

BRUCE MUSEUM

	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Budgeted Personnel:	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Expenditures:			
Current			
Capital			
Total:			
Revenue:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

SUCSESSES IN 2017 – 2018

The Bruce Museum is excited to share its many successes this year, including the following:

- Twenty-three (23) Gifts accessioned into the permanent collection of the Bruce Museum (collective property of the citizens of Greenwich), totaling an additional 1,157 objects from the fields of History, Natural History, and Art. Highlights of these gifts include: six (6) ancient Chinese ceramic pieces from the Han and Tang dynasties; 28 Pre-Columbian (Andean) artifacts; the largest privately held collection of Connecticut fossils - over 500 fossil and geological specimens.
- For the fourth straight year in a row, the Museum has enjoyed increased attendance by families to our Family Days, Bruce Beginnings, and drop-in weekend workshops – over 3,500 participants in FY18.
- Results of FY18 surveys indicated that 99% of visiting school groups, and 100% of adult tour participants enjoyed their visit to the Bruce Museum and will return. On average, the Bruce reaches 25,000 school children per year, and over 70,000 visitors of all ages.
- The Bruce received a National Science Foundation research grant to work on a groundbreaking evolutionary tree highlighting all 10,000 bird species.
- In November 2017, the Visitor Services staff underwent Poverty Awareness training in order to prepare for Museums for All program participation. Museums for All offers free admission for up to four people when a single EBT (Electronic Benefits Card) is shown at the Desk.
- The Curator of Science, Daniel Ksepka, continued to put the Bruce Museum in the spotlight with published articles in *American Scientist* and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, as well as being accepted as a Fellow into the prestigious Explorers Club.
- Collaboration with BYO Greenwich with programming highlighting the issue of plastic pollution in the Sound and local environment resulting in a ban of single use plastic bags in town and awareness of the waste create by single use straws.

EXHIBITIONS

The Bruce Museum offered a variety art and science exhibitions in 2017-2018 that educated and engaged our diverse, community audience. Each exhibition featured world-class art, objects and artifacts that focused on the needs and interests of our visitors and our surrounding community. The following summarizes each of the exhibitions from 2017-2018.

Spring into Summer with Andy Warhol and Friends!

June 10, 2017 - September 3, 2017

The exhibition built on three important works in the Bruce Museum collection:

- Warhol's *Little Red Book*, 1971, a gift from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Arts, featuring ten unique polaroid portraits of the artist's friends (New Canaan architect Philip Johnson and his partner David Whitney, fashion model Donna Jordan, art critic Barbara Rose, and a self-portrait);
- *Flowers (Hand-Colored)*, 1974, a suite of ten silkscreens prints depicting floral still-lives, given to the Bruce by Peter Brant
- two large silkscreen portrait prints, *Sachiko*, 1977, gifts of the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation.

Beyond these Bruce Museum treasures, significant loans offered an expanded view of Warhol's aesthetic universe, including an important four-part painted portrait, never before exhibited in public of a local Greenwich resident, along with the scores of polaroid studies that the artist made in preparation for the commission; and a fine pencil portrait by Warhol of Philip Johnson.

Nikon Small World

July 29, 2017 - October 29, 2017

This traveling exhibition showcased the top 20 award-winning photographs and additional honorable mentions in Nikon's 2016 Photomicrography Competition. The images featured the beauty and complexity of life as seen through a light microscope. The super close-up photographs were judged by independent experts on the basis of originality, informational content, technical proficiency and visual impact. The Bruce Museum supplemented the works in the show with a display of historical 20th-century microscopes used by former Bruce Museum directors Edward Bigelow and Paul Howes.

George Wharton Edwards (1859 - 1950): Illustrator, Painter, Writer

August 6, 2017 - November 25, 2017

The painter, illustrator, and author George Wharton Edwards was celebrated in his day as a talented artist for his depictions of picturesque American and European scenes. The works assembled in this exhibition, which all came from the Bruce Museum's extensive collection, showed that Edwards preferred an underlying technical draftsmanship in his works on paper and a more fluid treatment, in the manner of American Impressionism, in his oils on canvas. Together, the works offered a glimpse into the proficiency of one of Greenwich's most notable local artists.

In the Limelight: Toulouse-Lautrec Portraits from the Herakleidon Museum

September 23, 2017 - January 7, 2018

Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec enjoyed the spectacle, the night life, and the tawdry side of Belle Époque Paris. Best known for his art portraying the café-concert and the entertainers who performed there, this exhibition explored how Toulouse-Lautrec used portraiture to comment on the absurdity and excess of Bohemian life in Paris at the turn of the century. The show examined the relationship between portraiture, caricature, and rise of the cult of celebrity in the late 19th century, while focusing on the artist's portraits of entertainers who became icons of the Parisian nightlife. Featuring 100 drawings, prints, and posters, the exhibition showcased the artist's satirical portraits of stage personalities like Sarah Bernhardt, Jane Avril, and Arstide Bruant alongside those of his friends and family.

