



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Woodstock Artists Association & Museum presents  
*Professional Practice: Staff Picks from the Permanent Collection***

**September 24-December 31, 2021**

**Opening Reception: Saturday, September 25, 4–6pm**



(Woodstock, NY) - Woodstock Artists Association & Museum presents *Professional Practice: Staff Picks from the Permanent Collection*, on view in the Phoebe and Belmont Towbin Wing from September 24, 2021–January 7, 2022. An opening reception will be held at WAAM on Saturday, September 25, 2021 from 4-6pm. This show departs from WAAM's usual format of curating a selection of work from the permanent collection based on a single thesis; instead, the show presents the choices of six individual staff members. The exhibition explores the breadth of the museum's collection and offers viewers an insight into how staff members connect with the collection on both personal and professional levels. The term 'professional practice' refers to each person's use of her knowledge as an arts professional and the opportunity to act as a creative conduit in the selection of work.

The exhibition is organized into six distinct capsule presentations. While each selection of works presents a personal perspective, all works are informed by each staff member's professional practice: the expertise, role and duties related to running an arts organization. Executive Director Nicole Goldberg selected work based on the timeless theme of Mother and Child. Her keystone piece is *Mother and Child*, c. 1990, a large-scale classical portrait painting by Chinese artist Hong Nian Zhang, which is centered on the gallery wall and accompanied by ten other interpretations of the theme including Pele deLappe's drawing *Sketch for Maternity*, 1931, featuring a multi-breasted woman nursing five newborns at once.

Beth Humphrey, Director of Education and Public Programs, chose to gather the heads of many men and several women in her selection and placement of carved busts in a cluster on an island of pedestals, focusing on questions of representation. Emmaline Nathans, Gallery Manager, selected portraits depicting women as the seated figure, highlighting the dynamic between the observer and the observed. Elizabeth Keithline, Exhibitions Director, focused on women's moods as in *Woman with a Cigarette*, 1930-1940s by Anne Helioff. Emily Porto picked two locally made dresses from the 1920s or 30s as the basis of her selection, pointing to the ways in which domesticity and private life have long played a very public role, particularly for women. Emily Jones, Archivist and Collections Manager, paired items from the Archives with works from the Permanent Collection to show the extent of content and context available in WAAM's collections. For example, a drawing for a songbook by Marianne Appel is paired with Rosalie Berkowitz's pastel drawing of artists and musicians Bruce Currie and Edward Chavez.

Nicole Goldberg states, "I'm thrilled to offer our excellent staff this chance to push the boundaries of their day jobs. It is important to look at WAAM's collection from multiple perspectives so that we are able to see the whole picture - the spectrum of artists, styles, movements, and themes that make up our permanent collection of American art. Each grouping is a conversation starter!"

## **ABOUT THE STAFF**

### **Nicole Goldberg, Executive Director**

Nicole has been a non-profit professional for the visual arts for over twenty years, having served as Director of Development at Art Omi in Columbia County and Director of Development at The Drawing Center in SoHo. She also worked for several years as a grant writer at The Jewish Museum and The Museum of Modern Art in New York. Nicole has taught the course Development for the Visual Arts at the NYU M.A. Visual Arts Administration program and holds a B.A. in the History of Art from the University of Pennsylvania and an M.A. in Modern Art and Critical Theory from Columbia University.

### **Elizabeth Keithline, Exhibitions Director**

Elizabeth has held director positions in museums and galleries since 2004. Doing business as Wheel Arts Administration, she recently completed a 14-year contract with the Rhode Island State Council On The Arts. In addition, she twice served as interim Gallery Director at Wheaton College, where she curated shows, worked in collections and managed loans that came from all over the United States. As an independent curator working in New York City, her clients included SPRING/BREAK Art Show, Mark Miller Gallery and the Governors Island Art Fair. Exhibitions she has curated have garnered reviews in the New York Times, the Boston Globe, Art New England and the Hartford Courant, among others. Keithline has written for Sculpture Magazine, Public Art Review, and the Americans For The Arts.

### **Beth Humphrey, Director of Education & Public Programs**

Beth was born and raised in New York City and studied printmaking at Minneapolis College of Art and Design and surface design at Oregon College of Art and Craft and has shown her work nationally. Beth has had residencies at the Ucross Foundation and at the Penland School and was a NYFA Mark Fellow in 2009. In 2005 Beth co-founded Art Lab, an arts-based non-profit that promotes free and low-cost arts programming for children based in the Hudson Valley of New York. She has served as the Education Curator for the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum since 2007.

### **Emily Jones, Archivist & Collections Manager**

Emily is the WAAM Archivist, a position she has held since 2005. She received a Master of Science in Library and Information Science with a concentration in archives from Simmons College in Boston. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. Prior to her tenure as an archivist, in addition to assorted administrative jobs she served two years as an AmeriCorps\*VISTA for a non-profit AIDS service organization.

### **Emily Gaynor Porto, Marketing Director**

Emily has worked in the arts for over fifteen years, with organizations throughout the U.S. and internationally. She began her career on the agency side, specializing in visual arts. She later served as Press and Marketing Director at The Drawing Center in New York City before moving working with Portland Art Museum and several west coast galleries and arts nonprofits. Emily holds a B.A. from Vassar College and an M.A. from the University of London.

### **Emmaline Nathans, Gallery Manager**

Emmaline is an artist with experience in inventory management, arts administration, and studio assistance. She received a BA in History and Studio Art from Connecticut College in 2019. She also studied at Studio Arts College International in Florence, Italy.

### **Woodstock Artists Association & Museum**

Founded in 1919, the Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is a not-for-profit membership organization featuring an historic Permanent Collection of regional art exhibited in the Towbin Wing, three contemporary art galleries, a dynamic Education Program and an Archives of materials associated with artists of the Woodstock region.

### **General Information**

The Woodstock Artists Association & Museum (WAAM) is located at 28 Tinker Street, Woodstock, NY. Gallery hours are Thursday thru Sunday from noon-5pm. WAAM is closed during major holidays. For general information please call: 845.679.2940 or visit our website at: [woodstockart.org](http://woodstockart.org).

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**Image Captions (left to right):** Martin Deutsch, *Bust of Eduardo Chavez*, n.d., plaster; Hong Nian Zhang, *Mother and Child*, c. 1990, oil on canvas; Augusta Allen, *Woodstock Dress*, 1920s or 30s, red and black floral print cotton with red rick rack and red buttons; Anton Refregier, *Mexican Woman Reading*, 1977, color woodcut.