In September 2013, more than 400 exhibitors from across New York state were on hand for MAG’s biggest fund-raiser, the M&T Bank Clothesline Festival. The popular annual event, which also featured live entertainment and family activities, spread out across MAG’s 14-acre campus, including the newly completed Centennial Sculpture Park.

September also saw the unveiling of the last of four site-specific works commissioned for the Gallery’s Centennial—a 25-foot stainless steel sculpture by Rochester artist Albert Paley. The work, titled Soliloquy, was installed near the Goodman Street entrance, in the recently dedicated Cameros Family Plaza. Photo by Brandon Vick.

In October 2013, the Gallery celebrated 100 years with an unprecedented series of events. At the first of these—the Celestial Centennial gala hosted by the Board of Managers on October 5—guests entered amidst a light show through the original 1913 entrance. Photo by Ria Tafani.

On October 8—100 years to the day after the Gallery opened its doors—director Grant Holcomb presided over a rededication ceremony. For Holcomb, the day would be especially memorable. A few weeks later, he would announce his intention to retire after 29 years at MAG; in July 2014, Jonathan Binstock would be announced as his successor. Photo by Adam Fenster.

Music, dance, storytelling and family art activities drew more than 4,200 visitors to the 2013–14 series of family days. Four events were annual celebrations of Hispanic/Latino Heritage, Kwanzaa, Asian Pacific American Heritage and Black History. The fifth—the October 13 celebration of MAG’s 100th birthday—featured such performers as Mounfanyi Drum and Dance Ensemble (shown performing in Centennial Sculpture Park) and birthday cake. Photo by Brandon Vick.

Two major art acquisitions were unveiled in time for the Centennial celebrations—Statue of Venus Obliterated by Infinity Nets (detail at right), by groundbreaking Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama; and After Memling’s Portrait of a Man with a Letter, by the young American artist Kehinde Wiley.

Memory Theatre 2013, the last in the series of Centennial exhibitions, explored how memory shapes our identities and the ways in which museums function as “memory theaters.” Pictured: Visitors stepped right into Judith G. Levy’s Memory Cloud to peer at nearly a thousand 35mm slides foraged from yard sales and swap meets.

Exhibitions in the Lockhart Gallery traditionally showcase MAG’s permanent collection. One of these—the fall 2013 exhibition Connoisseurs Around the Corner—paid tribute to MAG’s founding family, the Watsons, and to a century of Watson gifts to the collection. Pictured at right is Gaston Lachaise’s Portrait Statuette of Mrs. J. Sibley Watson, Jr. (1925).

On November 8, one of the final events of the Centennial year featured poet Dana Gioia, the former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. His lecture on “Why the Arts Matter” was also a tribute to Congressionalwoman Louise Slaughter (NY-25), who was recognized for her service to the arts; she’s shown with UR president Joel Seligman; Jim Durfee, president of MAG’s Board of Managers; Dana Gioia; and MAG director Grant Holcomb. Photo by Ria Tafani.

One of the year’s most eagerly anticipated exhibitions, Matisse as Printmaker, opened here in April 2014 in the midst of a national tour. In Rochester, it was accompanied by a companion show organized by MAG. Alexander Matisse: New Ceramics was the first museum exhibition of work by the artist’s great-grandson (shown at the opening).

Thanks to a major grant from the University of Rochester Provost, MAG’s recently reinstall ed medieval gallery is a feast for the ears as well as the eyes. “Medieval Sights and Sounds,” a collaboration between MAG and the Eastman School of Music, culminated in an interactive kiosk, gallery guide and new database of period music. In winter 2014, the Gallery and ESM celebrated the project with a concert by Schola Cantorum of Christ Church Rochester, as well as a lecture by Michael Alan Anderson, ESM associate professor of musicology, and Nancy Norwood, MAG curator of European art.

In March 2014, MAG published its first ebook, Ancient Egypt: Exploring Ancient Artifacts with Alex the Archaeologist, available free from the iTunes Store. It features Alexander Smith, a Mediterranean archaeologist (and Rochester native) who’s also a familiar face in area schools. Soon to come: Ancient Greece.

During the 2013-14 school year, Francis Parker School #23 on Barrington Street was one of five Rochester city schools participating in the national Extended Day/Expanded Learning initiative. As one of the school’s cultural partners, the Gallery welcomed all 1st through 6th graders at the school for weekly museum visits. Students also enjoyed classes in the Creative Workshop, which in spring 2014 mounted an exhibit of their artwork.