American Abstraction: The Print Revival of the 1960s and '70s

December 2, 2017 - April 1, 2018

The early 1960s marked a significant turning point in American printmaking: the rise of communal studios provided new avenues for creative and technical exchanges between artists. These new-style printmakers began to take on some of the responsibilities of publishers and dealers, helping to streamline the production and distribution of artists' prints. Artists formerly rooted in the solitary studio practices of Abstract Expressionist painting began to collaborate regularly with master printmakers. The works

in *American Abstraction: The Print Revival of the 1960s and '70s*, most of which are drawn from a gift to the Bruce Museum from Judith and Stephen Wertheimer, included prints produced by Ernest de Soto of The Collectors Press Lithography Workshop and Irwin Hollander of Hollander's Workshop. From vibrant biomorphic forms and primitive marks to lively calligraphic gestures and bold color-field patterning, the works in *American Abstraction* suggested the evolution of abstract art in printmaking during two exciting decades of the post-war moment.

Treasures of the Earth: Mineral Masterpieces from the Robert R. Wiener Collection
November 11, 2017 - April 1, 2018

Treasures of the Earth provided visitors a tour of the breathtaking splendor, wonder, and science of minerals. Approximately 100 dazzling specimens from the exceptional Robert R. Wiener Collection were displayed, ranging from enormous interconnected cubes of pyrite to dazzlingly clear crystals of selenite to fiery red hexagons of vanadinite. Truly global in span, it included minerals from localities in Madagascar, China, Peru, Australia and beyond. Many examples of unusual crystal forms, rare combinations of multiple minerals growing together, and eye-catchingly enormous specimens were featured. Visitors learned how minerals gain their key properties such as color, crystal shape, luster, and size, and how they play a critical role in everything from nutrition to smart phone assembly.

Hot Art in a Cold War: Intersections of Art and Science in the Soviet Era
January 27, 2018 - May 20, 2018

The Bruce Museum's provocative exhibition *Hot Art in a Cold War: Intersections of Art and Science in the Soviet Era* examined one of the dominant concerns of Soviet unofficial artists—and citizens everywhere—during the Cold War: the consequences of innovation in science, technology, mathematics, communications, and design. Juxtaposing art made in opposition to state-sanctioned Socialist Realism with artifacts from the Soviet nuclear and space programs, *Hot Art in a Cold War* touched upon the triumphs and tragedies unleashed as humankind gained the power to both leave the Earth and to destroy it. *Hot Art in a Cold War* was an expanded version of an exhibition organized at the Zimmerli Art Museum, Rutgers University.

In Time We Shall Know Ourselves: Photographs by Raymond Smith
April 7, 2018 - June 3, 2018

In Time We Shall Know Ourselves was an exhibition of black-and-white photographs by New Haven photographer Raymond Smith. In the summer of 1974, inspired by the photographs taken in the American South in the 1930s by Walker Evans, a teacher and mentor of Smith at Yale University, as well as by Robert Frank's *The Americans* (1958), Smith embarked on a photographic expedition of his own. Intending to write a Ph.D. thesis in American Studies, Smith instead channeled his intense curiosity about his country and its inhabitants into a moving suite of portraits, works that are at once down-to-earth, melancholy, and filled with surprise. The exhibition featured 52 photographs, many vintage prints.

Patriotic Persuasion: American Posters of the First World War
January 20, 2018 - June 10, 2018

Patriotic Persuasion: American Posters of the First World War featured a selection of works donated to the Bruce Museum by Beverly and John W. Watling III, with additional pieces from Greenwich's Lockhart family. The United States involvement in World War I lasted only a brief twenty months, from April 1917 to November 1918, but the nation's military and propaganda strategies were of enormous consequence. In the era of radio and film's infancy, posters remained an essential medium for the public's dreamlife, capable of uplifting messaging and nightmarish manipulation. Featuring original posters that combine image and text in ingenious, surprising, and sometimes disturbing combination, "Patriotic Persuasion" marked the centennial of American participation in the First World War.

