



ARKANSAS COMMITTEE HISTORY

THE FIRST DECADE

Founded in 1989

Learning about the National Museum of Women in the Arts, NWMA, on a visit to Washington, D.C., Ed Dell Wortz and Helen Walton called together a group of women interested in the Arts on February 1, 1989, to develop plans for a State Committee. The Arkansas Committee of the NMWA was organized in Little Rock on March 21, 1989, with a representative from each of the twelve districts derived by equal distribution of population. The exception was Little Rock, which had three members on the board. With \$2,000 from the NMWA and \$100 from each Arkansas Committee board member, the Committee was able to begin definite plans for the future.

NMWA provided the guidelines for the Arkansas Committee to follow in order to qualify for a State Exhibit at the National Museum. The Arkansas Committee's first qualifying event was held in October 1989, when one hundred and twenty-five women gathered in Little Rock to participate in a seminar, *Old Mistresses*, led by two outstanding women, Kathy Brunch and Lucy Grant, from North Carolina. The purpose was to inform women about NMWA, the history of women as artists, and to develop future plans for the work of the Committee. In October 1990, a contract was signed by Helen Walton, President of the Arkansas Committee, and the NMWA agreeing to a State Exhibition of Arkansas women artist at NMWA.

To assure Arkansas women artists the opportunity to have their work seen by others and to help them find mutual support through the Committee and other women artists, the Arkansas Committee planned for events in each district of the state. At the end of May 1991, every district had participated in an event giving many women an opportunity to show their art. Over two thousand people and over eight hundred artists were involved in the planned events.

Two regional exhibits (east and west) were held in June 1991. From four hundred artist entries, three in-state jurors for each region chose forty. Artists selected at the regional shows were invited to submit slides for consideration for the State Exhibit, as well as artists who were nominated by chairs of Fine Arts Departments at Arkansas colleges and universities, Art Center Directors, and Gallery Owners.

The State Exhibit at the Arkansas Arts Center opened on October 19, 1991. Each of the thirty artists was allowed to show three paintings. The Juror for the State Exhibit, Grace Glueck, Art News Editor of the *New York Times*, chose ten artists to include their work in the Washington, D.C. Exhibit. The National Exhibit, *A Personal Statement: Arkansas Women Artists*, began March 24, 1992, and lasted until June 14, 1992, complete with a gala weekend.

The entire project of the Arkansas Committee, NMWA was full of firsts for women, visual arts,

and Arkansas. In particular, the exhibit represented the first full-scale attempt at bringing the women artists of Arkansas to the attention of the rest of the state, as well as providing an exhibition opportunity at a national museum. The outstanding group of fifteen women representing twelve districts, President Helen Walton, Curator Dr. Charlott Jones, and Project Director Caryl Steele, the Arkansas Committee set standards and goals to promote women artists and art education in the state. Many individuals and corporations who financially supported the work of the Arkansas Committee complimented this very active group. Since its formation in 1989, the Arkansas Committee has tried to locate, identify and promote women artists currently living and working in Arkansas. An equally important goal of the Committee has been to heighten awareness of the contributions women artists have made in the state and their impact on society.

Nationally, the Arkansas Committee is a leader among the twenty-two state committees. In 1997 the Arkansas 50, along with Helen Walton, traveled to Washington, D.C., and presented the museum with \$50,000, for an endowment of the Arkansas Room in the new Elisabeth A. Kasser wing of NMWA. The Committee is also a very strong leader at the annual States Leadership Conference held in the spring of each year at NMWA in Washington, D.C.

CHRONOLOGY OF ARKANSAS COMMITTEE OF NMWA:

