# IMPACT 2026

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A year-in-review highlighting the impact of your support.

# Dear Friends,

My favorite thing to hear from our visitors is that our exhibitions and programs are surprising, cool, and even weird—in a good way! I'll let you in on what I believe is our secret to providing the unique experiences our audiences rely on: at the Frye, your experience is guided by artists across almost everything we do. From our incredible teaching artists, who bring their expertise to programs like Drop-In Drawing and Studio, to the offerings of our Café and Store, and even the way we tell our own institutional story—when you visit the Frye, your perspective will be shifted by an artist, beyond what you see on the walls.

A ten percent growth in attendance this year has let us know that our community is responding to the value of this proposition. The following report highlights a few examples from the current year that we think paint a clear picture of our direction forward as we prepare to celebrate the museum's seventy-fifth anniversary in 2027.

We count on our members and donors to support our sustained engagement with artists that in turn ensures a thriving Seattle arts ecosystem. Together, we can continue to provide our region with the best—and weirdest—creative encounters. Thank you!



Yours in community,

Jamilee Lacy
Executive Director

Photo: Jo Sittenfeld

The winner of our annual Frye x Design open-call community poster contest was Seattle-based artist Aya Borucki. Their design was inspired by the Frye's interior, illustrating its changing works and visitors, and highlighting the museum as a place for community connection. Aya's poster is currently on view in the Courtyard, and limited-edition prints are available for purchase in the Store.

Cover: Visitors in the *Tom Lloyd* exhibition. Photo: Jo Cosme.

Right: The winning poster design for the 2026 Frye x Design by Aya Borucki.



# Supporting the Local Arts Economy

The Frye was proud to support the inaugural locally organized Assembly Art Fair through the acquisition of three new works from Seattle's studio e and PDX Contemporary galleries, including woven sculptures by Joe Feddersen and Carly Feddersen, and a tin 'jingle cloud' by Marie Watt. These additions to the Frye collection reflect the museum's efforts to platform a diversity of local and Indigenous artists and expand public access to significant works of contemporary art. Special thanks to donors for supporting the Lele Barnett Acquisition Fund.






L-R: Carly Feddersen. *Fancy sćwin 2*, 2026. Waxed linen, wool, cotton. Approx. 2 ¾ x 4 ⅛ in. Photo: courtesy studio e; Joe Feddersen. *Bingo #2,* 2024. Waxed twined linen. 6 x 4 x 4 in. Photo: courtesy studio e; Marie Watt. *Solstice (Crest)*, 2026. Jingles, ribbon, mesh. 16 x 12 x 8 in. Photo: courtesy PDX Contemporary

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# In Community with Local Makers

Beyond being a destination for impeccably curated objects and artworks made by local makers, the Frye Store champions the many artist-centered organizations that fuel our city's creative community. Earlier this year, the Store featured one-of-a-kind pieces made at Pratt Fine Arts Center, which for fifty years has nurtured an abundance of disciplines including print, glass, and ceramics.



Photo: Jo Cosme

# National Perspectives, Local Access: Artists at Large

New this year! Artists at Large brings world renowned artists visiting our region for residency programs to the Frye for intimate presentations. This program debuted with a genre-bending performance by Lonnie Holley, whose visual art has been shown at national venues from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to the White House, and whose albums have garnered the praise of *Pitchfork* magazine. Centering on a new body of work created at Pilchuck Glass School and the Museum of Glass, the event at the Frye placed audiences in conversation with Holley, giving insight into his creative process and the personal history that inspires his work.



Photo: David Raccuglia

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*“No matter when I visit, I always have a fabulous time! Thank you so much for all the care, energy, and thought you put into the museum. The Frye is one of my most treasured places in Seattle. I can’t thank you enough for keeping admission free.”*

*—Frye Visitor*



Frye visitors get creative in the galleries with monthly Drop-In Drawing.
Photo: Runyon Colie

# Indigenous Art to the Fore

This fall, two major exhibitions expand across the entire museum to celebrate the complexity and resonance of contemporary Indigenous art. The landmark exhibition *An Indigenous Present* (co-organized by artist Jeffrey Gibson) makes its only West Coast appearance at the Frye, offering a powerful showcase of the liberating possibilities of abstraction across one-hundred years of artistic production. The Frye-organized companion show *My Body is a Basket* (co-organized by artist Asia Tail) brings together works by three Pacific Northwest artists whose practices push textile traditions into unexpected terrain. Connecting international scope and local specificity, these presentations are a rare opportunity for Seattle audiences to experience a cross-section of generations, regions, and approaches—exploding the notion that "Indigenous art" is contained by any singular narrative.