Diaspora Cloud by Vik Muniz

June 6, 2018 - June 30, 2018

The Bruce Museum presented *Diaspora Cloud* by Vik Muniz, part of Creative Time's *Pledges of Alliance*. The Bruce Museum raised artist Vik Muniz's *Pledges of Allegiance* flag, *Diaspora Cloud*, which flew over the front entrance of the Museum throughout June 2018. Muniz's *Diaspora Cloud* features a cloud floating against a blue background, evoking a geographically and temporally dispersed public that nevertheless share a similar viewpoint. Muniz uses the sky as a metaphor for the ephemerality of connection within a community. *Pledges of Allegiance* is a nationwide art project organized by the New York-based public arts nonprofit Creative Time. The flag has continued to travel to 19 cultural institutions and universities across 16 states.

iCreate 2018

June 9, 2018 - August 12, 2018

Each year, the Bruce Museum spotlights the creative energy and vitality of fine art created by regional high school students in the *iCreate* exhibition. Over 400 submissions were received for consideration this year. Of those submissions, the show featured 45 jury-selected artworks created by students competing for awards and included a catalog and digital presentation of all participating students' work.

National Geographic Photo Ark

June 2, 2018 - September 2, 2018

The National Geographic Photo Ark, led by photographer Joel Sartore, is a multiyear effort to document every species living in wildlife sanctuaries, inspire action through education, and help save wildlife by supporting on-the-ground conservation efforts. With ingenuity and wit, National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore has captured portraits of more than 6,000 creatures in 40 countries to date. Many of the animals live in the world's zoos and aquariums, institutions dedicated to preserving and caring for species of all kinds. This exhibition featured many iconic images and invited visitors to follow Sartore around the world on this exciting and important project. Along with other museums and institutions around the world, the Bruce Museum hosted the Photo Ark exhibition to raise awareness for many species in need of greater conservation.

Expressionism in Print: The Early Works of Richard Haas, 1957-64

June 23, 2018 - October 21, 2018

Richard Haas's expansive oeuvre is predominantly marked by trompe l'oeil murals and detailed renderings of New York City's architecture. But before he began recording urban landscapes, Haas sought inspiration from German Expressionist printmakers and Abstract Expressionist painters. Included in the exhibition were prints produced between 1957 and 1964—a seven-year period that, in many ways, encapsulates the artist's graphic evolution. Haas's deep interest in 19th-century European history informs many of these early prints. Included in the exhibition were woodcuts from Haas's *Famous Heads* series, comprising portraits of Henry VIII, Friedrich Nietzsche, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, Vincent Van Gogh, Claude Monet, Auguste Rodin, Paul Gauguin, and Albert Einstein.

Wild Bees: Photographs by Paula Sharp and Ross Eatman

April 14, 2018 - November 11, 2018

The exhibition *Wild Bees* featured exquisite color photographs of native bees in their natural habitats, along with an exploration of their varied lifestyles. The photographs presented are part of an ongoing wild bee project undertaken by photojournalist and writer Paula Sharp and nature photographer Ross Eatman, who began documenting wild bees inhabiting New York's Rockefeller State Park Preserve and neighboring Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in 2014. Their lenses capture in beautiful detail the tremendous variety of shapes, colors and sizes of the insects. The essential role bees play in our planet's health also featured prominently in the show.

Educational Programs

The Bruce Museum's primary goal is to educate our visitors. The Museum's Audience Engagement department tailors each learning experience to match our targeted audience segments in the community. Highlights from the Museum's educational programming and planning in 2017-2018 include the following:

- During FY18, Bruce Museum educators delivered 216 programs to 4,069 participants from Greenwich-based schools and organizations, including but not limited to: Boys and Girls Club of Greenwich; Central Middle School; Cos Cob Library; Eastern Middle School; Family Centers; and YWCA.
- Imagination Playground programming began thanks to a generous grant to the Bruce Museum from the Hilliard Family Foundation. The Museum received 300 Imagination Playground blocks in 2017-2018 with the plan to develop drop-in and regularly occurring programs for families and children in order to build, imagine and create in our galleries.
- First offered to visitors in 2015-2016 and growing in popularity, Bruce Moose Activity Packs are designed to encourage extended interaction with the Museum's exhibitions through intergenerational, in-gallery learning. Guests borrow packs from the admissions desk to help them explore the Museum's exhibitions.
- Bruce Museum staff, with support from Museum Trustee, Ellen Flanagan, developed an Education Task force to address the best methods for communicating with public schools, making connections with teachers, and ultimately reaching greater numbers of school children, both in the museum and through outreach programming.
- This year, School and Community Partnerships focused on multi-session programs, revising afterschool workshops to concentrate on hands-on, STEAM driven activities, and building relationships between the Museum and local schools and area organizations.
- Partnering with Building One Community Center, a non-profit in Stamford, Connecticut that serves recent immigrants. This partnership offers many opportunities to work with a diverse learning community and bring visitors to the Museum who may not have visited otherwise. Working with Building One will be essential as the Department develops bilingual materials, such as audio guides, for our visitors.

Please contact us if you have any questions about the Museum's work. We thank you for the ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Lio
Managing Director

Peter C. Sutton
The Susan E. Lynch Executive Director/CEO