- 1988 Helen Walton and Ed Dell Wortz learn about NMWA on a visit to Washington, D.C.
- 2/89 Helen Walton of Bentonville and Ed Dell Wortz of Fort Smith call together a group of women to organize the Arkansas Committee. Present are Mary Anne Stephens of Little Rock, Mimi Dortch of Little Rock, and Judy Rinke of Coal Hill. A map of the state was divided into 12 districts and each county contacted a chair (50 county chairs) to promote NMWA.
- 3/89 Arkansas Committee officially organized. Present was Dorine Deacon of Jonesboro, Julia Peck Mobley of Texarkana, Betty Faust of Helena, Bibba Pruet of El Dorado, Judy Rinke of Coal Hill, Mary Ann Stephens of Little Rock, Helen Walton of Bentonville, Mimi Dortch of Little Rock. A board representative from each of the 12 districts derived by equal distribution of population. NMWA provided \$2000.00 and each board member contributed \$100 each. Plans for the future begin! Informational meeting about NMWA was held in Little Rock at the Arkansas Arts Center with board members, county chairs, and guests. The Incorporation Document was accepted as was the By-Laws.
- 5/89 The Executive Committee met at the Capital Hotel in Little Rock. The main focus is to be the Educational Arm of the National Museum in Arkansas.
- 10/89 One hundred twenty-five women gather in Little Rock to participate in a seminar led by two outstanding women from North Carolina to inform women about NMWA, the history of women as artists, and to develop future plans for the work of the committee.
- 4/90 Betty Faust and Dorine Deacon went to the State Committee Conference in Washington, D.C. The Arkansas Committee makes a commitment to have a show in Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1992. A tour of *Elisabeth Frink* Exhibit and book signing with Dame Elisabeth were highlights, as was breakfast on Capitol Hill.
- 10/90 NMWA and the Arkansas Committee sign a contract agreeing to a State Exhibit of Arkansas women artist at NMWA in Washington, D.C.
- 10/90 Arkansas holds events in each district of the state. Over 2,000 people and 800 artists
-5/91 were involved in exhibitions around the state.
- 6/91 Two regional exhibits (east and west) were held in Pine Bluff and Fort Smith in June 1991. From 400 artists' entries, 40 were chosen by three in-state jurors for each region. Artists selected at the regional shows were invited to submit slides for consideration for the state exhibit, as well as artists who were nominated by chairs of Fine Arts Departments at Arkansas colleges and universities, Art Center Directors, and Gallery Owners.
- 10/91 The State Exhibit at the Arkansas Arts Center featured 30 artists allowed to show three paintings. Grace Glueck, Art News Editor of the *New York Times*, chose ten artists to include their work at NMWA. The weekend was capped off with a reception at the Arts Center and a brunch at the Governor's Mansion for board members, finalists and special guests (contributors of \$1000 or more.) The brunch had to be moved to 9 am. Because the AR/TX game in Little Rock had been moved to 11:30 a.m. for TV. First Ladies of Arkansas Hillary Clinton and Helen R. Walton hosted the event. The announcements of the 10 winners who will go to NMWA were presented at the reception.

- (cont.) The Committee paid the expenses of the 10 artists and one spouse plus the shipping of the 10 works. After the exhibit left Washington, it traveled to the University of the Ozarks, Clarksville; Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville; Arkansas State University, Jonesboro.
- 3/89-92 Helen Walton of Bentonville, Founder and President; Hillary Clinton, Honorary Chair; Ed Dell Wertz of Fort Smith, First Vice-President; Mary Anne Shula of Little Rock and Miami, FL, Second Vice-President; Mimi Dortch of Little Rock, Secretary; Julia Peck Mobley of Texarkana, Treasurer; Judy Rinke of Coal Hill; Dorine Deacon of Jonesboro; Elisabeth Dunklin of Pine Bluff; Betty M. Faust of Helena; Bibba Pruet of El Dorado
Helen McMahan of Blytheville
- “With an active, dedicated board of fifteen women, representing eleven districts throughout the state, our curator, Dr. Charlott Jones, and our project chair Caryl Steele, we developed three goals. The goals were to promote women artists through exhibits in the state; to organize a state exhibition and select the work of ten women artists for an exhibit at NMWA; and to promote and inform both women and men about NMWA. We look forward to a future when the work of artists will be recognized not by gender, but by quality.”
- 3-4/92 Arkansas Committee hosted 400 people to celebrate the NMWA opening of *A Personal Statement: Arkansas Women Artists*, (March 24-July 19, NMWA’s 8th State Exhibit. Ten artists exhibited 25 objects working in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, drawing, graphics, and photography. The exhibition was curated by Dr. Charlott Jones, Director of Arkansas State University Museum and juried by Grace Glueck, Art Critic and former Art Editor of the *New York Times*. The board members along with the artists enjoyed a number of special events, tea with First Lady Barbara Bush, tour of the State Department, and a private screening of the movie, *Babe*.
- 9/92 *A Personal Statement: Arkansas Women Artists* tours 16 works around the state of Arkansas including the University of the Ozarks at Clarksville, Walton Fine Arts Center at Fayetteville, Fine Arts Center Gallery Arkansas State University, Jonesboro.
- 10/92 Dorine Deacon was elected president for two years, (1992-1994); Betty Faust, Vice President; Virginia Bailey, Secretary; Julia Peck Mobley, Treasurer.
- 1/93 Doreen Deacon of Jonesboro, President
A Case for Women Artists is presented to the superintendents and Arkansas public and private schools and for each educational coop in Arkansas. The case contains study guides, an exhibition catalogue, photos, a video of the Washington exhibit, and a notebook for the educator.
- 6/93 Caroline Brown at the meeting in Hot Springs gave a brief introduction and history of the Arkansas Artists Registry and reviewed the lack of funding.
- 10/93 The committee voted to fund the Arkansas Artists Registry for \$15,000 to carry out the Research/Inventory proposal.
Nine Arkansas artists exhibit in David Pryor’s office in Washington, D.C.
- 1/94 Betty Faust of Helena, President; Bibba Pruet of El Dorado, Vice-President; Caryl Steel of Jonesboro, Secretary; Virginia Bailey of Little Rock, Treasurer.



