

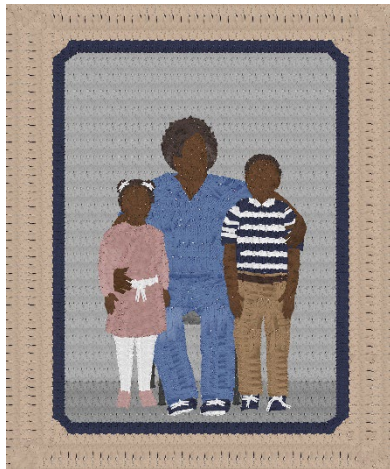
Per (Sister): Incarcerated Women in Louisiana

New exhibit at Syracuse University Art Museum

On view through March 11

For Immediate Release

A new exhibition that intimately examines the experiences of currently and formerly incarcerated women in Louisiana by sharing stories of loss, hope, despair, survival, triumph, and persistence will be on view at Syracuse University Art Museum beginning January 18. *Per (Sister): Incarcerated Women in Louisiana* explores one of the most critical issues of inequality and injustice currently facing the nation through the lens of a population often overlooked.



Amy Elkins, *Mother and Young Children*, 2019

Per(Sister) runs through March 11 and features works from more than 30 artists across America, including artists MaPó Kinnord, Amy Elkins, Lee Diegaard, L. Kasimu Harris, Devin Reynolds, Jackie Sumell, Carl Joe Williams, and Cherice Harrison-Nelson.

“We look forward to sharing the PerSisters’ lived experiences and the art they inspired with the Syracuse campus community,” says museum curator Melissa Yuen, “These artworks, with their wide range of media, highlight the power of storytelling and foreground their ability to spark interdisciplinary conversations about not only the complexities and inequities of the American justice system but also the continued and generational impact of incarceration.”

Per(Sister) is a traveling exhibition produced by the Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. The exhibition was curated under the leadership of former museum director Monica Ramirez-Montagut (current executive director of the MSU Broad Art Museum) and assisted by curator Laura Blereau. It was developed in equal partnership with Syrta Steib and Dolfinette Martin with additional support provided by Operation Restoration and Women with a Vision.

The exhibition presents works from more than 30 artists based on the personal stories of 30 formerly and currently incarcerated women as interviewed by museum staff. *Per(Sister)* aims to look beyond the statistics and bring their stories to light as a way to comprehend the injustice of the criminal justice system in the U.S.

The exhibition is divided into four sections that explore the causes of female incarceration, the impact of incarcerating mothers, the physical and behavioral toll of incarceration, and the challenges of and opportunities for reentry for formerly incarcerated women.

These themes bring together diverse works — including voice recordings, photographic portraits, informative illustrations, sculptures, paintings, songs, and performances— to create an exhibition that incorporates the voices of the Persisters and artists while highlighting statistics collected from the Vera Institute of Justice, Prison Policy Initiative, the Sentencing Project, the Bureau of Justice Statistics and others. Individuals from Tulane’s faculty and students, individuals directly impacted and community stakeholders contributed time and knowledge to the exhibition.

Special Events

Per(Sister) Curator Talk with Monica Ramirez-Montagut

January 29, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

[Zoom](#)

Per(Sister) In Conversation

Melissa Yuen and PerSister co-producers of the exhibition Dolfinette Martin and Syrita Steib-
February 9, 3pm

[Zoom](#)

Collaging Community: Art Making as a Restorative Practice

February 10, 6pm, [Zoom](#)

February 24, 6pm, SUArt Museum

Join us virtually (Feb 10) and in person at SU Art (Feb 24) as we explore and respond to *(Per)Sister*. RSVP to suart@syr.edu by Jan. 28 to receive a packet of quilting materials with which you can use to creatively work through your reaction to the exhibition and its themes after a virtual demonstration and gallery talk. Then join us in person as we come together as a community to connect our unique responses and reactions in solidarity.

Women’s Incarceration and Prison Reform Priorities

Reception to follow at Syracuse University Art Museum

5:30 pm, Thursday, February 17

214 Slocum Hall

Check the museum’s website for more public programs that will be added in the coming weeks

<https://museum.syr.edu/calendar/>

Members of the media, please contact Emily Dittman, associate director of Syracuse University Art Museum, ekdittma@syr.edu, for more information or to schedule a tour.

About

The Syracuse University Art Museum is a teaching museum located on campus that acquires and preserves important works of art and uses its extensive collection to serve as a museum-laboratory for exploration, experimentation, and discussion. The Museum strives to foster diverse and inclusive perspectives by uniting students across campus with each other and the local and global community, engaging with artwork to bring us together and examining the forces that keep us apart. It welcomes all visitors to experience its exhibitions and public programs that promote original research, creative thinking, and increased mindfulness. The SU Art Museum is always free to all. For more information and to plan your visit, go to museum.syr.edu.