

ARTiculate

MEMORIAL ART GALLERY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

SPRING 2022

UP AGAINST THE WALL

art, activism,
and the AIDS poster

SHAWN DUNWOODY'S
UNFINISHED BUSINESS

CHITRA GANESH
SULTANA'S DREAM

Presented By



Art in Bloom

FLOWERS IN ART

APRIL 23 & 24, 2022

Join us for *ART IN BLOOM – Flowers in Art*, a celebration of the combined beauty of art and floral design, as color, texture, and fragrance fill the event spaces of the Memorial Art Gallery. See imaginative interpretations of artworks by local floral designers in a collaborative exhibition by the Gallery Council and the 7th District Federated Garden Clubs NYS, Inc.

Saturday's events include a lecture by famed botanical jewelry designer Sarah Boynton, and an enticing fresh and locally grown buffet luncheon. Both Saturday and Sunday will have optional workshops and seminars led by local experts in horticulture, gardening, and floral design.

Patron ticket - \$175 (\$135 tax-deductible): Includes admission on Saturday and Sunday, lecture, luncheon, and unlimited workshops/seminars

Reserved ticket - \$90 (\$50 tax-deductible): Includes admission on Saturday, lecture, and luncheon

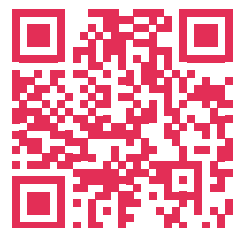
General ticket - \$25: Includes admission for one day

Workshop ticket - \$20 per workshop (requires purchase of general ticket)

All proceeds to benefit the not-for-profit organizations of the Gallery Council of the Memorial Art Gallery and the 7th District Federated Garden Clubs NYS, Inc.

**SCAN THE CODE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS**

or visit bit.ly/ArtInBloom2022



MAG VOICES



I've been coming to MAG for most of my life. I was raised in Fairport, NY, and have been a frequent visitor since my grade school years. These days, long gone are the field trips, and I now find myself on the other side of the exhibitions: I design them. It was clear early on that art and creativity were meaningful to me. There is no doubt MAG fostered these values along the way.

When it came time to figure out what I wanted to do "when I grow up," I had a hunch it was going to be a career in art. I was both an aspiring musician and artist in high school. I solidified my artistic pact when I went to college for graphic design. I soon found another passion in my course of study: art history. I was captivated by the big ideas artworks represented and I loved exploring them and learning more. Something clicked—I realized I wanted to be a part of bringing all of this to the public eye. Art should be accessible to all, and I believe this deeply.

I have discovered that museums are the perfect place for a person like me to work. Museums play a significant role in our society: they inform us, inspire us, and provide a lens to view our place in the world. Every staff member at MAG is committed to being a steward of our collection, even though our roles—the way we steward—may be different. One key role involves exhibiting the collection and traveling exhibitions, and I am honored to be a part of the team that supports this effort.

Touching on both art and history, our upcoming exhibition *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster* tells many stories about the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The exhibition provides historical perspectives, clarifies changing attitudes, and dispels myths surrounding HIV/AIDS. Posters are ephemeral objects, and as such they are a snapshot of what health organizations and designers needed to communicate about the disease as new information came to light. HIV/AIDS is a matter of life and death, and these posters show us hope, creativity, and the power of coming together to fight a common foe. *Up Against the Wall* epitomizes the power museums have to educate, and I am super excited about it.

First and foremost, I am a designer. But I am interested in history, too. Good design distills the educational and historical aims of a museum into digestible exhibition experiences. I'm grateful to do this work each day as MAG's exhibitions designer. I look forward to many more exhibitions to come!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TJ' or similar initials.

Travis Johansen
Exhibitions Designer

UP AGAINST THE WALL:

Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster

Written by Donald Albrecht
Guest Curator

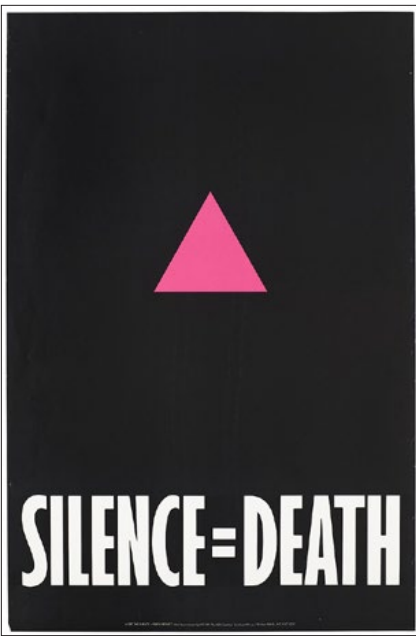


As a gay man living in New York City in the 1980s and 90s, I lost many friends and colleagues to HIV/AIDS. Curating the exhibition *Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster* has been a bittersweet experience. While placing the posters into broader thematic and international contexts, I have had to relive sad and fearful days but also have been buoyed by that era's creative dynamism. Moreover, in working on the book and exhibition, I and my colleagues could not help but

discern the long shadow AIDS casts on our current pandemic, namely the negative effect of misinformation and inaction.

