



BMA Announces Acquisition of More Than 150 Artworks For Its Encyclopedic Collection

New works represent ongoing effort to diversify the range of voices, narratives, and artforms represented in the museum's holdings

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BALTIMORE, MD (January 17, 2023)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) announced today that it has acquired, through purchase and gift, 162 works of art, capturing a wide range of artistic perspectives and innovations. The latest group of acquisitions highlights the museum's expanded efforts to close critical gaps across the full range of its collection departments. This work emphasizes both historic and contemporary omissions and focuses on revealing the fuller spectrum of voices and practices that have shaped the development of art across time, culture, and geography. The new acquisitions also continue the BMA's work to support Baltimore-based and -affiliated artists at pivotal moments in their careers.

Among some of the highlights are historic and contemporary paintings and works on paper by **Sarah Biffin, Lucy Bull, Nancy Ellen Craig, Cianne Fragione, Beatrice Glow, Rachel Jones, Bertina Lopes, Nengi Omuku, Anil Revri, Deborah Roberts, Esphyr Slobodkina, Lilly Steiner, Joan Witek, and Bai Yiluo**; video work by **Alan Michelson**; sculpture and objects by **Brent Crothers, Theaster Gates, Duane Linklater, and Eva Zeisel**; photographs by **Daido Moriyama, Dodo Jing Ming, Kimbei Kusakabe, Shikeith, Wei Rong, and Wang Wusheng**; and works by Baltimore artists **Nefertiti Goodman, Erin Fostel, and Jackie Milad**.

The acquisitions also include several gifts of collections and groups of works, including 27 examples of Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential pattern china from Jonathan Kolker and Frederica Kolker Saxon, given in memory of their parents. The pattern was designed by **Theodore Russell Davis** (1840-1894) between 1879-80 and produced by **Haviland and Co.** in Limoges, France, first for the White House and then for public acquisition from 1880-1886. The Enamel Arts Foundation, an organization founded by Harold Nelson and Bernard Jazzar in 2007 to further scholarship and public awareness of 20th- and 21st-century American enamel arts, gifted the museum 17 objects by important art and design voices such as **Harold B. Helwig, Juan Esteban Perez, June Schwarcz, and Jade Snow Wong**. Additionally, a significant promised gift from long-time BMA supporters Norman and Lorraine Rocklin comprises three major Modernist works: *Woman with a Cat* (1964) by **Pablo Picasso**, *Bronzino Young Man* (1985) by **Grace Hartigan**, and *Blue Violin* (1986) by **Susan Rothenberg**.

and connects to his experiences as the descendant of Cree parents. The acquisition supports ongoing efforts to expand holdings by Native artists and examine the boundaries and definitions of American art.

Bertina Lopes. *Totem N. 2*, 1968. Lopes (Mozambican, 1924-2012) is among the most important Mozambican artists of the 20th century. *Totem N. 2* is part of a series that reflects on the artist's exile in Rome, starting in 1963, following her involvement in the movement for Mozambican independence. The vibrant painting incorporates references to historic African and European modernist art, with Lopes abstracting an unidentified African mask into arcing, geometric facial planes across the canvas. The acquisition reflects the BMA's commitment to bringing works by contemporary African artists into the collection.

Jackie Milad. *Daughter of Shu and Tefnut (Dedicated to Amira)*, 2022. Among Milad's most complex works to date, this composition integrates fabric appliqués, paint, text, beadwork, and fragments of repurposed drawings to create a multimedia constellation of the artist's past and present. By executing the large-scale painting on a coverlet that belonged to her late aunt Amira, Milad (American, born 1975) pays homage to the women of her family and her Egyptian heritage. With a cacophony of references from the patterns of Coptic textiles to objects from the Metropolitan and British museums and American pop culture, the work establishes unexpected juxtapositions that speak to personal and political histories. A newly commissioned work by the Baltimore-based artist will debut in April 2023.

Nengi Omuku. *Reclining Figures*, 2022. Grappling with gender, cultural heritage, and race, Omuku (Nigerian, born 1987) explores the complexities of identity through her intimate and psychologically charged paintings. She focuses in particular on how interior states are manifest in the physical world through the position and expression of the body. Composed with live sitters in her studio, *Reclining Figures* depicts two figures in a knotted repose surrounded by tropical philodendron monstera plants in vibrant cobalt aquamarine pots, capturing the artist's prior study as a florist and horticulturist.

Anil Revri. *Pages from A Manuscript 1*, 2015, and *Pages from A Manuscript 3*, 2012. Over the course of more than two decades, Revri (Indian, born 1956) has created a body of work inspired by sacred architecture from around the world. His abstract works, which reference and embrace elements of classical Indian dancing, geometric abstraction, and non-Western decorative and book arts traditions, allow for a meditative experience. These two works are part of a series of intimate, highly detailed drawings that served as an important basis of the artist's subsequent large-format abstract works. The drawings are the first works by the artist to enter the BMA collection and increase the museum's representation of artists from the subcontinent.

Esphyr Slobodkina. *Elements of Music*, c. 1950. Slobodkina (American, born Russia, 1908-2002) was a founding member of the American Abstract Artists group in 1937, and worked across a wide range of media throughout her career. Her practice was championed by Clement Greenberg as a forerunner of hard-edged abstraction. *Elements of Music* is a bold Cubist-influenced work painted in a muted palette and accented with black. Fret boards, strings, instrument keys and keyholes punctuate the composition's

sharply angled forms, creating an architectural cacophony that harmonizes into a unified whole. The acquisition supports the BMA's commitment to expanding its collection of works by Modernist women.

[Baltimore Museum of Art](#)

Founded in 1914, the Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) inspires people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, programs, and collections that tell an expansive story of art—challenging long-held narratives and embracing new voices. Our outstanding collection of more than 97,000 objects spans many eras and cultures and includes the world's largest public holding of works by Henri Matisse; one of the nation's finest collections of prints, drawings, and photographs; and a rapidly growing number of works by contemporary artists of diverse backgrounds. The museum is also distinguished by a neoclassical building designed by American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of modern and contemporary sculpture. The BMA is located three miles north of the Inner Harbor, adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University, and has a community branch at Lexington Market. General admission is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

[Visitor Information](#)

General admission to the BMA is free. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with extended hours on Thursdays until 9 p.m. The Sculpture Gardens are open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to dusk. The museum and gardens are closed New Year's Day, Juneteenth, July 4, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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