



# Smithsonian Institution

## OUR SHARED FUTURE: COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2022

The following stories highlight recent additions to the Smithsonian collections that have helped to shape and champion our strategic pan-Institutional initiatives including **Life on a Sustainable Planet** and **Solving the Mysteries of the Universe**. These highlights also show the collaborative nature of the Institution's research collections, not only across Smithsonian units but in connection with leading research, art, and cultural organizations as well as prominent media outlets.

## 23<sup>RD</sup> CLASS OF NATIONAL DESIGN AWARD WINNERS



**Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum** announced the 23rd class of National Design Award winners, honored for design innovation and impact in nine categories. Established in 2000 as a project of the White House Millennium Council, the National Design Awards bring national recognition to the ways in which design enriches everyday life. Winners are selected by a multidisciplinary jury of practitioners, educators and leaders from a wide range of design fields.

In celebration of this year's National Design Awards, Cooper Hewitt will offer free admission to museum visitors during National Design Week, Oct. 17–23, to make design accessible to all. National Design Week also marks Cooper Hewitt's return to an operating schedule of seven days a week, following a modified schedule due to COVID-19.

This year's National Design Award recipients are:

- Nader Tehrani, Design Visionary
- WEDEW by David Hertz, Climate Action
- Emily Adams Bode, Emerging Designer
- Rural Studio, Architecture / Interior Design
- Giorgia Lupi, Communication Design
- Felecia Davis, Digital Design
- Willy Chavarria, Fashion Design
- Kounkuey Design Initiative, Landscape Architecture
- CW&T, Product Design

“This year's National Design Award winners reflect the central role that design can play in addressing some of the most urgent needs of our time,” said Maria Nicanor, director of the museum. “Attuned to increasing social and planetary challenges, all awardees, regardless of their category, have a regenerative approach to design work that takes into account our shared future. I'm grateful to our thoughtful jury this year for their selection. Their deliberations revealed that behind each winner is a philosophy of work that expertly weaves together technological innovation while elevating traditional craft, or that prioritizes preservation and reparation processes, ultimately designing for citizens, and not consumers—a reason for hope in today's complex world if there ever was one.”

## LANDMARK ACQUISITIONS REFLECT HIRSHHORN'S EXPANSIVE CURATORIAL MISSION



The Smithsonian's **Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden** has confirmed the acquisition of artworks proposed by curators and approved by its board that help evolve the understanding of contemporary art history. Since November 2019, the museum has acquired works by more than 60 boundary-breaking contemporary artists—such as seminal artists as John Akomfrah, Deana Lawson, James Luna, Sondra Perry, Christina Quarles, Tschabalala Self, and Lee Ufan. The works span a broad mix of art-making media, including painting, sculpture, photography, film, installation and mixed-media assemblage. These curatorially guided recent additions represent continuity with the past by honoring Joseph H. Hirshhorn's foundational 1966 gift while addressing the museum's mission to acknowledge global and diverse perspectives.

"Acquiring work for the national museum of modern and contemporary art is an honor," said Melissa Chiu, director of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. "Through these recent acquisitions, we hope to showcase the international through-lines and diverse range of art by the artists who are shaping the course of art history and identify future needs of the permanent collection to accurately represent the 21st century."

Joseph H. Hirshhorn's 1966 gift laid the foundation for a national museum of modern art, which opened on the National Mall in 1974 with treasures by respected artists, including Alberto Giacometti, Barbara Hepworth, Jacob Lawrence, Louise Nevelson and Isamu Noguchi. The Hirshhorn builds on this legacy by broadening its holdings of late-20th- and 21st-century art to reflect a more expansive and inclusive global art narrative, highlighting voices that have long argued for greater visibility.

## RENOVATIONS READY FOR DEBUT AT NASM



The Apollo 11 Command Module Columbia displayed in the new "Destination Moon" exhibition.

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum will reopen half of its flagship building on the National Mall on Friday, October 14. Eight new and renovated exhibitions, the planetarium, museum store, and Mars Café will open on the building's west end. The museum has been undergoing a seven-year renovation that began in 2018 and includes redesigning all 23 exhibitions and presentation spaces, complete refacing of the exterior cladding, replacement of outdated mechanical systems and other repairs and improvements.

Only half of the building will be opening, and great interest in visiting is expected. Free timed-entry passes will be required to ensure visitors have an enjoyable experience. The passes were made available on the museum's website on September 14.

"This is one of the most exciting times in the National Air and Space Museum's history," said Chris Browne, the John and Adrienne Mars Director of the museum. "When we open the first reimagined galleries, we hope

all visitors are inspired by artifacts on display for the first time, favorite icons of aerospace presented in new ways, and diverse storytelling."