The greatest challenge I faced in organizing the show was selecting some 200 posters from a collection numbering 8,000. I strove to express, in condensed form, the visual, social, and cultural richness of the archive as well as its transnational scope. It is my hope that these posters from the past provide models for action today.

As a younger generation will learn, AIDS activists chose to spread educational messages to at-risk groups and the general public using one of visual culture's least expensive and most ephemeral media: the poster. Small community protest groups were joined by governmental health departments to advocate disease prevention, debunk misinformation about HIV/AIDS transmission, and proffer compassion for people with AIDS.



Beyond serving as public health communiqués, posters summoned action (the most famous, perhaps, being the “*Silence = Death*” poster) and forged identity and community among AIDS activists.

The posters on view are largely analog in format and represent a significant, though largely superseded, chapter in the history of graphic design. Posters continue to play a role in HIV awareness and prevention, but their messages, imagery, and delivery systems have changed. Contemporary posters promote cutting-edge science to an audience for whom the disease is no longer a near-certain death sentence but a manageable chronic condition.

These changes have been matched by transformations in how people encounter HIV posters. Still seen on the street and subway, posters now freely circulate on websites and social media, popping up on smartphones and mobile devices. HIV poster-making will thus continue; HIV posters will morph in lockstep with medical advances and perceptions of HIV until the disease is eliminated.

Up Against the Wall: Art, Activism, and the AIDS Poster is on view March 6–June 19

This collaborative exhibition and all related activities are made possible through the vision and generosity of donor, collector, physician, and medical historian Dr. Edward C. Atwater, and his family, whose AIDS Education Posters Collection (<https://aep.lib.rochester.edu/>) is part of the River Campus Libraries' Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation at the University of Rochester.

Presenting Sponsor



Lead Sponsors

New York State Education Department,
made possible by Assemblymember
Harry B. Bronson

Supporting Sponsors

Vicki and Richard Schwartz



Lloyd E. Klos Fund

Friends of the University of
Rochester Libraries



Gleason Family Foundation



Associate Sponsors



Dr. William Valenti and James Wolk

Community Sponsors

WXXI  CITY

The exhibition is supported in part by awards from the New York State Education Department made possible by Assemblymember Harry B. Bronson, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services MA-245369-OMS-20. The views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this exhibition do not necessarily represent those of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The book that complements the exhibition is published by RIT Press and made possible by William M. Valenti, M.D.

SKY HOPINKA:

MEMORIES OF MOVEMENT

Written by Almudena Escobar López

Assistant Curator of Media Arts



A member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and the Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, Sky Hopinka is an internationally recognized multimedia artist who investigates the complex layers of Indigenous identity. In his films, Hopinka presents friendship, family, and travel as opportunities to reflect on colonialism and what it means to be an Indigenous person in North America.

Memories of Movement features three artworks that connect landscape, history, and personal experiences. The three-channel video installation *Here you are before the trees* (2020) focuses on the Indigenous histories of upstate New York and their relationships with other regions of the United States. Each of the three channels is set in a different geographical area: the Mahicannituck (the Hudson River area), the Waaziiija (the homeland of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin), and the highways that link them. Hopinka lives and works in the Hudson River area and frequently travels between there and the Waaziiija. This video features his grandmother, Dolli Big John, who lived in the Waaziiija. Through his personal relationship to these places, Hopinka relates to the larger historical narrative of the forced relocation of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians from the Hudson Valley to the Midwest in the early 1800s.

By carefully observing ancestral landscapes, moving through them, and engaging with those who inhabit them, Hopinka develops a poetic visual language comprising references to the personal, the symbolic, and the historical. What links all of these is an understanding of place and belonging through community that goes beyond limiting Indigenous culture to ancestral lands.