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- 2/94 *Arkansas Arts Education Symposium Report*. The committee sponsored this publication documenting the event held in Little Rock on February 24-25, 1994.
- 9/94 In conjunction with the Arkansas Artist Registry, Director Caroline Brown, Research Inventory Program, encouraged women artists to register themselves with the Registry and increase awareness of NMWA. The AR Artist Registry gained 25 new members, and the committee gained 800 names for their own database.
- 1/95 Twenty new Girl Scout troops sign up for membership in NMWA's Girl Scout Program. Only 80 troops took advantage of the free Girl Scout books grant.
- 4/95 The pilot Girl Scout program with Crowley's Ridge Girl Scout Council in northeast Arkansas was so successful that the committee expanded the program to include the Conifer Girl Scout Council in southwest Arkansas.
- 5/95 Two scholarships awarded to in-state college students (Cynthia Powell and Lisa Brumbelow, University of the Ozarks in Clarksville) to attend the art workshop of their choice.
- 1/96 Betty M. Faust of Helena, President; Bibba Pruet of El Dorado, Vice President; Joey H. Halinski of Rogers, Secretary; Virginia Bailey of Little Rock, Treasurer.
- 4/96 President Betty Faust, of Helena, attends State Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.
- 5/96 Three summer scholarships were awarded: Brandy Banks and Jerri Miller of Arkansas State University to participate in the Shannon Native Craft Workshop; and Lynn Hackney of University of the Ozarks to participate in an arts education workshop.
- 9/96 *1996 Arkansas Women Artists State Exhibition* is held at the *Arkansas Repertory Theater* (Sept. 5-29). Leslie Luebbers, Director of the Art Museum of the University of Memphis; Marina Pacini, Director of the Clough-Hanson Gallery, Rhodes College; and Judith Brodsky, Director of the Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper, Rutgers University served as judges. The Grand Prize was awarded to sculptor Julia Kerl for sculpture, *Hovering Hands*; second place to Tela A. Arrington for ink and paper work, *Nail Ingénue*; and third place to Les Christensen for sculpture, *X*.
- 11/96 Helen Robson Walton, AR Committee founder receives the 1996 National Advisory Board Award for her long and generous commitment to the arts and NMWA.
- 1/97 Julia Kerl, 1996 Arkansas Women artist grand prize winner, exhibits *Hovering Hands* at NMWA.
Linda Palmer of Hot Springs, President.
- 4/97 The Arkansas 50 travels to NMWA to present \$50,000 for an endowment of the Arkansas Room in the new Elisabeth A. Kasser wing of NWMA.
- 10/97 Mailing to 800 Arkansas women artists encouraging them to send a Christmas ornament to NMWA.
- 1/98 Linda Palmer of Hot Springs, President; Joey Halinski of Rogers, Vice-President; Greta Troutt, Secretary; Ellon Cockrill, Treasurer.