Brenda Mallory. Adaptive *Connections* (DΓA∞R &ΛCB∞E), 2024. Waxed cloth, waxed felt, nuts and bolts. Dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Mario Gallucci

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/Art Museum

# Experimental Blossoms

Connecting the past to the present, spring exhibition *Wallflowers* exemplified our goal of providing artists the opportunity to try new techniques. The exhibition brought together nineteenth- and twentieth-century floral still lifes from the Frye's collection with newly commissioned wallpaper designs by eleven contemporary artists. From Seattle artist Azadeh Gholizadeh's angular digital blossoms to internationally renowned Nick Cave's mural-like *Wallwork*, each artist extended a recurring motif from their practice or adapted their work in a new way.



Photo: Jo Cosme

# Multisensory Discovery

Please touch! Led by the museum's teaching artists, our new Sensory Station opens up new ways for guests of all ages to access Frye exhibitions through sound, scent, touch, and more. Tactile samples and artists' materials offer insight into the artistic process and inspiration behind the work on view. Recent displays featured *Wallflowers*-inspired fragrances, carved frames and impasto paint stylings from *Frye Salon + Jonathan Lasker*, and a take-home photogram activity using techniques seen in Lotus *L. Kang: I hear the hollow boom of time*. Find the Station and teaching artists popping up in the galleries with new displays each exhibition season.



Photo: Runyon Colie

# Exchange Across Artforms: Artists' Choice

*Artists' Choice* provided a unique opportunity to experience works from the collection through the eyes of five local artists. In the spirit of founders Charles and Emma Frye's tradition of welcoming interdisciplinary performers into their home gallery, guest curators Adetola Abatan (music), Joseph Hernandez (dance), Jake Prendez (gallerist and visual artist), Cedar Sigo (poetry), and Amaya Zhané (theater) were invited to select a group of artworks that resonated with them in this moment. The resulting juxtapositions were surprising, personal, and occasionally provocative—reminding us that the story of an artwork is never fixed but continually rewritten by all who encounter it.



Photo: Jo Cosme

# Launching Tech Atelier

Inspired by the historic artist's atelier—a studio where craft and experimentation lead to creative discovery— and Seattle's place as an international tech hub, our new Tech Atelier affinity group connects patrons, artists, technologists, creative entrepreneurs, and other curious minds who are passionate about the intersections of art, technology, and craft. In celebration of the *Tom Lloyd* exhibition, Tech Atelier hosted two lively public programs: a conversation with conservator Reinhard Bek on the evolving practice of preserving technology-based art, and Flash Focus, dynamic bite-sized presentations exploring the innovations and collaborations that shaped Lloyd's practice. Learn more at fryemuseum.org/tech-atelier



Photo: Jo Cosme

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A special performance led by hereditary chief Alan Hunt and Beau Dick's grandson Gavin Konschuh during the closing weekend of *Beau Dick: Insatiable Beings*.
Photo: Jo Cosme

# Dancing Together in Creative Aging

Dancing Together is part of our growing Creative Aging program, providing participants with a welcoming environment to move, imagine, and connect. Following an Artist-in-Residence program with the UW Memory Hub in 2024, Dr. Julia Becke partnered with the Frye to host a fun and engaging seated dance class for people living with memory loss and their families. Inspired by the artwork on display in *Frye Salon*, this program incorporates classical dance elements and playful movements as well as unique dance creations built in the moment.




Photo: Jueqian Fang

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*“I love how the Frye Art Museum pairs accessibility with excellence. Since admission is free, there is no barrier to enjoying their high-caliber exhibits. A stroll through the galleries is a consistent source of inspiration.”*

*—Frye Visitor*

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# Looking Ahead: A year of Joyful Experimentation

Across our milestone anniversary year of 2027, special exhibitions will ignite discovery and shed new light on familiar favorites. From showcasing new additions to the collection to presentations that elevate emerging and underrecognized artists from Seattle’s past and present, you’ll find myriad new perspectives on the Frye as a home for modern and contemporary art. One year from now, we’ll embark on our boldest experiment yet—an artist takeover of the whole museum. New York artist Sanford Biggers has captivated audiences worldwide with his sculptures, films, and mixed-media installations. In fall 2027, his vision will unfurl across the Frye in a full-museum presentation unlike any other, bringing together the Frye’s collection with special loans to explore Biggers’ own work and influences.



Sanford Biggers. Photo: Justin Lubke

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Preschoolers and their caregivers enjoy an art making activity during Small Frye: Story Time + Art.  Photo: Jo Cosme

# Gratitude

It’s been an incredible year at the Frye, thanks to the ongoing support of community members like you. Together we’ve created a dynamic space for artists to share their unique ideas and expand their practice, and for visitors to engage with their work through hands-on art making, talks and lectures, multidisciplinary performances, and more. Thank you for making Seattle’s “hidden gem” shine bright!



Photo: Jo Cosme

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