



University Art Gallery

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**THE UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY (UAG) DEDICATES 2020 TO WOMEN ARTISTS.
UAG AND ASSOCIATED ARTISTS OF PITTSBURGH (AAP) PARTNERS FOR FIRST TWO EXHIBITIONS.**

FEBRUARY 13-MARCH 28, 2020

PITTSBURGH, PA, February 4, 2020 - The University Art Gallery (UAG) at the University of Pittsburgh announces that it will devote its major exhibitions and programs to women and female-identifying artists throughout 2020. The initiative begins with the opening of two companion exhibitions *Mary Ethel McAuley: Behind German Lines* and *Three Artists (Three Women)*, created in partnership with the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP).

The exhibitions will open with a reception in the gallery at the Frick Fine Arts Building in Oakland from 5 to 7 p.m.-on Thursday, February 13, 2020, and will remain on view through March 28, 2020. Admission and opening event are free and open to the public.

YEAR OF THE WOMAN IN THE UAG

In 2020, the UAG joins with dozens of cultural institutions across the country who have committed to highlighting the work of women artists in exhibitions and programs. Started by Feminist Art Coalition, this initiative marks the centennial of the 19th Amendment and seeks to bring renewed attention to the continued inequities faced by women in the arts and in cultural institutions. As a teaching museum, the UAG will highlight the work of women and female-identifying artists through exhibitions, collaborative partnerships and student-centered engagement. In addition to *Mary Ethel McAuley: Behind German Lines* and *Three Artists (Three Women)*, the UAG will debut an exhibition of the Selma Burke Art Center in Fall 2020.

ABOUT THE CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Mary Ethel McAuley: Behind German Lines highlights the work of Pittsburgh native Mary Ethel McAuley (1882-1971). McAuley was not only one of the inaugural members of the AAP, but she was also a reporter, author, illustrator, painter and teacher. McAuley's name was regularly in newspapers and on exhibition rosters during her lifetime, yet, she has been somewhat forgotten today. This exhibition in the UAG, *Mary Ethel McAuley: Behind the German Lines* once again sheds light on the artist and her work.

The ten paintings that form the core of *Behind the German Lines*, the only known extant works by McAuley, were loaned by collectors Rebecca and Tasso Spanos. The works were created around 1919 to illustrate McAuley's first-hand account of life in Germany during the First World War. In these works, McAuley captures the nuances of quotidian life: German soldiers alongside chimney sweeps in town squares, women building the train lines, mothers and children alone on the streets while fathers and brothers were on the front line. This exhibition highlights new archival research about the artist and findings from initial conservation analysis.

“We hope that this exhibition is not the last word on the artist, but rather the start of renewed interest in and questioning of McAuley’s works and her career,” says UAG Director Sylvia Rhor. “Many of the issues and challenges she faced and the subjects she explored are still relevant today.”

Three Artists (Three Women) examines the work of three current AAP artists: Tina Williams Brewer, Sheila Cuellar-Shaffer, and Fran Gialamas. Affirming UAG’s commitment to highlight the work of women artists in 2020, the works by these three artists use personal and cultural symbolism to explore themes of migration, family, history, and place— themes that parallel those in McAuley’s works.

“The beauty of both of these exhibitions is that they speak to rich past, present, and future of women artists working in this region,” says AAP Executive Director Madeline Gent. “Finding those common threads between their work is exciting, but even more so are the differences. And these four artists are just a tiny portion of the great range of art by women who call this area home.”

Mary Ethel McAuley: Behind German Lines and *Three Artists (Three Women)* are presented by the History of Art and Architecture department in collaboration with the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP). Special thanks to Rebecca and Tasso Spanos for loaning the works of Mary McAuley, and thanks to Tina Brewer, Sheila Cuellar-Shaffer and Fran Gialamas for loaning their works to *Three Artists (Three Women)*. *Behind German Lines* includes World War I artifacts, on loan from Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum.

EXHIBITION-RELATED PROGRAMS

Mary Ethel McAuley: Behind German Lines and *Three Artists (Three Women)* will be complemented by a full range of public programs, including a gallery conversation with Tina Brewer, Sheila Cuellar-Shaffer and Fran Gialamas, co-moderated by AAP director Madeline Gent and UAG director Sylvia Rhor on March 19th, 2020, 5-7pm. In addition, the UAG will inaugurate the Say Her Name Feminist Reading Room + Maker Space in its historic rotunda in March 2020. The exhibitions, opening reception, maker space and public programs are free and open to the public. For more information on these programs or to schedule group tours, please visit the UAG website at www.uag.pitt.edu.

About the University Art Gallery

The University Art Gallery (UAG) is located in the Frick Fine Arts Building on the University of Pittsburgh campus. The gallery is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 to 4. The gallery opens until 7pm on Thursday.

About Associated Artists of Pittsburgh

The Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) is the oldest continuous-exhibiting artist member organization in the country. At over 530 members, AAP enhances the region's cultural vitality and promotes visual arts excellence by showcasing artists' work through contemporary exhibitions, providing community-based education programs, and facilitating a broad dialogue to engage artists with one another and the community. Membership is achieved through a juried process, and the next membership screening opens in later 2020.

For more information and images, please contact:

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