Arkansas State Committee
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
WOMEN IN THE ARTS

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- 2/98 Kathleen Holder receives the 1998 \$1000 scholarship to work with a master printer (monotypes) in Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 3/98 Sent letter and NMWA archives guidelines to 800 Arkansas women artists encouraging them to register.
- 4/98 Vicki Joria, NMWA Girl Scout Coordinator, Linda Palmer, President, and Joey Halinski met with leaders of Girl Scout councils and pledge 2000 booklets to the Girl Scouts of Arkansas. Dorine Deacon and Greta Troutt of Jonesboro attend the State Leadership Conference at NMWA (April 21-23). Greta purchases for the Arkansas Committee, *NMWA in the Classroom*, to begin touring the state in June 1999.
- 5/98 Tela Arrington exhibits *Nail Ingénue* at NMWA's *State of the States* Exhibit.
- 6/98 Donate \$500 to the Anita Huffington sculpture to be placed in the Fulbright Hall at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.
- 10/98 The Fine Arts Club of Arkansas and the Arkansas Committee host Wilhelmina Cole Holladay. A luncheon was held in which Arkansas women artists decorated the tables, *Tablescapes*, with their artwork.
- 11/98 Board members travel to Jonesboro for meeting and tour of the Arkansas State University and Jonesboro.
Purchased 2000 NMWA Girl Scout books to be distributed to every Girl Scout Troop leader in Arkansas. Arkansas has 20,200 Girl Scouts and 2000 Troops.
- 1/99 Helen Walton, Honorary Chair of the Endowment Campaign; Joey Halinski of Little Rock, President; Linda Sue Farmer of North Little Rock, 1st Vice President; Mary Lou Wommack of Fayetteville, 2nd Vice President; Charlott Jones of Jonesboro, Secretary; Brooke Tappan of Helena, Treasurer.
- 3/99 Board members Mary Lou Wommack (painting) and Katherine Wildy (jewelry) donate items to NMWA Gala from AR Committee.
- 4/99 President Joey Halinski and 2nd VP Mary Lou Wommack attend State Committee Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. (April 20-22).
Membership (Friends) project begins. Goal = 200 Friends; 1500 invitations sent out.
- 5/99 AR Committee travels to Santa Fe, New Mexico, for a fundraising trip to benefit the Arkansas Women's Exhibition 2000. May 10-13. \$500 donation from each person attending raised over \$10,000.
- 7/99 Lin Chen, art student at Westark Community College, becomes the first recipient of the AR Committee *Bibba Pruet* Internship to begin in June at the Fort Smith Art Center.
- 10/99 Mailing to over 920 Arkansas women artists announcing the NMWA Millennium Christmas Tree Ornament programs. Ten year anniversary luncheon and meeting held at the home of Lil McClerkin in Texarkana.

- (cont.) Adopt-A-Work, *Study of Portugal*, 1937 by Sonia Ter Delaunay was adopted by the AR Committee for \$300.00
- Mailing to over 150 art centers, museums, and galleries in Arkansas educating them on submitting text for the *Women in the Arts Magazine* at NMWA.
- 1/00 Kathleen Holder will exhibit one of her paintings at NMWA for the *State of the States Exhibit*.
- 7/00 Second *Bibba Pruet* Internship awarded to Susan Stuckey Horn to work at the Texarkana Regional Arts Center.
- Adopt-A-Work, *Portrait of Mrs. Stuart*, 1896 by Laurie Mott was adopted by the AR Committee for \$550.00
- 2001 A FUNdraising trip to England and Belgium was held for Exhibition funding.
- Scholarship recipient, Ramona Wood, from El Dorado was selected.
- Kelly Veteo interned at the Fowler Center, ASU.
- Bibba Pruet, of El Dorado, hosted Annual Meeting.
- 2002 Scholarship recipient, Maria Botti Villegas of El Dorado was selected.
- Adopt-A-Work, *Famine*, n.d. by Marie Apel was adopted by the AR Committee for \$800.00
- Polly Crews, Pamela Yantis, & Ed Dell Wortz of Fort Smith hosted Annual Meeting.
- 2003 Scholarship recipient, Ilayali Alvarez-Hallmark of Little Rock was selected.
- Christie Langhammer interned at the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock.
- Nancy Grant & Jill Brown of Russellville and Sherée Niece of Clarksville hosted the Annual Meeting in the River Valley.
- 2004 Stacy Troutt selected as Intern to work cooperatively with Arkansas Tech University and University of the Ozarks. She created exhibit templates, a five state directory of art galleries, guide to printmaking, etc.
- Adopt-A-Work, *Death, Woman and Child*, 1910 by Kathe Kollwitz was adopted for \$200.
- Barbara Cade selected as 2004 Scholarship winner. A handmade felt maker, Barbara utilized scholarship monies to travel to Finland, homeland of felt making.
- Originals!* Exhibition opened and traveled throughout the state.
- Annual meeting held at Hope, AR and Old Washington State Park hosted by Betty Jo Hays.
- 2005 Cindy Davis, President; Ellon Cockrill, 1st Vice President; Mary Ellen Warner, 2nd Vice President; Brooke Tappan, Treasurer; Sherée Niece, Secretary.
- Originals!* Exhibition continued traveling throughout the state. Senator Blanche Lincoln requested to display works of three *Originals!* winners along with Barbara Cade.
- 4/05 Jonesboro group hosted 2005 Intern, Sarah Miller, who continued the archiving work of their previous intern.

