibitions. Amherst College student museum educators will be in the galleries to answer questions about the Mead and our latest exhibitions. After your visit, stop by our hot cocoa bar in the sculpture courtyard outside the Mead. The first 100 attendees will receive Mead Art Care Packages to fuel your creativity throughout the semester.

Presented in collaboration with Museum Security and Student Activities. This program is for on-campus students only.

Saturday, March 20, 2021 | 11:30am-3pm EST
Mead Art Museum


A.K. Burns on Labor


In Part I, Burns will present a brief history of the connection between art and labor movements in the US and share how this history set the stage for W.A.G.E. In 2008, Burns cofounded W.A.G.E., an artists’ advocacy group that has re-envisioned efforts of the Art Workers Coalition with a focus on resolving fiscal inequities between artists and institutions. W.A.G.E. acted primarily as an educational organization until 2012, when it transitioned into a 501c3 nonprofit and began actively advocating for artist rights. In the fall of 2014, W.A.G.E. launched their much-anticipated certification program and fee calculator.

In Part II, Burns will discuss labor as it pertains to Negative Space, a quasi-science fiction four-part video epic that explores the violence of boundary-making practices and agency as enacted through subjugated positions. Each video within Negative Space is non-linear and allegorical, built around a physical system: power (the sun), the body, space (void/land), and water. Through a process of conjuring and deconstructing science fiction tropes, the videos work at the intersection of politics and fantasy. Negative Space raises questions about the allocation of resources, environmental fragility, marginalized bodies, and their relationship to place.

This program is made possible by the Terra Foundation for American Art and is aimed at providing frameworks for thinking about a forthcoming exhibition about labor at the Mead Art Museum.

Tuesday, March 30, 2021 | 4:30-6:30pm EST via Zoom
Free & open to all! Registration required.

Creative Resilience Workshop #2
Reclaiming Our Bodies and Minds: Dismantling White Supremacy for QTPOC

How does racism and white supremacy show up in our bodies? How do they inform our relationship to work and notions of productivity? In this workshop, we explore what it means to think of self-care as essential work and ground ourselves in the notion that self-care is necessary in order to reframe our experiences and create a world liberated from white supremacy. Cultivate greater awareness of these impacts and identify ways to choose liberatory ways of being in the world.

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 | 8-10pm EST via Zoom
Please visit the Mead’s website for the registration link.
This program is designed to center QTPOC students and limited to 15 participants. Contact damodeo13@amherst.edu or call 413-542-5651 to be added to the waitlist.

Labor, Visibility, Value: A Conversation with Arlene Dávila, Alicia Grullón, and Shellyne Rodriguez

New York University professor and director of the Latinx Project Arlene Dávila and New York-based artists Alicia Grullón and Shellyne Rodriguez will explore the theme of labor through a conversation about their cultural work. The speakers will examine intersecting themes of equity, race, class, and creativity, considering the role of art in exploring visibility and value of work and workers. This conversation will be followed by a Q&A moderated by Mead curator of American art and art of the Americas Lisa Crossman.

This program is made possible thanks to the generous support of the Terra Foundation for American Art and is aimed at providing frameworks for thinking about a forthcoming exhibition about labor at the Mead Art Museum.

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 | 4:30-6pm EST via Zoom
Free & open to all! Registration required. Please visit the Mead’s website for the registration link.