



MUSE *news* January-March 2024

from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*"Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days o' lang syne!"*

I recently read that the three simple words "Auld Lang Syne" mean "old," "long," and "since," in Scots and combine to form a phrase that loosely translates to "time gone by" or "old time's sake."

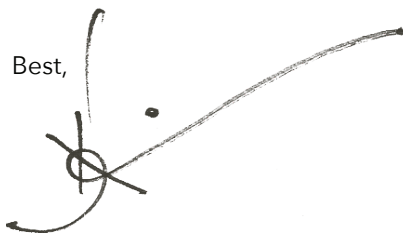
One thing recalled in this new year is how the late Phil Brockington demonstrated his support in many forms. For my entire tenure as Executive Director, Phil was a fixture at exhibit openings, a generous donor, and always eager to visit and see a newly acquired local artwork.

The arrival of Phil's stunning assortment of local historical art to our permanent collection was bittersweet yet reminded me of wonderful moments from "time gone by." In addition to this,

Phil, through his estate, has established the Brockington-Reeve Endowment, which will allow us to care for our present collection and acquire new artworks in perpetuity.

Bundle up this winter and visit for "old time's sake" to see what's new at the PoCo Muse!

Best,



Kevin Matthew Pazour
Executive Director • PoCo Muse

P.S.—Thank you for your strong show of support with our year-end fundraising effort. You helped us exceed our goal and begin 2024 in a great way.

About The Images

Cover • This untitled photograph taken by Herb Barghusen on Cowles Bog Trail in 2010 is one of many of his color photographs to be displayed in the upcoming exhibit, *The Path That Ventures Within: Inspirations Along Indiana Dunes Trails*. Barghusen collaborated with the poet Robert Longoni to create a unique experience blending word and image and reflecting a shared fascination with the dunes landscape.

Right • "New Wave VIII," by Virginia Phillips. Oil on canvas, 1999. Virginia Phillips (1931-2017) was a well-known area artist who worked primarily in oil. This piece from 1999, along with another on page 10, belonged to the late Philipp Brockington, a long-time friend of the PoCo Muse, who donated it to our collection in his estate plan. It can be seen in January in the Robert Cain Gallery, along with other artworks from the Brockington Collection.



The Path That Ventures Within: Inspirations Found Along Indiana Dunes Trails

Montague/Urschel Gallery
Opens Saturday, January 13

Taken along the crisscrossing trails of the Indiana Dunes, the color photographs of Herb Barghusen (1933-2015) depict a familiar landscape, well-known to the many visitors of the National Park. For Barghusen, this area and its remarkable history exerted a powerful force on his imagination, transforming into a spiritual forest where illusions slid in and out of view and fantastical creatures suddenly took shape. The photographs are paired with short poems by the poet Robert Longoni (1936-2022), who shared a fascination with the dunes landscape.

Right • *"The path that ventures within / leaves nothing behind, / leads beyond any expectation."* Poem by Robert Longoni. Image by Herb Barghusen, 2012.



Selections from the Philipp Brockington Collection

Robert Cain Gallery
Through February 13

Philipp Brockington (1940-2023) left the PoCo Muse Collection a number of notable artworks in his estate plan. A selection of these works from Porter County artists is currently on display in the Robert Cain Gallery.



Connections: Take A Closer Look

Eunice Slagle Gallery
Permanent Exhibit

Connections pairs together seemingly unrelated objects that speak to each other in surprising ways. A recent exhibit update introduced over twenty new artifacts including a large reed organ and a child's apron. What's the connection? Come and see.



Lowenstine WWII Roll Of Honor

West Hallway of PoCo Muse
Permanent Display

The *Lowenstine WWII Roll of Honor* commemorates Valparaiso citizens who contributed to the war effort during World War II. Originally displayed on the courthouse square between 1943 and 1973, it was installed in the PoCo Muse in December 2022.

JANUARY

The Path That Ventures Within: Inspirations Found Along Indiana Dunes Trails
Opens Saturday, January 13
Montague/Urschel Gallery

Our newest exhibit features Herb Barghusen's color photographs of the Indiana Dunes trails and the accompanying poems by Robert Longoni. The exhibit opens to the public during regular hours on Saturday, January 13.

V.I.P. Exhibit Reception
Saturday, January 20, 10-11a
Montague/Urschel Gallery

PoCo Muse supporters and special guests are invited to an exhibit reception for *The Path That Ventures Within*.

FEBRUARY

Porter County Artists: Video Installation
Opens Thursday, February 1
Robert Cain Gallery

Come cozy up in the Robert Cain Gallery during regular hours for a screening of a PoCo Muse film about local artists in our permanent collection. The short film will run on a continuous loop in conjunction with the Philipp Brockington exhibit through February 13.

Audio Tour of Connections Released in February
Access through pocomuse.org

Have you checked out our audio archive? This personal guide to our collection brings our exhibits into your home. With your smartphone, it makes a great companion on your next visit, too!

Photographs from Academy of Music Block Fire
Opens Thursday, February 15
Robert Cain Gallery

In February 1926, Valparaiso's Academy of Music Block at the southwest corner of Lincolnway and Washington Street was destroyed by fire. Experience the fateful night and its aftermath through a small exhibit of original photographs.