- (cont.) Fort Smith group oversees Scholarship Committee for 05-06. Debbie Finley was chosen as the Scholarship recipient. She was accepted (1 of 4) into the San Francisco Crown Point Press Art School to study photogravure.
- President Davis attended NMWA meeting in DC with her daughter and daughter-in-law.
- Rebecca Johnson, coordinator of the *Originals!* Exhibit submitted final report.
- 10/05 Annual Meeting began with a High Tea Fundraiser at home and gallery of Robyn Horn. Bess Sanders hosted the group in Little Rock highlighting the Clinton Library Center, Donald Reynolds Center on Aging, and Arkansas Arts Center.
- Arkansas followed the initiative of NMWA to develop a website, constructed and maintained by ArkansasWeb.com.
- Two Adopt-A-Works, lithographs on paper by Helen Gerardia (1903-1988), n.d. *Ascent* and *African* were adopted each for \$350.
- 2006 The Internship Committee is Pine Bluff. However, due to organizational problems, no intern was ever secured.
- Executive Committee composed a letter to Walton Family requesting additional funding.
- 4/06 Members Polly Crews of Fort Smith and Martha Murray of Wynne passed away.
- Ginger Crews agreed to join the National Advisory Board of NMWA.
- NMWA Dir. of National & International Affairs, Ilene Gutman, announced 20th Anniversary of the Museum and unveiling of *The Book as Art* exhibition.
- Brooke Tappan thanked for years of service as Treasurer.
- Scholarship recipient is Laura Waters of Eureka Springs. Upholding and honoring the tradition of the Osage settlement where her property is, Laura excavated an earthen kiln within a rocky terrain, to low-fire and experiment with various fuming materials.
- Annual Meeting hosted by Hot Springs.
- 2007 Ellon Cockrill, President; Mary Ellen Warner, 1st Vice President; Maggie Malloy, 2nd Vice President; Tonya Ward Davis, Treasurer; Sherée Niece, Secretary.
- 4/07 Founder Mrs. Helen Robson Walton passed away.
- Bess Sanders is working with First Lady Ginger Beebe and AR Arts Council to design tablescape book/calendar. AR Committee sponsored page for \$500.
- Exhibition committee formed to proceed once *Women to Watch* guidelines from NMWA are received.
- Joey Halinski met with Mrs. Holladay. AR Committee paid for a wall plaque memorializing Mrs. Helen Robson Walton to be placed under the *AR Room* plaque.
- University of the Ozarks is hosting the 2007 Intern, Courtney Ford.

(cont.) Rename the *Originals!* Exhibit in honor of founding member, Helen Robson Walton.

Katherine Wildy donated a piece of her jewelry for the NMWA fundraiser.

Adopt-A-Work, *A Normandy Market*, 1885, by Margaret Lesley Bush-Brown adopted for \$650.

9/07 Annual Meeting hosted by Jonesboro group conducted tours of Bradbury Gallery, Sara Howell Studio and Gallery, and Katherine Wildy home.

AR Committee donated \$1000 to NMWA for *WACK!* Exhibit in honor of Maya Angelou and \$1000 in honor of the AR Committee.

Judy Larson, Director of NMWA, resigned.

2008 A \$10,000 Endowment was established through the Arkansas Community Foundation, titled the *Arkansas Committee of the National Museum of Women in the Arts Endowment*. It is hoped that within a few years, the 5% drawdown will fully fund one of our projects, such as the internship.

The Annual Meeting was hosted by Maribeth Frazer in Monticello. Highlights included UAM's recently acquired B&B, The Trotter House, the Spencer Gallery and Maxwell Art Collection on the campus, and the newly renovated and expanded Donald W. Reynolds YMCA.

No Scholarship since 2006. Internship – none.

11/08 A fundraising luncheon was hosted at the Governor's Mansion. Author Julia Reed was the featured speaker. Southern favorites were served for lunch. Participants learned more about AR Committee and NMWA; Ms. Reed's books were available for purchase. (Profits were \$2-3000.)

