

Dear Primary Salutation,

date

Last month the Seattle Art Museum opened the exhibition **Andrew Wyeth: In Retrospect**. We organized this unprecedented show in partnership with the Brandywine River Museum of Art, and we had the full co-operation of the Wyeth family, who granted us loans of paintings and drawings that are rarely seen by the public. On the centenary of Andrew Wyeth’s birth in 1917, the exhibition was designed to follow the evolution of one of America’s most famous and enduring twentieth century painters, and the result, we believe, reveals a deep well of humanity and imagination.

Featuring over 100 of his finest paintings and drawings, this is the first full retrospective exhibition since Wyeth’s death in 2009. In recent years, Wyeth’s art has been undergoing a reappraisal, at this time when contemporary artists have once again placed the human figure at the center of their art making as they explore issues around identity and our common humanity. Wyeth’s paintings of people and places get at something that is fundamental about our ties to one another. For those of us in the Pacific Northwest especially, the paintings speak, too, of the spiritual qualities of a life lived close to nature.

Thanks to contributors to the SAM Fund, ambitious curatorial projects like this become a reality. But these donations also provide the foundation for everything we do - from the creation of educational programs for people off all ages, to helping SAM continue to be a creative space for the community to enjoy. Your dedication makes the difference in SAM’s mission to connect art to life. **This is why I am inviting you to give a gift to the SAM Fund today.**

A gift to the SAM Fund today not only supports once-in-a-lifetime exhibitions like **Andrew Wyeth: In Retrospect**, but makes a lasting impact on future special exhibitions developed and organized by SAM curators for our community, including:

-Figuring History: Robert Colescott, Kerry James Marshall, Mickalene Thomas.

(February 15 – May 13, 2018)

Developed by Catharina Manchanda, SAM’s Jon & Mary Shirley Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art, this exhibition brings together the works of three singular American artists whose work redefines history painting in a contemporary context. Bridging three generations and shaped by distinctive historic events, the large-scale tableaux of Robert Colescott, Kerry James Marshall, and Mickalene Thomas open compelling perspectives on Black culture and representation in an ever changing social and political landscape.

(over)

Thank you for your last gift to the SAM Fund of \$xxxx. Please consider increasing your support to help bring great exhibitions to SAM.

Yes, I would like to make a donation to the SAM Fund \$ASK1 \$ASK2 \$ASK3

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Other \$ _____

-Double Exposure: Edward S. Curtis, Marianne Nicolson, Tracy Rektor, Will Wilson.

(June 14 – September 9, 2018)

150 years after Edward S. Curtis' birth, Barbara Brotherton, Curator of Native American Art at SAM, curates a collection of the artist's haunting portraits of Native Americans. This major exhibition of more than 180 works by Curtis, as well as contemporary works by indigenous artists Marianne Nicolson, Tracy Rektor, and Will Wilson seeks to evaluate this photographic legacy from 21st-century perspectives.

SAM's curatorial staff strives for the absolute best as ambassadors for art, artists, and cultures within this institution that we serve. Our ability to create compelling experiences that change how people see themselves and the world are made possible by the generosity of our SAM Fund donors, and we are endlessly grateful. Please take the time now to give a gift to the SAM Fund and help ensure that projects like **Andrew Wyeth: In Retrospect** continue to inspire and inform our community.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Junker". The signature is written in a dark ink and has a fluid, elegant style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Patricia Junker, Ann M. Barwick Curator of American Art

P.S. – Gifts \$500 or more to the SAM Fund will receive an invitation for a private tour of **Andrew Wyeth: In Retrospect** with me this winter.