



OVERVIEW

Founded in 1977, The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) encourages international artists at all stages of their careers to experiment with new materials and new media in a veritable living laboratory, working with studio staff, educators, and apprentices. Through its renowned Artist-in-Residence Program, FWM's collaborative process continues to build a permanent collection of some 5,000 works of art and an archive of diverse materials that preserve and document the course of artistic production from inspiration to realization. An ambitious program of exhibitions and publications, a dynamic website, and wide-ranging educational programming enhance FWM's commitment to conveying a story of contemporary art that unites process with finished works of art of interest to a broad national and international audience.

LOCATION

FWM is located at 1214 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107. For more information, call 215-561-8888 or visit fabricworkshopandmuseum.org.

HOURS AND ADMISSION

FWM is free and open to the public seven days a week, with a suggested donation of \$5. Museum hours are Monday through Friday, 10am-6pm, and 12-5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

HISTORY

Since its inception in 1977, The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) has developed from an ambitious experiment to a unique contemporary art museum, including a significant permanent collection documenting over 40 years of artistic innovation, a critically acclaimed on-site and touring exhibition program, and an extensive educational outreach program of tours, apprenticeships, lectures, and internships.

At the outset, Marion "Kippy" Boulton Stroud (1939-2015) envisioned founding an organization that combined the activities of the Finnish fabric printing company Marimekko—which promotes design excellence in everyday objects—with contemporary printmaking ateliers such as Gemini G.E.L. and Universal Limited Art Editions (U.L.A.E.) which encourage artists to experiment with techniques unfamiliar to them, such as lithography or etching. With these models, Stroud established an inner-city art education program that provided a creative outlet for artists of all ages, while also training them for careers in the textile industry.

Through Stroud's leadership, FWM developed into an internationally-renowned contemporary art museum, distinguished by one of the country's most innovative residency programs and complimented by well-regarded education and apprenticeship programs. In 1996, the word "Museum" was officially added to the name of the institution to reflect its growing collection of

contemporary art, its commitment to the presentation and preservation of these holdings, and its broadening educational component.

Working alongside FWM's highly trained staff as part of the celebrated Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Program, leading contemporary artists have realized a wide spectrum of ambitious projects and installations. Over the years, experiments with fabric have expanded to embrace new materials and methods; artworks resulting from this collaborative creative process have pushed the definitions and possibilities of contemporary art practice with the integration of innovative techniques, applications, and presentations. FWM's permanent collection currently holds more than 5,000 objects created by past Artists-in-Residence.

In 1996, the word "Museum" was integrated into the institution's name to reflect its growing collection of contemporary art, as well as FWM's commitment to the presentation and preservation of these holdings and related educational programming.

After Stroud's untimely death in 2015, Susan L. Talbott stepped in as Interim Executive Director shortly after retiring from a seven-year-long tenure at the helm of the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford, CT. Upon arrival, she immediately began instituting organizational and physical innovations at FWM and soon assumed the role of Executive Director, furthering Stroud's vision with the imaginative capacity of a contemporary art curator and the skills of a seasoned museum director. Recently, FWM also appointed Karen Patterson as the museum's first-ever titled curator. Patterson, who joined FWM from the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, WI, assumed her new curatorial post in July 2019.

In April 2019, Talbott announced her retirement after nearly four years of service, continuing to oversee the operations and programming while she assisted the Board of Directors in its search for and eventual transition to a new Executive Director. FWM announced the hire of Christina Vassallo in October 2019; she will take the reins as Talbott's successor in January 2020.

PROGRAMS

Artist-in-Residence (AIR) Program

The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) invites contemporary artists to create new work using experimental materials and techniques. The internationally-acclaimed program hosts mid-career and established regional, national, and international contemporary artists who have a demonstrated commitment to innovation and exploration. To that end, FWM supports artistic experimentation by providing honorariums and materials to artists, and employing its facilities and staff to address their creative needs. Artists are invited by the Executive Director in consultation with FWM's Artist Advisory Committee (AAC). The AAC, comprised of a distinguished group of artists, curators, scholars, and museum professionals, meets 1-2 times a year to recommend, review, and select artists for upcoming residencies.

