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**Add Color to the Season  
with a Visit to Racine Art Museum**

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While many contemporary artists use color as a principal element, the newest exhibition at Racine Art Museum focuses on it as a defining principle in form and design for work that is not figurative. Open January 31 – July 10, 2016, **Spectrum: Contemporary Artists in Color** features glass, ceramic, and polymer works by artists from RAM's collection.

Color is both a simple and complex concept—associated with emotions, symbols, and thoughts. Human beings learn about color at a young age and it becomes familiar. Still, the use of it as an artistic or design choice is layered and sometimes subjective.

Studies involving color “officially” began in the 1700s. Sir Isaac Newton is credited as inventing the first color wheel, which showed sunlight divided into a spectrum. In 1810, Johann Wolfgang Goethe drew on Newton's investigations as he explored the psychological effects of various hues. The color wheel most often used today—based on the primary shades of red, yellow, and blue—was formulated by Swiss color and art theorist, Johannes Itten, an instructor at the Bauhaus School of Applied Arts in Weimar, Germany. Modern artists, such as Josef Albers (1888-1976) and Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944), identified color as a primary element of their compositions, underscoring its use to convey ideas and expression.

At RAM, Polymer artist Lindly Haunani's lively, vibrant, and sometimes, humorous work relies on color as a key design element. Also working in polymer, Pier Voukos, daughter of well-known ceramicist Peter Voukos, is arguably the first jewelry designer to work with polymer. Her pieces sometimes incorporate metallic clay, which gives her jewelry, boxes, and objects a distinctive luster.

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Also represented are Sonja Blomdhal, known for the deep, rich hues of her hand-blown glass vessels, and Mary Ann “Toots” Zynsky’s vessels using her distinctive heat-formed *filet de verre* method, which allows for compelling explorations of color.

Ceramicists Gertrud and Otto Natlzer produced work that married form and color. Otto is known for having created over 2,000 types of glaze for ceramics, which were thoughtfully paired with Gertrude’s simple, organic, and seemingly, impossibly thin shapes. James Lovera’s ceramic work has a simplicity of form, emblazoned with contemporary color that responds to hues in nature. In contrast to many of the artists in this exhibition, Midwestern ceramicist Sandra Byers’ work is diminutive, highlighting the subtlety of shape and strong, but muted color.

Artists from RAM’s extensive, growing collection—such as Rose Cabat, Jeffrey Lloyd Dever, Cliff Lee, and Dante Marioni—expand the conversation.

*Spectrum: Contemporary Artist in Color* is made possible at Racine Art Museum by: Platinum Sponsors - Karen Johnson Boyd and William B. Boyd, SC Johnson, Windgate Charitable Foundation; Diamond Sponsor - Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation; Gold Sponsors - Herzfeld Foundation, Johnson Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, Racine Community Foundation, W.T. Walker Group, Inc.; Silver Sponsors - Racine County, Real Racine, Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors - Burlington Graphic Systems, Inc., EC Styberg Foundation, Educators Credit Union, In Sink Erator, The Norbell Foundation, Orkney Springs Retreat, Rasmussen Diamonds, Ruud Family Foundation, Inc., Wisconsin Public Radio.

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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.