2009 New President, Mary Ellen Warner was inducted.

The Polly Wood Crews Scholarship was increased from \$1500 to \$2000.

Arkansas Committee became a sponsor of Linda Palmer's Historic Tree Project.

Five Arkansas women artists' works were submitted to the 2010 Women to Watch Project.

5/09 Cara Sullivan chosen as Elizabeth J. Pruet Intern. Her focus is creating a user-friendly, informational website and updating our database.

9/09 Discussion about creation of an AR Committee informational/educational video. Amended Bylaws presented, to be voted on at Annual Meeting.

10/09 River Valley Committee members, Virginia Berner, Nancy Farrell, Sherée Niece, along with Cindy Davis, hosted the Annual Committee at Mount Magazine Lodge. Linda Palmer shared her Historic Arkansas Trees Project.

2010 Cara Sullivan, 2009 intern, introduced the members to the website and navigated the site. Members voted to change the meeting time to 11:00.

National chose one of the five Arkansas artists we sent! Nikki Hemphill from Jonesboro was chosen to have her art displayed in the Women to Watch Exhibit that will run from July 2 – Sept. 12.

Voted to create and publish an informational brochure about the AR Committee of NMWA.

- (cont.) Diana Michelle Hausam, a photographer from Farmington, is the 2009 Scholarship winner. She utilized the funds to purchase a large format camera and will be photographing the Gypsy Girls Camp. Her work was highlighted in the *2009 Fulbright Review*.
- 3/10 Mary Lou Wommack, former president, passed away on March 24, 2010.
Work began on a 2011 Fundraising Luncheon event.
Cindy Davis created a Face Book page for the committee. News releases were distributed about our new website.
A new on-line friendly version of the Scholarship Application was created.
- 9/10 Whitney Wasson, the Fort Smith Arts Center Intern presented her summer's work via power point. She assisted in the relocation of the Ft. Smith Arts Center to its temporary location, as well as, assisted with fundraising and publicity about the new arts center.
“Introductions Regional Receptions” – regional exhibitions of local artists traveling to other regions within the state to showcase their art. Each member was challenged to come up with candidates in our region who are articulate and would be willing to travel to another part of the state to share their work. This project will take place in 2012.
Joey Halinski accompanied Nikki Hemphill, 23, to National's Women to Watch Exhibit. Nikki's black and white Giselle photo of a nostalgic place consisted of 17 layers upon basic plywood.
Founding member, Ms. Elizabeth “Bibba” Pruet passed away.
- 10/10 The Annual Meeting was hosted by new NW AR members, Sharon Guthrie, and Denise Garner in Bentonville and NW Arkansas. Highlights included viewing progress at Crystal Bridges; Compton Gardens with elegant dinner; experiencing the Turrell Skyspace; Deputy Director Ilene Gutman delivered greetings from National and highlighted future plans; local artists shared their work and networked with the committee; Diana Michelle Hausam presented her photographic works of Gypsy Girls Camp thus far; tour and lunch at the Museum of Native American Artifacts in Bentonville; and a tour of Mr. & Mrs. Alexander's home in Rogers to view their private collection of primitive art.
Katherine Strause, the current Chair of the Art Department at Henderson State University was selected as the Polly Wood Crews Scholarship recipient for 2010. She utilizes photos of women from women's perspectives and rearranges the compositions to create original paintings.
2010-2012 Officers were inducted: President, Sherée Niece; Vice President, Marta Jones; Secretary, Joey Halinski; and Treasurer, Tonya Ward.
- 2011 Sherée Niece, President; Marta Jones, Vice President; Joey Halinski, Secretary; Brooke Tappan, Treasurer (two-year terms)
SE AR Arts Center opened W2W exhibition with rave success.
AR Committee notified the ARCF endowment was never funded. Committee determined to see if can fully fund \$10,000 by end of 2011.
Landscaping Artist Nancy Goslee Power invited to speak at luncheon in Governor's Mansion.