Education Programs

The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) offers a myriad of opportunities for students, teachers, and families to engage with our exhibitions, studios and teaching artists, including: College and Postgraduate Apprentice Training Program, High School Apprentice Training Program, Study Tours and Hands-on Workshops, K-12 On-Site Studio Programs, Family, Teen and Adult Programs.

- College and Post-Graduate Apprentice Training Program (ATP)

ATP is a holistic experience enabling artists to develop skills in silkscreen printing and working with fabric to expand their studio practice. With the support of FWM master printers, apprentices develop skills in screenprinting on fabric, learning how to create repeat designs, mix colors with textile pigment, registering multiple screens, and printing one-color and three-color repeat yardage. Apprentices also assist with projects related to studio operations, visitor services, education, and the FWM archive. Past apprentices have come to FWM from across the U.S. and beyond.

- High School Apprentice Training Program (HSATP)

HSATP is an after-school art program for students interested in developing new tools for artistic expression and self-empowerment in a professional museum and studio environment. The program offers exceptional art education for teenagers from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds, expanding resources and improving art education for high school students in the Philadelphia region. Twelve-week sessions in the spring and fall explore screenprinting textiles with an emphasis on building collaborative skills. During the summer eight-week session, apprentices receive training in public speaking and giving tours, deepening their understanding of museum operations.

- Study Tours and Hands-On Workshops

Specialized tours of FWM's exhibitions and studios are available for pre-school and school-age (elementary, middle, high and home school) participants, as well as college and adult groups. Tours may include screen-printing, drawing, sculpture or movement exercises in the galleries; exhibition-inspired workshops engage the minds and bodies of young artists with age-appropriate activities connecting to the process, materials, and concepts expressed in an artist's work.

- K-12 On-Site Studio Programs

The On-Site Studio Program extends FWM's studio-based artmaking activities into Philadelphia public schools. FWM-trained teaching artists—often former college apprentices—work with K-12 classes and their teachers to develop a curriculum that suits their art education needs. Teaching artists guide and facilitate collectively-designed screenprinting projects that participating students print by hand in FWM's professional print studio. On-Site Studio is funded by local foundations and serves hundreds of K-12 students annually.

- Family and Teen Programs

FWM's public programs explore contemporary art in innovative ways designed to connect to and inspire families and younger audiences. Using the museum's exhibitions and unique studio environment as a foundation for learning, Family and Teen Programs feature hands-on activities that stimulate curiosity while encouraging children and adults to learn about art and culture together.

- Adult Programs

Drawn from the concepts and processes that shape the current exhibition, FWM's adult programs introduce our adult audiences to new methods of making and self-expression.

PERMANENT COLLECTION

The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) both makes and presents, documenting the course of artistic production from inspiration to realization. Residencies with more than 800 artists have helped generate a permanent collection of more than 5,000 objects—completed works, material research, and experimental prototypes—chronicling FWM's history of collaboration and tracing major movements in the field since 1977. An extensive archive of photographs and video documentation also highlights artists making and speaking about their work. The collection will soon be accessible to the public through a web-based platform thanks to an IMLS-funded digitization project. Works in the permanent collection fall into three categories:

- Commissioned Works by Artists-in-Residence

Works include large-scale installations, sculptures, drawings, paintings, hand screen-printed fabric garments and textiles;

- Artist Boxes

Archival boxes include samples, prototypes, swatches, and other materials related to the creative process and gathered at the end of each artist's residency;

- Photography and Video

Documentation of the creative process from artists' residencies, artist and curator lectures, exhibitions, special fabrication techniques, and education-related activities.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The main entrance to FWM at 1214 Arch Street is accessible to individuals using standard-sized wheelchairs. Please note that the main entrance does not have an automatic opener and FWM does not have reserved parking spaces. All floors of FWM are accessible by elevator and have accessible, single user restrooms. Public access to floors varies based upon our exhibition and public programming schedule. Manual wheelchairs are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations are necessary; please inquire at the reception desk on the 1st floor. If you have questions or concerns about accessibility at FWM, or if you require a specific accommodation, we would be happy to discuss how we can help meet your needs. For all requests and inquiries, please call [\(215\) 561-8888](tel:215-561-8888) ext. 254 (voice).