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Art Jewelry and Prints that Capture the Human Form

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Open October 21, 2020 through January 23, 2021 at the Racine Art Museum (RAM), ***Silhouette: Capturing the Human Form in Contemporary Prints and Art Jewelry*** features work drawn from the museum's permanent collection that explores the human form as a compositional element, storytelling device, or representation of an idea.

Artists have long been concerned with representing the human form—either as portrait, anonymous figure, imagined being, or something in between. By definition, *silhouette* refers to either a particular type of portrait popularized in the nineteenth century comprised only of the outline of a person, or more generically, the outline of a mass, body, or form. The tradition of silhouette portraits, in addition to the metal figures that adorn the surface of the works in *Collection Focus: Mary Giles*—an exhibition in the gallery adjacent to *Silhouette*—serve as inspiration for this look at the human form in contemporary prints and art jewelry.

While prints and jewelry may not seem like obvious ways to explore the body, both can reflect the figure in two dimensions. Unlike traditional silhouettes, some of the works included in this exhibition are more detailed, a practice that adds qualities of character and personality. Similarly, an artist's choice of material can shape impressions of what is being depicted. For example, the colorful, textured figures represented in the jewelry of artist Joyce Scott are juxtaposed with flat, black and white prints of fragmented figures by Michael Mazur, expanding ideas about the

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human condition or the body as a conveyor of meaning.

Exhibitions at Racine Art Museum are made possible by: Platinum Sponsors—Anonymous, Nicholas and Nancy Kurten, and Wingate Foundation; Diamond Sponsors—National Endowment for the Arts, Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation, Ruffo Family Foundation, Inc.; Gold Sponsors—Anonymous, Tom and Irene Creecy, David Flegel, Herzfeld Foundation, Racine Community Foundation, Twin Disc, W.T. Walker Group, Inc.; Silver Sponsors—A.C. Buhler Family, Andis Foundation, David Charak, Lucy G. Feller, Johnson Bank, Dorothy MacVicar, Real Racine, Trio Foundation of St. Louis, Wisconsin Arts Board; Bronze Sponsors—Andis Company, Virginia Buhler, Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research, Tom and Jane Devine, David and Ellen Easley, Educators Credit Union, Eye Care Center of Waterford, Ben and Dawn Flegel, Fredrick and Deborah Ganaway, William A. Guenther, Tom and Sharon Harty, Angela Jacobi, Bill Keland, Knight Barry Title Group, Eric Koopmeiners and Lena Vigna; Media Sponsor—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.

After temporarily closing its doors in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, RAM reopened to the public on Wednesday, August 5. RAM's Wustum Museum of Fine Arts reopened on Wednesday, September 2 with the juried exhibition, Wisconsin Photography 2020. Both museums are operating with limited hours, open Wednesday through Saturday from Noon to 4:00 pm. Information regarding safety protocols and what to expect when visiting the museums are available on the RAM website, ramart.org.