***Memories of Movement* is on view in the Media Arts Watch Gallery through January 8, 2023**

SHAWN DUNWOODY'S

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Written by Jessica Marten

Curator in Charge/Curator of American Art



Artist and art activist Shawn Dunwoody's (b. 1973) influence is visible throughout the City of Rochester, where he is known for his innovative community-building projects and murals. Now, his major four-panel

painting *Unfinished Business*, on loan from the artist, fills an entire wall in MAG's Cameros Gallery of American Art, and will be on view through the summer of 2022. Dunwoody's powerful work expands upon the theme of protest featured in the exhibition, *Kota Ezawa: National Anthem*, running concurrently in the Forman Gallery.

In the early months of 2021, Dunwoody reflected upon Rochester's protests of the previous summer in response to the death of Daniel Prude, who died as a result of having been in the custody of Rochester police. The details of Prude's death were made public not long after the nationwide protests following the deaths of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd earlier that year, the most recent in a long list of Black women and men killed by police in the United States.

Dunwoody composed a horizontal image derived from photos of the civil rights unrest and protests in Rochester in 1964 and again in 2020. At the center, flanked on both sides by the turmoil of these protests, the artist shows himself in the early summer of 2020 painting a mural on Scio Street in downtown Rochester with the simple and stark message: "Enough."

The nature of Dunwoody's large-scale work—a dynamic and intense drawing on canvas—suggests a painting that is incomplete. His rough and energetic preparatory drawing highlights the frustrations of Black Americans' ongoing quest for equality, and now stands as the finished work. At MAG the work is accompanied by an iPad with photos of Dunwoody's work around town, and a link to a Spotify playlist created by Khalil Womack especially for this installation.

ART & TREASURES

STILL ROCHESTER'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS GARAGE SALE
RE-HOME & REPURPOSE ARTWORK AND MORE...

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 9–12, 2022

PREVIEW NIGHT

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 5–7 PM

SALE DAYS

FRIDAY, JUNE 10 | 11 AM–5 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 11 | 11 AM–5 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 | 11 AM–2 PM

This popular annual fundraiser presented by the Gallery Council is the place to find gently used antiques, fine art, original artwork, jewelry, china, pottery, porcelain, silver, crystal, housewares, coffee table art books, and small furniture items.

Currently accepting donations.

Please contact gallerycouncil@mag.rochester.edu
or call 585.276.8910.

Drop off donations at MAG on June 7 & 8 (11 AM–4 PM)

Visit mag.rochester.edu/events/art-treasures for more information



Support MAG • Connect Friends • Celebrate Art



CHITRA GANESH:

SULTANA'S DREAM

Written by Nancy Norwood, Curator of European Art



Chitra Ganesh, a multimedia artist based in Brooklyn, was born and raised in an Indian Hindu immigrant family. Her project *Sultana's Dream* was inspired by the feminist utopian story of the same title, an important work written by the Bengali Muslim educator and political activist Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain. Ganesh's portfolio, comprising 27 black linocuts on tan paper, both illustrates elements of the early 20th-century text and uses its imagery and themes to explore urgent topics of the political present.

Hossain's 1905 short story begins in reverie: "One evening I was lounging in an easy chair in my bedroom and thinking lazily of the condition of Indian womanhood." The narrator is soon led on a dreamlike stroll through Ladyland, a utopian matriarchy where women have harnessed the power of the sun to live prosperously and efficiently. Education and compassion for refugees are paramount, and men remain indoors. Ganesh's imagery literally interprets certain moments from this pioneering work of feminist science fiction; it also describes and builds upon Ladyland's architecture and environment.

Far from merely illustrating Hossain's text, however, the portfolio, in the artist's words, "connects with problems shaping 21st-century life: apocalyptic environmental disaster, the disturbing persistence of gender-based inequality, the power of the wealthy few against the economic struggles of the majority, and ongoing geopolitical conflicts that cause widespread death and suffering." Like much of Ganesh's work, *Sultana's Dream* engages these subjects through the lens of history, literature, and mythology. It also examines the relationship between imagined and lived worlds and considers how these utopian fantasies might be realized.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

On View Through June 5 in the Lockhart Gallery

AN ARTISTS' AFFAIR:

ART OFF THE WALLS

Saturday, April 30 | 6–10 PM



Join us on Saturday, April 30 for an exciting new twist on MAG's annual fundraiser that champions art education and creativity for the next generation. All proceeds from *An Artists' Affair: Art Off the Walls* will help MAG bring the experience of the arts to the region's schoolchildren through fun and thoughtful content, both in-person and online.

