20/20 Vision: Women Artists in Western New York
February 16-August 16, 2020
Introduction

Welcome to a new view of Western New York. 20/20 Vision: Women Artists in Western New York presents the experiences of women artists. We are shown landscapes that are sometimes cold, but sometimes green and growing, as well as portrayals of family and friends, and artworks that address some of society’s darker social issues. Women artists—looking intently—see both beauty and challenges. Overall, the participating artists demonstrate a keen desire to exhibit their best work and have their art thoughtfully considered.

The Castellani Art Museum’s permanent collection includes the work of many national and international women artists, which is not always the case in public museums and collections. Historically, art by women has not been given the careful thought and critical assessment that art by men has received. Works by women are not as present in the collections of individuals who buy art and support artists. That must, and probably will, change as more women begin collecting art. I invite you to be part of this change.

We thank the nearly 200 artists from Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara counties that responded to our call for work. Each of these artists carefully selected that one perfect piece to reflect their work, their thoughts, and how the Western New York region has influenced their art.

We thank the Castellani Art Museum of Niagara University for its and commitment to the work of women artists and the largest invitational exhibition of art by women throughout the Western New York region. Thank you to everyone who participated and for attending the opening reception and programming—and for looking carefully and thoughtfully at what we have produced.

Michelle Marcotte, Coordinator of 20/20 Vision: Women Artists in Western New York

This community-driven exhibition was inspired by the museum’s 2018 Meet Me at the CAM film and lecture series which focused, in part, on the under-representation of women’s contributions to the visual arts. Responding to this well-documented history of inequity, 20/20 Vision will let the public experience the artists’ work without the barrier of the exclusionary jurying process. A series of educational programs and special events will be presented throughout the exhibition’s installation. Please visit CastellaniArtMuseum.org for details.

Michael J. Beam, Curator of Exhibitions and Special Projects

Catherine Shuman Miller, Williamsville, NY, *Jungle Jane II*, 2018, oil on canvas and mixed media

Michelle Marcotte, Lewiston, NY, *Family Traditions—Dad Makes Camping Breakfast*, 2019, oil on MDF board

Hope Zaccagni, Alfred Station, NY, *Do Not Enter*, 2017, oil on canvas
This publication was printed in an edition of 1,000 on the occasion of the exhibition, 20/20 Vision: Women Artists in Western New York.