



PRESS RELEASE

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Racine Art Museum announces *PEEPS® Art Exhibition* audience favorite

Racine, WI April 19, 2023

On March 30, 2023, a non-traditional exhibition showcasing colorful marshmallow Peeps®-inspired artwork began its fourteenth year at the Racine Art Museum (RAM). The *RAM 14th Annual International PEEPS® Art Exhibition* featured 142 creative and entertaining entries that demonstrated the talent of 200 artists from across the country.

Curating an exhibition that showcases PEEPS® artwork is somewhat unexpected for a museum. However, the concept of working with unusual materials is supported by RAM's mission to exhibit, collect, preserve, and educate in the field of contemporary craft—a subset of art that focuses on handmade work created traditionally from ceramic, fiber, glass, metal, polymer, and wood. Artists consistently push material boundaries, so the idea that they sometimes utilize and experiment with materials produced for purposes other than art-making can be seen throughout RAM's exhibitions and many works in the museum's permanent collection—the largest contemporary craft collection in North America.

In addition to awards selected by RAM prior to the exhibition opening, museum visitors throughout the 11-day show were invited to vote for their favorite creation—naming one popular artwork worthy of the coveted PEEPls Choice Award. After tallying 2,118 votes, RAM is pleased to announce this year's PEEPls Choice Award winner is ***Peeps Toy Shop by Muskego* artist Lynn Proeber**. This piece will remain on display at the RAM reception desk through Saturday, May 27, 2023.



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A full list of the 2023 award winners can be found on the RAM website, ramart.org.

The *RAM 14th Annual International PEEPS® Art Exhibition* was made possible in part by **PEEPS® Patrons**: Action Law Offices, S.C., Art Metals Studio, Buckets Pub, Inc., Charles H. Constantine, Evelyn's Club Main, Mark and Karen Fairbanks Tom and Cheryl Foley, Ann Henkes, Laura Kapitan, Kewpee, Cherie Lyford, Katie Martinson, Northern Lights Gallery, Carol Preston, Kathy Simon, Mark Thomas James and Karen Walker, Jim and Cherry Wardrip, and Nancy E. Wheeler. RAM also thanks **PEEPS® Prize Providers**: City of Racine Mayor's Office, Lisa Englander, and Hot Shop Glass.

Exhibitions at Racine Art Museum are made possible by: **Platinum Sponsors**—Judith and David Flegel Fund, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Ron and Judith Isaacs, Nicholas and Nancy Kurten, Windgate Foundation; **Diamond Sponsors**—Osborne and Scekcic Family Foundation, Ruffo Family Foundation; **Gold Sponsors**—Anonymous, David Charak, Tom and Irene Creecy, Herzfield Foundation, Racine Community Foundation, Reliance Controls, Ruth Foundation for the Arts, Trio Foundation of St. Louis, W.T. Walker Group, Inc., Wisconsin Arts Board; **Silver Sponsors**—Art Bridges, A.C. Buhler Family, Andis Foundation, Baird, Lucy G. Feller, Ben and Dawn Flegel, Annette Hirsh Family, J. Jeffers & Co., Johnson Bank, Dorothy MacVicar, RDK Foundation, Real Racine, Jan Serr and John Shannon; **Bronze Sponsors**—Anonymous, Susan Boland, Virginia Buhler, Butcher & Barrel/Amos Los Tacos, Educators Credit Union, Express Employment Professionals, Get Behind the Arts Studio Tour, William A. Guenther, Tom and Sharon Harty, Tony and Andrea Hauser, David and Judy Hecker, Bradley Lynch, Carlotta Miller, Larry and Barbara Newman, The Norbell Foundation, The Prairie School, Georgiana Treivush, Twin Disc, Inc., Deb and Will Walker; **Media Sponsors**—88Nine Radio Milwaukee, Wisconsin Public Radio

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This year marks the Racine Art Museum's twentieth anniversary in downtown Racine. Throughout 2023, visitors are invited to discover inspiring exhibitions and programs that highlight the ways RAM has served its audiences over the last two decades while promising a brighter future.

The two campuses of the Racine Art Museum—RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and RAM's Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue—are located in Racine, Wisconsin, a historic community on the shores of Lake Michigan. RAM is home to the largest contemporary craft collection in North America and has a reputation for its award-winning architecture and nationally recognized exhibition program. RAM's Wustum



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Museum is home to the organization's diverse, award-winning art education programs and has presented significant art exhibitions since the 1940s.

Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum are currently operating with limited hours, open Wednesday through Saturday from noon until 4:00 pm. RAM admission is \$10 for adults; \$8 for students and seniors (62 or older); and free for RAM members, children under 12, and active military. RAM's Wustum Museum admission is always free. Both museums encourage all visitors and staff who are not fully vaccinated, and those who feel more comfortable wearing a mask, to continue doing so in public areas at Racine Art Museum and RAM's Wustum Museum. Some in-person art classes and workshops at RAM's Wustum Museum still require masks, determined on a case-by-case basis.