- 3/11 Letters to Honorary and current board asking for sponsorship of fundraising luncheon mailed. Agreed to sponsor Linda Palmer's Champion Trees Project on our website.
- 5/11 W2W exhibit in Bentonville highly successful. Laura Bryan of Little Rock was awarded the internship with the host being Southeast Arkansas Arts Center.
- 7/11 W2W exhibit in Fort Smith very popular. People stand in line to get in at first opening. Agreed to be supporting organization for Linda Palmer's *Champion Trees* Project traveling exhibition.
- 10/11 9th: Annual Meeting in Hot Springs. Strategic Planning session facilitated by Allyson Lewis, from Jonesboro, the author of **The Seven Minute Life**
26th: Ginger Crews hosts Reception for Nancy Powers. 27th: Governor's Mansion Luncheon with Nancy Powers, landscaping artist, as speaker. Attended by Ilene Gutman (NMWA) and Mary Ross Taylor, New Mexico.
Intern, Laura Bryan, curates exhibits at Pine Bluff Arts & Science Center. "Don Ashley Reed Artist to Architect" and "The Works of Don Ashley Reed: A Legacy of Architecture in Jefferson County."
- 2012 Voted to honor the \$25,000 pledge made to NMWA in 1990 to honor its 25th Anniversary. Conducted regional fundraisers (Dinners a la Arte) to raise the amount. Proceeds from fundraising events with a generous \$12,000 matching gift from Robyn Horn completed the pledge amount.
- 3/12 Decided that members would be personally responsible for costs incurred during Annual Meeting to save committee funds.
- 5/12 Met in NWAR at Tyson Headquarters, toured art collection curated by Shannon Mitchell. Joined group from New Mexico for reception and tour of Crystal Bridges.
Executive Committee met with ARCF past president, Pat Lile, and determined our committee should not pursue establishing an endowment.
- 10/12 Annual Meeting in Fort Smith hosted by Udouj Orthodontics, home of Kate Maurras, and Bonneville House. Kim Gordon spoke about "Evolution of the Modern Woman."
- 2013 Marta Jones, President; Dabney Pelton, Vice President; Kate Maurras, Secretary; Brooke Tappan, Treasurer.

Polly Crews Scholarship awarded to Maxine Payne (Greenbrier, Assoc. Prof. of Art, Hendrix College) to complete "Photographing women living in Vinh Linh District of Vietnam"
A continued collaborative project with anthropologist Anne Goldberg

Curator Caroline S. Brown selected five artists for the State Women to Watch Touring Exhibit (2012-2014), one of which was selected for the NMWA exhibit "High Fiber" in Washington,



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WOMEN IN THE ARTS

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D.C.: Barbara Cade (Hot Springs), Jennifer Libby Fay (Novato, CA/Rogers), Louise Halsey* (Little Rock), Jane Hartfield (Fort Smith), and Deborah Kuster (Conway). The exhibit traveled to the Arts & Sciences Center for Southeast Arkansas in Pine Bluff, the Fort Smith Regional Arts Museum in Fort Smith, the Walton Arts Center in Fayetteville, the Stephens Gallery at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, the Fine Arts Center Gallery at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, and will conclude at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock in February 2014.

Upon request by the national museum, the ACNMWA Board contributed its \$25,000 anniversary gift to the NMWA exhibit “Workt by Hand: Hidden Labor and Historical Quilts” to be on view in Washington, D.C., December 20, 2013 - April 27, 2014.

ACNMWA organized for statewide tour September 12, 2012 – December 4, 2014: “Arkansas Champion Trees: An Artist Journey, Drawings by Linda Williams Palmer. The exhibit traveled to 8 of 16 venues in 2012-2013: Botanical Garden of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, Fayetteville Public Library, Arkansas Educational Television Studios in Conway, Stephens Gallery at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Two Rivers Museum in Ashdown, Museum of Contemporary Art in Hot Springs, University of Arkansas at Fort Smith in Fort Smith, and John Brown University in Siloam Springs. Funding for the tour was provided by a Collaborative Project Support Grant from the Arkansas Arts Council with matching funds from corporate partners Plum Creek Forestry and Domtar Paper Foundations.

11th Annual Meeting/Retreat: Hosted in Little Rock by members Ann Bryan, Laura Bryan, Conley Golden, Joey Halinski, and Lynn Parker. Members attended a reception at Ellen Golden Antiques, a tour to the Esse Purse Museum, the Oscar de la Renta exhibit at the Clinton Presidential Library, and an artist reception and dinner hosted by Cassie Toro at The Boyle House. After the business meeting the next day, the committee completed its strategic planning begun at the 2011 Hot Springs Retreat with a “Road Map” workshop led by consultant James Volkert. Events concluded with lunch at South on Main restaurant, and a tour of the Bernice Sculpture Garden, and a visit to Spirited Art, an arts event program with Nikki Munert.

