

# Museums Beckon

There's plenty to fascinate you at these venues

BY B.L. HOGAN



View of Stacey Steers' "Phantom Canyon" at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center

**A**s winter approaches, there are more reasons to spend time indoors. And nothing can lure you out of the cold like a compelling museum exhibit. Wisconsin has more than its share of those this fall.

## ► RACINE ART MUSEUM

It's a big year for the Racine Art Museum: the 75th anniversary of its original campus, the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts, and the 50th of its annual Wisconsin Watercolor show.

The museum has two campuses. The original, at 2519 Northwestern Ave., in a house donated to the city of Racine by Jennie E. Wustum (Charles' widow), officially opened Nov. 16, 1941. The downtown Racine Art Museum, at 441 Main St., was completed in 2003, after the Wustum's collection outgrew the old house. Educational programs and some exhibits continue at the Wustum.

The 50th anniversary Wisconsin Watercolor show, featuring state artists, opens in December at the Wustum campus, says Jessica Schafer, marketing and publications manager. Meanwhile, the downtown RAM is displaying works that won "purchase awards" over the show's 50 years – the museum buys juried works each year.

This in addition to other current exhibits, including "RAM Collects: Contemporary Art to Wear," and its companion show, "Sensory Overload: Clothing and the Body," both running through Dec. 30. For information: [ramart.org](http://ramart.org).

## ► JOHN MICHAEL KOHLER ARTS CENTER

A multitude of weighty issues plagues society today – piling 24/7 stress atop personal issues surrounding money, work and childrearing, to name a few. It's enough to make anyone run for the hills.

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center,

608 New York Ave. in Sheboygan, addresses the desire for relief in "Escape Routes," a new series of original exhibitions running through Jan. 15. Through photographs, paintings, sculptures, film and drawings, the participating artists respond to modern anxieties.

Some explore the idea of going off the grid or visualizing pathways of "escape"; others shift attention inward.

The three artists featured are Stacey Steers, who will present a film and an installation; Mike Goodlett, whose ambiguous plaster and concrete forms evoke the body, and Gregory Van Maanen, who started painting on his return from a tour of duty in Vietnam in 1969. Admission is free. For information: [jmkac.org](http://jmkac.org).

## ► WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM

"The Art of Persuasion: Mobilizing The Masses In World War I" is a new exhibit