

# WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

## Worcester Art Museum Announces Reopening Date

July 6, 2020 (Worcester, MA) The Worcester Art Museum, which has been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 13, 2020, announced today that it will reopen to the public in early October 2020. This decision, made in consultation with the Museum's Board of Trustees, allows time to make facility improvements prior to reopening and plan the robust exhibitions that will open in the fall.

"Delaying our reopening until the fall is the most prudent course for the Worcester Art Museum," said Matthias Waschek, the Museum's Jean and Myles McDonough Director. "It gives us an opportunity to address some internal facility needs and prepare for fall exhibitions and programs."

The October reopening date coincides with the opening of two important exhibitions organized by WAM and which had been scheduled to run this spring: *The Kimono in Print: 300 Years of Japanese Design* (October 3) and *Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso* (November 7). The fall reopening date will allow time to make improvements to gallery and public spaces, as well as continue construction of the new Lancaster entrance stairs—begun in November 2019 and paused in March at the start of the COVID-19 shutdown—without interfering with the visitor experience.

When the Museum reopens, it will look for guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and follow health and safety guidelines mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Museum is developing reopening protocols for the safety of visitors and staff, including enhanced and increased cleaning schedules, hand sanitizing stations throughout the building, and required masks and social distancing.

The Museum also announced that it is adjusting its programming schedule for the fall, based on survey data. It has transitioned its popular studio art classes to online instruction for the summer and fall. In addition, Museum staff is working to convert regularly scheduled fall public programming—such as Master Series Art Talks and the Community Day—to virtual experiences. Links to WAM's digital programs, such as virtual tours, art activities for children, and artists talks, can be found at [worcesterart.org](https://www.worcesterart.org).

### About the Worcester Art Museum

The Worcester Art Museum, located at 55 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA, creates transformative programs and exhibitions, drawing on its exceptional

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collection of art. Dating from 3,000 BC to the present, these works provide the foundation for a focus on audience engagement, connecting visitors of all ages and abilities with inspiring art and demonstrating its enduring relevance to daily life. Creative initiatives—including pioneering collaborative programs with local schools, fresh approaches to exhibition design and in-gallery teaching, and a long history of studio class instruction—offer opportunities for diverse audiences to experience art and learn both from and with artists.

Since its founding in 1896, the Worcester Art Museum has assembled a collection of 38,000 objects: from the ancient Near East and Asia, to European and American paintings and sculptures, and continuing with works by contemporary artists from around the world. WAM has a history of making large scale acquisitions, such as its Medieval Chapter House, the Worcester Hunt Mosaic, its 15<sup>th</sup>-century Spanish ceiling, and the Flemish *Last Judgment* tapestry. In 2013, the Museum acquired the John Woodman Higgins Armory Collection, comprising two thousand arms and armor objects. It continues to commission and present new works, such as 2017's installation of the immersive *Reusable Universes* sculptural series and *Organic Concept* environment by Shih Chieh Huang. For more information, visit [worcesterart.org](http://worcesterart.org).

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