PoCo Muse Magazine, No. 7
Digital version free online; supporters receive print copy by mail

This issue features articles on 19th-century Porter County pioneers: Charles Osborn, journalist, minister, and abolitionist; and Almira Fifield, an early graduate of the nation's first women's medical school.

MARCH

History Happy Hour
Wednesday, March 6, 5-7p
Washington Street Tap Room, 11 Washington Street

Talk local history over a drink with friends, history professionals, and amateur historians. *Free event for 21 and older; drinks not included.*

Curated Tour w/ Quinn Albert
Saturday, March 30, 10a
PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Sign up for this special curated tour with Visitor Experience Manager, Quinn Albert. This in-depth tour will include additional local stories and feature objects not normally on display. Don't miss it. No two curated tours will be the same!



Above • Aftermath of the Academy of Music Block fire showing the building's South Washington Street façade, 1926. From the Chuck Worden Collection, 2014.7.16.



Above • Phil Brockington stands before a watercolor painting by Helen Burkett depicting one of his hybridized daylily varieties. Courtesy of Marcia Carson, 2016.

Philipp Brockington Collection

Philipp Brockington (1940-2023) was a law professor at Valparaiso University School of Law from 1972 until his retirement in 1996, when he redirected his efforts to supporting the arts and operating his Jackson Township daylily farm with his partner Howard Reeve, Jr. Phil was a driving force of the Brauer Museum of Art at Valparaiso University, notably as docent, writer, and donor of valuable works of American art.

Phil was also a generous supporter and longtime friend of the PoCo Muse, and he demonstrated his commitment by including us in his estate plan. The bequest contained thirty pieces of local art that have greatly enriched our collection and an endowment dedicated to preservation and acquisition.

Right • "Lilies and Lace," by Hazel Hannell (1895-2002). Watercolor on paper, 1978.



Support Comes in Many Forms

Our award-winning museum couldn't exist without the support of people like you. We rely on your monetary donations to keep operations going. Your generosity allows us to provide proper care for our collections and pay the bills that permit us to open our doors to the public free of charge.

Writing a check is not the only way to help. You can also make in-kind donations of artifacts and artworks that have a strong connection to Porter County. If you have such items, we'll be happy to discuss with you their appropriateness for our collection. If we accept them, you may be entitled to a tax deduction.

If you'd like to discuss options for giving, please contact Kevin Matthew Pazour, Executive Director, at (219) 510.1836 or kevin@pocomuse.org. We'd love to hear from you.



Above • An untitled and undated painting by local artist Virginia Phillips (1931-2017) that was donated by Philipp Brockington (1940-2023) in his estate plan.

general **INFORMATION**

POCO MUSE

20 Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, IN 46383

Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 11a-4p

The award-winning PoCo Muse maintains free general admission as this area's oldest institution devoted to the history and culture of Porter County.

MISSION

We engage Porter County's rich past with its evolving present to educate, enrich, and inspire our communities.

VISION

We believe our work of interpreting Porter County's history, art, and culture empowers residents to form a strong and purposeful sense of place, identity, and community.

VALUES

Free, Open, and Accessible

We meet the needs of our communities as a welcoming and inclusive gathering place.

Meaningful Storytelling

We connect stories with artifacts to encourage imagination, introspection, and empathy.

Hands-on Learning

We create opportunities to learn from interactive and intergenerational experiences.

Collaboration

We work together with people and organizations aligned with our mission and vision.

Responsible Stewardship

We uphold the collection and history of our institution with integrity and accountability.

STAFF & BOARD

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Kevin Matthew Pazour

Exhibits & Publications

Jacob Just

Visitor Experience Manager

Quinn Albert

Collection Manager

Sarah Berndt

Collection Assistant

Ashley Vernon

Board of Trustees

Joanne Urschel, *Chair*; Ronald Trigg, *Vice Chair*; Kathryn McMillan, *Treasurer*; Ellen Kapitan, *Secretary*; Brandi Anstine; Patricia Crise; Kathleen Evans; Ruth Johnston; Kevin Kerr; Jeffrey Lewis; Paul D. Miles; Carlos Rivero



CALENDAR *of events*

JAN 13

The Path That Ventures Within: Public Exhibit Opening

Opens Saturday, January 13

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

JAN 20

The Path That Ventures Within: V.I.P. Exhibit Reception

Saturday, January 20, 10-11a

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

FEB 1

Porter County Art: Video Installation

Opens Thursday, February 1

Robert Cain Gallery

FEB 15

Photographs from Academy of Music Block Fire

Opens Thursday, February 15

Robert Cain Gallery

MAR 6

History Happy Hour

Wednesday, March 6, 5-7p

Washington Street Tap Room, 11

Washington Street

MAR 30

Curated Tour w/ Quinn Albert

Saturday, March 30, 10a

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

WEEKLY

Guided Museum Tour

Saturdays, 2p

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue

Family Activity Sundays

Sundays, 11a-4p

PoCo Muse, 20 Indiana Avenue