Social Media/Facebook: Laura Bryan (Little Rock) Chair: Facebook pages have been updated and the site has received increased activity: 350+ likes

2014 The Board approved the motion to donate and raise funds to establish a program endowment (Present for the Future Program Endowment Campaign) to reliably support annual educational internships, artist scholarships for new work, and exhibitions. The active members will contact Honorary Members, businesses, and foundations for contributions toward the \$300,000+ goal necessary to continue this advocacy for Arkansas women artists. Periodic fundraisers will be designated for NMWA financial support.

ACNMWA received a Windgate Foundation grant in the amount of \$16,500 to fund educational programming expenses during the first year of the endowment campaign.



Prepared to participate in the biennial national “Organic Matters: Women to Watch 2015”, and State Touring Exhibit (2015-2017): The 2015 national exhibit will illuminate how contemporary artists re-contextualize images of plants and animals to reflect upon the themes of sexuality, gender politics, and the abject. Nature-based imagery in all media will be accepted.

Art Works Events: Initiated a series of informal presentations featuring ACNMWA scholar artists or interns, or Committee members and community arts representatives to share information about their art process, art business, or art interests with the general public; contacts made through social media and email blasts, Art Works events introduce the Committee, its purposes and programs, and encourage Friends membership opportunities.

AR State Committee State Sponsorship (continued): “Arkansas Champion Trees: An Artist’s Journey, Drawings by Linda Williams Palmer”: 2014 venues included the State Capitol, the South Arkansas Arts Center in El Dorado, The Arts & Sciences Center for Southeast Arkansas in Pine Bluff, the Peel-Compton Gardens in Bentonville, the Arkadelphia Arts Center in Arkadelphia, and conclude the tour at the School for Forestry Resources at the University of Arkansas in Monticello. Funding for the tour was provided by a Collaborative Project Support Grant from the Arkansas Arts Council with matching funds from corporate partners Plum Creek Forestry and Domtar Paper Foundations. The project received a second Collaborative Project Support Grant from the Arkansas Arts Council to create educational materials and programs. Matching funds for “Growing Champion Classrooms” were contributed by Entergy Charitable Foundation and the School of Forest Resources, University of Arkansas at Monticello.

Social Media/Facebook (continued): Laura Bryan (Little Rock) Chair
Facebook pages have been updated and the site has received increased activity: 500+ likes

- 2015 The Elizabeth Pruett Internship was awarded to Elizabeth Newman (Monticello): The internship will focus on public relations, to include increased public awareness, website management, and continued Facebook and social media development for the AR Committee to best promote its purposes and programs.

Present for the Future Program Endowment Campaign continues with leadership gifts made by Walton family siblings in honor of their mother and ACNMWA founder Helen Walton.

New Board organizational structure is adopted, job descriptions and parameters for committee service are outlined.

ACNMWA participates in “Organic Matters: Women to Watch 2015” with Dawn Holder selected as the Arkansas representative to the national exhibit in Washington, D.C. The Board approved financial support for the artist and curator Courtney Taylor to attend the opening reception at the museum on Thursday, June 4, 2014. The Arkansas State Tour exhibit packet was distributed to potential Arkansas venues.

The first ACNMWA Artist Registry was posted online after the 2014 juror process. It featured twenty-five Arkansas women artists work, bios/artist statements, and links to websites.



Arkansas State Committee
THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
WOMEN IN THE ARTS

ARKANSAS COMMITTEE HISTORY

2016 Former Intern Elizabeth Newman (Monticello) continued to work on website management and Facebook/social media for a monthly fee-for-service to promote ACNMWA purposes and programs.

Present for the Future Program Endowment Campaign continued securing gifts; communications with the Walton Family Foundation establish its desire for ACNMWA to initiate distributions from their leadership gift, and to inform them of the growth of the endowment principal.

ACNMWA organizes for travel the state tour of “Organic Matters: Women to Watch 2016” to twelve venues across the state that features work by national museum competitive winner Dawn Holder, Sandra Luckett, Katherine Rutter, and Melissa Wilkinson.

Members attended the ACNMWA sponsored welcome reception in Bentonville, Arkansas, for artist Judy Chicago at the 21C Museum Hotel in September prior to the artist’s presentation at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

The 12th annual Meeting/Retreat: Hosted in El Dorado by members Tela Webb and Margy Neil. Members attended a reception at Margy’s home (former home of ACNMWA member and named internship honoree Bibba Pruett), and a tour of the South Arkansas Arts Center.