The renovated museum will feature hundreds of new artifacts to the building such as Jackie Cochran's T-38, the plane Cochran flew when she became the first woman to break the sound barrier; the Sharp DR 90 Nemesis air racer, the most successful aircraft in air racing history flown by pilot and co-designer, Jon Sharp; and Sean Tucker's custom-built aerobatic biplane, the Aviation Specialties Unlimited Challenger III. The full-sized X-Wing Starfighter that appeared in *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker*, on loan from Lucasfilm, will also be displayed for the first time and located outside of the planetarium.

Visitors will see favorite artifacts presented in new settings. The Apollo 11 command module Columbia will be housed in a custom-designed, climate-controlled case as the centerpiece of the "Destination Moon" exhibition alongside Neil Armstrong's Apollo 11 spacesuit. The 1903 Wright Flyer will be displayed in a dynamic new environment that better tells the story of the invention of flying and its implication on world history.





The **Office of the Under Secretary for Education**, the **Office of Communications and External Affairs**, the **Office of Advancement**, and the **National Museum of the American Latino** are pleased to announce the release of *iPresente!*, a printed educational activity guide based on the stories and objects in the Molina Family Latino Gallery. The gallery, a preview of the National Museum of the American Latino in development, is located in the National Museum of American History.

This tremendous offering by Smithsonian educators is the eighth edition in our ongoing series produced in collaboration with *USA TODAY*. To date, almost 5 million household subscribers and learners in school districts, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and Affiliate museums across the country have received these guides, expanding the Smithsonian's reach and educational impact.

One million copies of this Hispanic Heritage Premium Edition were distributed nationwide via the *USA TODAY* network on Sunday, September 11. This collection allows learners of all ages to engage with inspirational and informative stories that explore the American Latino experience. Its activities will challenge readers to think about the causes of immigration, design a mural that tells a story about community, and explore profiles of Latinas and Latinos who have made the country what it is today.

This intergenerational guide can be shared with others via <https://s.si.edu/PresenteGuide>. Digital copies will be promoted on social media and available for download, joining the rest of Smithsonian's distance learning resources on the Smithsonian Learning Lab website at <https://learninglab.si.edu/distancelearning>. A limited supply of additional print copies will be available at the Molina Family Latino Gallery.

## SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM ACQUIRES MORE THAN 200 ARTWORKS FOR ITS CRAFT COLLECTION



A recent campaign by the **Smithsonian American Art Museum's** Renwick Gallery to acquire artworks by leading craft artists has brought more than 200 objects into its permanent collection. The Renwick Gallery 50th Anniversary Acquisition Campaign, which began in 2020, focused on artworks made by a broadly representative and diverse group of American artists and significantly increases the number of Black, Latinx, Asian American, LGBTQ+, Indigenous, and women artists represented in the nation's collection.

These newly acquired artworks are part of an effort to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the museum's Renwick Gallery as the nation's premier museum for the enjoyment and study of American craft. The artworks selected through this acquisitions campaign deepen the history of the studio craft movement while also introducing contemporary artworks that push the boundaries of what is considered to be handmade in the 21st century. More than 130 of these artworks will be on display in the exhibition "This Present Moment: Crafting a Better World" from May 13 to April 23, 2023.

"For 50 years, SAAM's Renwick Gallery has championed innovation in American craft," said Stephanie Stebich, the Margaret and Terry Stent Director at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. "As we take this opportunity to both look back and look ahead, these newly acquired artworks added through our 50th Anniversary Acquisitions Campaign define a bolder future that will help us better understand ourselves, each other, and the world around us."

By bringing into the collection artworks by Bisa Butler, Sonya Clark, David Harper Clemons, Sharon Kerry-Harlan, Roberto Lugo, and Preston Singletary, among others, the museum is reexamining the landscape of American craft and highlighting stories of persistence, models of resilience and methods of activism that are relevant to audiences today. This acquisition campaign was led by Nora Atkinson, the Fleur and Charles Bresler Curator-in-Charge for the Renwick Gallery with Mary Savig, the Lloyd Herman Curator of Craft; and Anya Montiel, curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (formerly the museum's curator of American and Native American women's art and craft). The artworks acquired, both through gifts and museum purchase, represent a range of craft mediums, including fiber, ceramics, glass, metal, and wood. Curators worked closely with a volunteer Renwick Gallery 50th Anniversary Acquisitions Committee of more than 50 knowledgeable collectors, artists, and craft enthusiasts from across the United States. The committee was co-chaired by Myra J. Weiss, a member of the museum's board of commissioners, and Carolyn Mazloomi, artist, curator, and scholar.

"When it comes to expanding the museum's collection, our priority is to break barriers further," says Atkinson. "At 50 years, we have an opportunity to look back at our history, see where we have succeeded and fallen short and recalibrate as we embark on the next 50 years. By including people of all genders, sexualities, ethnicities, and abilities in our collection and examining all forms of craft practice with genuine curiosity, we are building a national collection that showcases a multiplicity of perspectives and experiences."