Join us in launching a new era of Addison FIRSTS!
Since its founding in 1931, the ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART has developed an extraordinary tradition of providing some of the country's most notable artists with their FIRST American museum exposure. The ADDISON ARTIST COUNCIL (AAC) is being launched with the dedicated mission of continuing that storied legacy. The AAC’s advisory committee comprises members of the Andover alumni community who are professionally engaged with the arts. Working alongside the Addison's curatorial and development teams, the AAC is tasked every year with offering one living contemporary artist an exhibition at the Addison—their FIRST U.S. solo museum show—to be accompanied by a publication, honorarium, artist's residency, and acquisition of at least one work for the Addison’s permanent collection.
Installation view of *Jim Hodges: colorsound*, 2004
For 90 years, the Addison has consistently exhibited, acquired, and commissioned contemporary art with a boldness and enthusiasm rare for a public institution of its size, means, and unique location on the campus of a secondary school. Often the FIRST museum in New England, if not the United States, to introduce an artist’s work or mount a retrospective, the Addison’s storied history includes many “FIRSTS” as evidenced in its earliest decades.

This adventurous outlook and engagement with contemporary art and artists has continued over the years with many more FIRSTS—progressive exhibitions, artist residencies, and acquisitions, involving such distinguished artists as Dawoud Bey, Carroll Dunham, Wendy Ewald, Robert Frank, Sheila Hicks, Jim Hodges, Mel Kendrick, Kerry James Marshall, Laurie Simmons, Lorna Simpson, Frank Stella, William Wegman, Fred Wilson, and Francesa Woodman to name a few.
In 1934 the Addison became the first museum in the United States to give an exhibition to Josef Albers.

JOSEF ALBERS (1888–1976)
Bent Black (A), 1940
oil on masonite
Gift of Mrs. Frederick E. Donaldson, 1944.11
The Addison was one of the **first** museums to seriously collect and exhibit photography with the purchase of photographs by Margaret Bourke-White in 1934 (left) and the mounting of Beaumont Newhall’s groundbreaking Museum of Modern Art exhibition, *Photography, 1839–1937* (right).

**MARGARET BOURKE-WHITE** (1904–1971)
Looking Up Inside Sending Tower, N.B.C., Bellmore, L.I., 1933
gelatin silver print
museum purchase, 1934.51
In 1938 the museum mounted the FIRST retrospective and largest exhibition to date of John Sloan’s work.

JOHN SLOAN (1871–1951)
Sunday, Women Drying Their Hair, 1912
oil on canvas
museum purchase, 1938.67
In 1946, Charles Sheeler became the Addison’s **FIRST** artist-in-residence, launching a program—one of the first of its kind in America—that further strengthened the museum’s close relationship to living artists. The Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence Program continues to build on this legacy today.

*CHARLES SHEEGER (1883–1965)*

*Bollards*, 1946

disc on canvas

museum purchase, 1947.21

“It seems to us that the contemporary artist can paint more purposefully for a patron with whom he is familiar than for an obscure and often nonexistent market. If this is true, then museums can perhaps contribute to the creative development of our time.”

—Bartlett H. Hayes, Jr., 1946

*CHARLES SHEEGER and BARTLETT HAYES* at the opening of *Charles Sheeler: A Survey Exhibition*, Charles Sheeler Papers, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution
In 1948 the Addison’s *Hans Hofmann: Painter and Teacher* exhibition was the first full-scale museum retrospective ever given to an Abstract Expressionist artist.

**HANS HOFMANN (1880–1966)**

*Black Demon*, 1944
oil on panel
museum purchase, 1947.11
Also in 1948, the Addison was the **FIRST** museum to exhibit works by artists Ruth Asawa, Kenneth Noland, and Andy Warhol in the exhibition *Art Schools U.S.A.*, and subsequently the **FIRST** museum to acquire a work by Asawa.

**Ruth Asawa** (1926–2013)

*Figures on Green*, 1947–48

oil on masonite
gift of Mr. and Mrs. J. Vandenbergh, 1950.11
The Addison residency program began in 1946 with Charles Sheeler. It continued informally until 1982 when it was endowed through the generosity of Phillips Academy alumnus Edward E. Elson (PA 1952). Since then, the Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence Program has energetically supported contemporary art by bringing established and emerging artists to campus to create and exhibit work as well as engage with students.

