

WELCOME TO THE ALLENTOWN ART MUSEUM

American Galleries

How do we define “American art?” What stories and experiences shape this nation?

With over 150 works of American art spanning over the course of 300 years, these galleries investigate how trade, colonization, and the migration of people and ideas have shaped our nation’s culture.

While America has always been influenced by cross-cultural exchange, many stories that form the groundwork of this country remain untold.

Follow the works in the galleries and explore American art and experience in a global context.

What stories do you hold?

Are there parallels between your story
and the works on display?

Trexler Hall

CROSS-CULTURAL CURRENTS

From the wall label:

In *And then we'll walk right up to the sun*, Angela Fraleigh excerpts figures from two paintings by nineteenth-century French artist Jean Leon Gérôme, who was known for imagery that affirmed Western fantasies of the Middle East as a place of sensuality, violence, and submissiveness. While Gérôme used these women as foils for white subjects, Fraleigh makes them the focus of her composition. **Her work encourages us to explore their agency and possible subversion—with the white protagonists removed from their scene, what might they choose to do?**

Representation is important in art because it can expand our sense of empathy and imagination.

White male artists, who historically dominated American museums and text books, often depicted women and people of color in passive roles, or to solely support the white subjects.



Angela Fraleigh (American, born 1976), *And then we'll walk right up to the sun*, 2016, oil, acrylic, and marker on canvas. Purchase: Priscilla Payne Hurd Endowment Fund, 2019. (2019.11)

This painting allows a different narrative to be shared,
one of strength, community, and resilience.

Do you have people, past or present, you look to for
strength? What are their stories?

Trexler Gallery

AMERICAN ART, 1900-PRESENT



Tatiana Parcerro (Mexican, born 1967), *Re-Invento #23*, 2006, acetate and lambda print. Gift of Francie Bishop Good and David Horvitz, 2022. (2022.9.3)

From the wall label:

"I explore the corporeal as a map that I can relate to concepts as different as identity, memory, territory, and time."

- Tatiana Parcerro

In this and other series, Parcerro repurposes visual materials as diverse as scientific schematics, colonial-era maps of Mexico, and pre-Columbian codices, layering them onto photographs of her body. By merging the macro (celestial maps) and the micro (chemical compounds) with images of the human figure, Parcerro seeks to explore the universality of human experience and the body's connections to the natural world.

Tatiana Parcerro's piece draws a connection between our personal selves to maps and ancient texts, emphasizing how we, too, hold history within our bodies.

**What kind of items are important to your culture?
Can you think of symbols that are central to your identity?**

Butz Gallery

AMERICAN ART, 1740-1900

From the wall label:

"People will often ask me why I choose humor for sensitive topics, such as the portrayal of Native people in popular culture. Humor is healing, healing is power, and power overcomes obstacles." - Wendy Red Star

By posing in her traditional Apsáalooke (Crow) regalia in a fake "natural" environment, artist Wendy Red Star recalls spaces in which Native Americans have been subject to one-dimensional portrayals—such as natural history museum dioramas or Hollywood sets. She asks us to consider how stereotypes shape the perception of Indigenous people today.

Stereotypes have the power to cause harm because they impact how others are treated regardless of how their true characters are.

Can you think of a time in history when stereotypes were used to portray a group of people?



Wendy Red Star (American, Apsáalooke (Crow), born 1981), *Indian Summer* from *The Four Seasons Series*, 2006, archival pigment print. Purchase: Priscilla Payne Hurd Endowment Fund, 2019. (2019.2.3)

**Wendy Red Star combats stereotypes using humor in her art —
How do you fight against stereotypes in your life?**