



PRESS RELEASE

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**Focusing on Renie Breskin Adams' Collection
at Wisconsin's Racine Art Museum**

Racine, WI June 8, 2017

A celebrated innovator, fiber artist Renie Breskin Adams explores her dreams and personal history through colorful and humorous stitched narratives. Open June 18 – September 24, 2017, **Collection Focus: Renie Breskin Adams** features over 30 works from the last four decades—embroideries as well as some preparatory drawings—that signal the establishment of an archive of over 80 pieces by Adams at RAM.

As a child, Adams would sew, crochet afghans, and make rag dolls. As a student in her twenties, she first studied drawing and painting as a research associate in psychology and education. According to Adams, this is when she really began to appreciate visual arts. A weaving class offered her the opportunity to explore composition and style in a way that drawing and painting did not. From then on, Adams began to blend her abilities in “picture-making” with her inclinations towards fiber and textiles.

With degrees in psychology, anthropology, and visual arts, Renie Breskin Adams brings marked thoughtfulness and sensitivity to what she calls her “embroidered pictures.” Whether it is a portrait of her husband, a point-of-view perspective on the sketch pad in her own lap, or a club scene full of human and animal characters, Adams’ narratives are simultaneously familiar and alien. Adams explains that her work is “an ongoing subjective commentary, a dignifying of humble events, a revelation of thoughts and dreams, a view of inner realities.” She draws on things she has experienced, thought, felt, and imagined—translating them into colorful two-dimensional works that combine embroidery with knotless netting, weaving, crocheting, knotting, and—on occasion—paint or ink.

Meet the Artist

Exhibiting artist Renie Breskin Adams will be a guest at RAM during Downtown

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Racine's First Friday on July 7 when visitors enjoy free admission from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. Adams will discuss her work in pictorial embroidery with Bruce W. Pepich, RAM Executive Director and Curator of Collections, and Lena Vigna, RAM Curator of Exhibitions at 6:30 pm. Artists John Garrett and Gyöngy Laky will also be discussing their creative processes and commissioned works for *The Box Project: Uncommon Threads*. From 7:30 to 9:00 pm, RAM Members are invited to continue the conversation with the artists afterward in the Members Matter private lounge. Light refreshments will be served.

This exhibition is made possible by: Platinum Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, Windgate Charitable Foundation; Diamond Sponsors: Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation; Gold Sponsors - Herzfeld Foundation, Johnson Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, W. T. Walker Group, Inc.; Silver Sponsors - Andis Foundation, Racine Community Foundation, Real Racine, Runzheimer International Ltd., United Way Racine County, Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors - CNH Industrial, EC Styberg Foundation, Educators Credit Union, In Sink Erator, The Norbell Foundation, Family Foundation, Southern Connecticut Polymer Clay Guild; Media Sponsor - 88NINE Radio Milwaukee.

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.