An Artists' Affair: Art Off the Walls is a lively, delightful, and fast-paced event. Every attendee will depart the evening with a new work of art "off the walls"—a piece new to them!—selected from the hundreds of original paintings, prints, photographs, sculptures, and more that were kindly donated to this event.

Join us and chat the night up, share your opinions over cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and live entertainment. Featured performances include the University of Rochester's a cappella group, the YellowJackets, and Rochester's own Billboard Charting saxophonist and keyboardist, Judah Sealy. An evening not to be missed! Guests will have the opportunity to visit MAG and review all of the donated art in person before the event.

MAG is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable event experience for all guests. Your health and safety remain our top priority, and we follow current University of Rochester COVID and masking policies.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

6 PM: Cocktails and Art Preview

7 PM: Welcome and Cash Call

7:45 PM: *Art Off the Walls* Begins

8:30 PM: Coffee and Dessert

Master of Ceremonies: Shaun Nelms, Ed.D.

RSVP

Limited tickets are available for this event. Individual tickets are \$300 and sponsorship opportunities are available between \$1,000-\$7,500.

Visit mag.rochester.edu/artists-affair to secure your ticket or sponsorship by April 18, 2022.

For more information, contact Bella Clemente: 585.276.8942 | bclemente@mag.rochester.edu

SPONSORS

(as of printing)

4th Grade Sponsor

Alice and Mike Smith

3rd Grade Sponsors



Sue and Matt Bachner

Courtney and Mike DeRisio

Peter and Kathy Landers

2nd Grade Sponsors

Marilynn Patterson Grant and David Grant

/ PARTNERS + NAPIER

1st Grade Sponsors

Jonathan and Ann Binstock

Charlotte and Raul Herrera

Jim Moore and Geri Biddle Moore

Sharon and Bob Napier

Charlie and Maggie Symington

Kristin Vanden Brul

For more information

For more information about programming, events, tours, and all things MAG, visit our website at mag.rochester.edu, or follow us on social media: @MAG_Rochester (Twitter), magrochester (Instagram, Facebook)

Accessibility

Wheelchairs are available in the Vanden Brul Pavilion courtroom. The auditorium is equipped with an assistive listening system made possible by the Mark and Bobbie Hargrave Hard of Hearing Fund of the Rochester Area Community Foundation, the MAG Community Access Endowment Fund, and an anonymous donor. To schedule a sign language interpreter or touch tour for the blind, or to request a braille or text calendar, contact cander35@mag.rochester.edu (585.276.8971). People who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing may call via relay service. We also offer a special cell phone tour for the visually impaired.

Thank you to our Sponsors

ARTiculate is underwritten by Helen H. Berkeley and the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation. The Memorial Art Gallery is supported primarily by its members and the University of Rochester. Additional funding is provided by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and from the National Endowment for the Arts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Half-price admission is made possible by Monroe County with additional support from the FULL MEASURE Community Endowed Fund.**



Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester
500 University Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
585.276.8900 | mag.rochester.edu

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, NY
Permit No. 780

READ

Charlotte Whitney
Allen Library

Currently open by
appointment

*Members & educators enjoy
borrowing privileges*

TICKETS

PURCHASE DISCOUNTED
TICKETS HERE!



EAT

Brown Hound
Downtown
(585.506.9725)

CHECK WEBSITE FOR
HOURS AND SPECIALS!

*Reservations requested for
Saturday and Sunday Brunch*

PLAY

Centennial
Sculpture Park

Always Open | Always Free

JOIN

Members are the MAG!
mag.rochester.edu/join

Enjoy free admission,
members-only invitations,
and more!

GIVE

Support MAG
by making a gift.
Contact Joe Carney
585.276.8941

mag.rochester.edu/join/giving

HOURS

Wednesday–Sunday

11 am–5 pm

Thursday

11 am–9 pm

THE @MAG
STORE

Wednesday–Sunday

11 am–5 pm

Thursday

11 am–9 pm

PERKS

Your support means the
world to us! Email us at
[memberperks@
mag.rochester.edu](mailto:memberperks@mag.rochester.edu)
or call 585.276.8939

CREATE

Art classes with the
Creative Workshop
(585.276.8959)

mag.rochester.edu/createworkshop
Members enjoy discounts.

HOST

Picture yourself at MAG on
your special day. Contact
us today!
585.276.8950 or
events@mag.rochester.edu

TOUR

Thursday:
6:45 PM

Friday, Saturday, & Sunday:
11:15 AM

*Tours are first come, first served,
and space may be limited.*