In 1996, an artist's apartment designed by San Francisco-based conceptual artist David Ireland was constructed on campus to accommodate this growing program.

https://addison.andover.edu/events-programs/artist-in-residence-program/
Four time artist-in-residence Dawoud Bey has worked with students from Phillips Academy and nearby Lawrence High School.
Robert Frank was an artist-in-residence at the Addison in 1995. (left)

The artists reviewing photographs for their 1994 Addison exhibition, *House and Home: Spirits of the South: Max Belcher, Beverly Buchanan, and William Christenberry*, which also toured to four other museums. (right)
Wendy Ewald (AA 1969) served as an artist-in-residence in 2001 during which she collaborated with Phillips Academy students to create *A Girls Alphabet*.

*WENDY EWALD (b. 1951)  
Q from *A Girl’s Alphabet*, 2002  
printed 2005, digital print  
gift of Robin Gates, 2007.30.17 (left)*
Artist-in-Residence William Wegman and his iconic Weimaraners collaborated with students from Phillips Academy and neighboring schools in 2007.
Sheila Hicks worked with students during her 2010 retrospective. (left)

**Sheila Hicks: 50 Years** marked the **FIRST** museum retrospective devoted to this exceptional American artist. Co-curated by independent scholar Joan Simon and Addison curator Susan Faxon, the exhibition opened at the Addison in 2010 and toured to two venues. (right)
Frank Stella with students discussing his print *Swan Drawing II* in *Natural Selections*, Fall 2013.
Chris Daze Ellis, Edward E. Elson Artist-in-Residence for spring 2014 worked with Lawrence High School students.
Lorna Simpson met with students, Fall 2014.
Lavaughan Jenkins with Phillips Academy students in the Addison artist studio, Fall 2022.
Further the Addison’s commitment to contemporary art with a new and vital exhibition initiative that will support emerging and under-recognized artists, energize the community, and enhance the museum’s role as a dynamic center for contemporary American art.

Leverage the vast Andover alumni network to increase engagement with the Addison (and Phillips Academy broadly) amongst various generations of alums, boost fundraising efforts, and deepen connections with the contemporary art world.

Increase engagement with the broader art community nationally and internationally, raising awareness of the Addison.

Expose students to the art of today and facilitate meaningful encounters with living artists.

Help—after one decade—to advance the careers of ten American artists by giving them their first solo museum exhibitions and publications while adding a range of diverse contemporary works to the collection, furthering our mission to tell a comprehensive story of America.
MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

🌟 **Ambassadors**: For a gift of $50 and above, donors receive an invitation to multiple events around the country and a vote on the artwork to be acquired by the Addison. Open to alumni less than fifteen years since graduation, artists, and art workers.

🌟 **Partners**: For a gift of $500 and above, donors receive all of the above, plus the AAC exhibition publication and a private tour of the exhibition.

🌟 **Sustainers**: For a gift of $1,778 and above, donors receive all of the above, plus an invitation to the opening dinner.

🌟 **Founders**: For a gift of $10,000 and above, donors receive all of the above, plus participation in the final vote for the next year’s artist and acknowledgement in the AAC exhibition signage, promotional materials, and publication.

https://www.givecampus.com/campaigns/31848/donations/new
STEERING COMMITTEE

Liz Collins (PA 1986)
Susan M. Cross (PA 1985)
Andrea Feldman Falcone (PA 1983)
Abigail Ross Goodman (PA 1994)
Eric Gottesman (PA 1994)
R. Timothy Griffin (PA 1988)
Noah Hornik (PA 2015)
Kanyi Maquibela (PA 2003)
Nicholas Olney (PA 1994)
Thor Shannon (PA 2009)
Sarah Wendell Sherrill (PA 2004)
Alexa Reid Smith (PA 2007)

ADDITION STAFF

Allison N. Kemmerer
The Mary Stripp & R. Crosby Kemper Director
Gordon D. Wilkins
Robert M. Walker Curator of American Art
David Freilach
Director of Development

Opening reception for *Artists' Project: Type A*, April 2006