

The Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts was established in 1989 by Helen Walton and Ed Dell Wortz, an affiliate of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, which opened its doors in 1987 in a historic building in Washington, D.C.

ACNMWA is one of 29 outreach committees with more than 3,000 dedicated members in the United States and around the world. These global committees spread the museum's mission, advocate for regional women artists, and serve as NMWA ambassadors. Arkansas is one of the two oldest Committees and organized one of the first State Exhibitions at the Women's Museum in 1992. In 1997 the Arkansas 50, along with Helen Walton, traveled to Washington, D.C., and presented the museum with an endowment for the Arkansas Room in the new Elisabeth A. Kasser wing of NMWA. Arkansas is the only committee to have a gallery dedicated to their state.

The Arkansas committee is a nonprofit volunteer organization advocating for Arkansas women artists. Our mission is to boost awareness and appreciation of women artists, who are still underrepresented in museums and undervalued in the market. Our programs educate the public about women artists by exhibiting their artworks, creating programs that advocate for equity and recognize excellence. There are currently 19 board members of various ethnicity, with diverse backgrounds, from Northwest to Southeast Arkansas.

Every two to three years, NMWA sets forth a theme and invites its affiliated national and international committees to secure artist nominations from a guest curator. The curators at NMWA then design an exhibition showcasing an artist from each location in their internationally admired *Women to Watch* exhibition. The Arkansas nominees comprise ACNMWA's signature traveling exhibition of *Arkansas Women to Watch*. The statewide tour introduces emerging or underrepresented Arkansas women artists to a larger public and contributes to the cultural life of the state. One of the *Arkansas Women to Watch* artists will be selected by the NMWA curators for the exhibition in the Museum in D.C. in 2024.

ACNMWA presents an Artist Award of \$4,000 annually to an accomplished Arkansas woman-identified artist to pursue her creative work. It may be used for research, travel, training, studio time, child care, or equipment and supplies. Award selection is made by a committee of the Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. The purpose of the Award is to assist an accomplished woman artist to realize her vision, and help to make her achievements more visible within the art community and to the public.

In addition, the ACNMWA awards a \$3,000 stipend to an Arkansas woman student attending an Arkansas university or college to collaborate with a mentor working in an Arkansas museum, gallery or cultural organization. The internship is designed to give the student an opportunity to learn about and make contributions to the cultural life of Arkansas while enriching her Program of Study related to the advancement of fine arts, art history, or arts administration. Chosen by Committee members from numerous applicants, the internship has enabled recipients to pursue real-life work experiences in the arts.

Biennially, the Arkansas Committee of NMWA invites Arkansas artists who identify as women to apply for the juried Artist Registry. Original work in all media is eligible. The invited juror for the 2021/23 cycle was Ann Prentice Wagner, Ph.D., who was then the Jackye and Curtis Finch, Jr. Curator of Drawings at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts. Selected artists will be featured in the Registry for two years and promoted on social media throughout the time. Artists included in our biennial *Arkansas Women to Watch* exhibition are automatically included in the Registry during the concurrent cycle, as is the recipient of the annual Artist Award.

The women artists of Arkansas enrich not only this state, but the whole world with the works they create. These art works get out in the world through museums, galleries, homes, publications, and the internet. We believe that individuals sharing their appreciation can make a difference.

More information about ACNMWA can be found online at acnmwa.org, Facebook, and Instagram.