



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
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## **Weisman Art Museum Will Reopen on Feb. 11, 2021**

*Minneapolis, MN, January 28, 2021:* Weisman Art Museum (WAM) plans to reopen its galleries to the general public on Thursday, February 11, 2021. On November 21, WAM announced a temporary closure, in accordance with Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-99 and aligned guidance from University of Minnesota leadership and public health officials. Now, the Weisman is pleased to welcome visitors back, with important safeguards in place to help protect everyone who spends time in the museum's spaces.

As always, admission is free and open to the public. There is no advance ticket reservation or timed entry required; museum capacity will, however, be limited to 25% or less at all times (no more than 120 people). The galleries will be open, as will the WAM Shop and museum parking garage, but with reduced hours and recommended protocols and precautions to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. Find detailed information for visitors on WAM's website at [wam.umn.edu/visit](http://wam.umn.edu/visit).

### **Health and Safety Precautions**

All staff and visitors over the age of 2 are required to wear a face covering while at the museum; noses and mouths must remain covered at all times. Everyone is expected to keep a distance of at least 6 feet from anyone outside their household group. Visitors are encouraged to use the hand sanitizing stations available throughout the museum and at the entrance to the WAM Shop. High-touch surfaces and public restrooms will be disinfected and sanitized at regular intervals throughout the day.

### **Limited Capacity**

To allow for proper physical distancing, visitor capacity in the museum will be limited to 25% or less at all times. Posted signs will indicate room capacities for individual galleries, elevators, bathrooms, and the WAM Shop. If visitors come during a particularly busy time, there may be a short wait before entering the museum. Group visits (6+), in-person tours, and classroom visits are not available until further notice. Contact us at [wamtours@umn.edu](mailto:wamtours@umn.edu) for information about virtual guided tours and class workshops.

## Reduced Hours

Beginning February 11, the Weisman and WAM Shop will be open Thursday through Sunday, from noon - 5 p.m. There is no timed entry or reservation required to visit. As always, admission is free. All museum entrances will be open.

WAM's team is taking measures to help ensure a safe, comfortable experience for visitors and staff, but assessing the risks of the coronavirus is something that must be done on an individual basis. The Weisman expects visitors to properly wear face coverings at all times, maintain physical distancing, and stay home when feeling unwell. Given the need to limit large in-person gatherings, WAM's student and community programming and arts educational resources will continue to be focused online, at least through May 2021. In-person group tours and class visits have been suspended for now, but virtual tours and workshops are available on request by contacting [wamtours@umn.edu](mailto:wamtours@umn.edu).

## EXHIBITIONS ON VIEW

### [Pressing Issues: Printmaking as Social Justice in 1930s United States](#)

January 29 - May 16, 2021

This exhibition brings together work by artists who, through their art, produced radical critical commentaries on the social injustices plaguing the country in the midst of the Great Depression. Relying primarily on rarely-displayed Works Progress Administration/Federal Art Project (WPA/FAP) prints, *Pressing Issues* includes approximately 40 works organized into themes of labor unrest (exploitation, economic disparity, and gender inequalities), discrimination and racial violence, and reactions to the rise of fascism. It's an especially timely show that connects this past to the present, as the current political climate in the United States is revisiting similar themes of isolationism and nationalism, populism and fascism, and racial violence. *Pressing Issues* is curated by Kathryn Koca Polite, Assistant Curator Krannert Art Museum, University of Illinois, where the exhibition debuted in fall 2020.

## Ongoing

### [We Are the Story](#)

Through May 23, 2021

When Minneapolis became the epicenter of the nationwide protest movement against police brutality and racism in America following the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, Textile Center and Women of Color Quilters Network (WCQN) joined forces to create this multi-venue initiative in the Twin Cities, curated by Carolyn Mazloomi, WCQN founder and member of Textile Center's National Artist Advisory Council. The Weisman's installation includes three works by Penny Mateer (Pittsburgh, PA).

### [Brooks Turner: Legends and Myths of Ancient Minnesota](#)

Through May 30, 2021

With the Teamsters Strike of 1934 and the success of the Farmer-Labor Party, Minnesota established itself in the 1930s as a U.S. center for progressive thinking and action across the political spectrum. But, just beneath the surface, a tangled web of Fascist activity connected American Nazis to prominent businessmen, lawyers, and government officials. Over the last two years, artist and educator Brooks Turner has traced these connections through documents archived in the Minnesota Historical Society, existing scholarship, and aesthetic analysis, focusing in particular on the Silver Legion of America, a national Fascist organization that found considerable support in Minnesota. The resulting exhibition-in-print was delivered with the daily newspaper to more than 36,000 *Star Tribune* subscribers in October 2020; copies are on view in WAM's Target Studio gallery and freely available for visitors to take through May 2021.

[The Persistence of Mingei: Influence Through Four Generations of Ceramic Artists](#)

Through October 17, 2021

Curated by ceramic artist Randy Johnston this exhibition highlights the enduring Mingei ceramic tradition in Minnesota, drawing on the strength of WAM's collection, with additional important pieces lent by collectors and artists. The show pays particular homage to University of Minnesota Regents Professor and artist Warren MacKenzie, who brought Mingei to the state's cultural scene, and also honors his predecessors, students, and colleagues.

**About the Weisman Art Museum**

Since its origin in 1934, Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. The Weisman is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Gallery admission and membership are always free.

*For additional press images or to arrange an interview contact Susannah Schouweiler, Director of Communications and Marketing, at [susannah@umn.edu](mailto:susannah@umn.edu).*

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