

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum

Hats & Headwear

Global to Local



December 3, 2022 – February 26, 2023

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The Global Language of Headwear

Cultural Identity, Rites of Passage & Spirituality

From headdresses and helmets to turbans and crowns, explore the vital role of ceremonial headwear throughout diverse cultural customs, beliefs, and rituals.

Transcending utilitarian purposes, each head covering is a work of art, showcasing skill and creativity in conveying meaning. In a profusion of shapes and styles, materials, and embellishments, these hats and headdresses communicate beauty, the diversity of the world's cultures, and shared ideas.

Throughout a range of traditions worldwide, headwear is used for various purposes: cultural identity; power, prestige, and status; ceremonies and celebrations; spiritual beliefs; and protection.



Featuring headwear from forty-three countries spanning Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and North and South America, with most from the mid to late twentieth century, many types are still worn today for revelry, ritual, and the rhythms of everyday life.

In this exhibition, jointly organized and toured by Stacey W. Miller and International Arts & Artists, Washington, D.C., discover intriguing parallels within headwear from diverse societies.

Stormy Kromer

Evolution of a Classic



A tip-top tale puts a local spin on global headwear. From invention and evolution over a century, the stylish and durably designed Stormy Kromer hat is interwoven into Wisconsin culture. The lore is part of the lure.

A pull-down ear band stitched to a baseball cap kept a train worker's head warm and dry amid winter winds. Ida Kromer's innovative alteration solved the hat-flying-off problem for her husband, "Stormy" – once a semi-pro baseball player and railroad engineer – while he worked on his locomotive. And so, the Stormy Kromer was born.

The caps originally were designed and fabricated in 1903 in northeastern Wisconsin and then in Milwaukee from 1919 until Jacquart Fabric Products purchased Stormy Kromer in 2001. Kromer hats continue to be made by the Jacquart company in the Great Lakes Region – in Ironwood, Michigan, near the Wisconsin border in Michigan's upper peninsula. It's now an iconic, internationally known brand.



Stormy Kromer



Stormy Kromer describes its brand voice as:

"Strong, knowledgeable, with an air of wit and wisdom, that is comfortable in its element (actually all of them)."

- ☛ Up here, "numbskull" isn't an insult. It's a medical condition.
- ☛ A frosty head only looks good on beer.
- ☛ Friends don't let friends get frostbite.
- ☛ Furry family members don Critter Kromers.

From an authentic original to ever-evolving designs, *Stormy Kromer: Evolution of a Classic* celebrates the art of headwear design and one of the Midwest's long-lasting cultural symbols.

Stormy Kromer: Evolution of a Classic was organized by Shannon Pueschner, curator of exhibitions, and the Woodson Art Museum.

A grant from the Dudley Foundation supports the Stormy Kromer exhibition.

Dudley Foundation

A Joint Effort Marketing grant from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism supports expanded Stormy Kromer: Evolution of a Classic marketing efforts.

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Events & Programs

Exploring Global Headwear with Curator Stacey W. Miller

Thursday, December 1 – Saturday, December 3



Photo by Matt Wittmeyer

The Global Language of Headwear curator Stacey Miller is a collector and an authority on the cultural significance of hats and headdresses. Since her first hat purchase in Istanbul in 1979, Stacey has grown her Hat Horizons collection to more than 1,300 hats and headdresses from over 150 countries and many more ethnic groups.

Learn about the exhibition from Stacey on Thursday, December 1, and during a gallery walk on Saturday, December 3.

"Each hat and headdress is a reminder of the personal, spiritual, and social values that we share, encouraging us to recognize the humanity in all of us." Stacey Miller

A grant from the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation supports programs with curator Stacey Miller.



December 1 Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Sartorial Sampler

Join well-traveled hat enthusiast Stacey Miller for an introduction to the hats and headdresses featured in *The Global Language of Headwear*, opening Saturday, December 3.

December 3 Saturday 1 – 2 pm

Panel Presentation

Join *The Global Language of Headwear* curator Stacey Miller and cultural representatives for a discussion about the presence and purpose of diverse traditional dress and headwear.

December 3 Saturday 2:30 – 3:30 pm

Gallery Walk

Travel the world through objects on view and stories from *The Global Language of Headwear* curator Stacey Miller.



January 5 Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Light's Edge Gallery Walk

Join curator of collections Amalia Wojciechowski for insights into *Light's Edge: The American Nocturne*, featuring artwork depicting avian life in twilight, on the fringes of daylight.

January 12 Thursday 10:30 am – Noon

SPARK!

Adults with early-to-mid-stage memory loss and their care partners gather for an interactive, guided experience through *The Global Language of Headwear*, followed by hands-on art making inspired by observations and conversations. Register online at www.lywam.org/learn-do/program-registration or call 715.845.7010.



Programming for adults with memory loss is generously supported by Abbie Spire in memory of Dr. Lyman J. Spire.

We Want to Serve You

To schedule a specialized SPARK! or Art Beyond Sight experience, contact scheduling@lywam.org or 715.845.7010.

January 18 Wednesday 1 – 3 pm

Making @ the Museum

Paper Play

Drop in to the Museum's classroom studio to explore ways to manipulate and transform paper into artful accessories, perfect for any hat.

January 28 Saturday 10:30 am – Noon

Art Beyond Sight

Individuals with low vision and blindness explore *Stormy Kromer: Evolution of a Classic* via a multisensory gallery experience led by Museum educators. Time in the galleries is followed by time with guest artist and Team USA Snow Sculptor Mike Martino. Register online at www.lywam.org/learn-do/program-registration or call 715.845.7010.

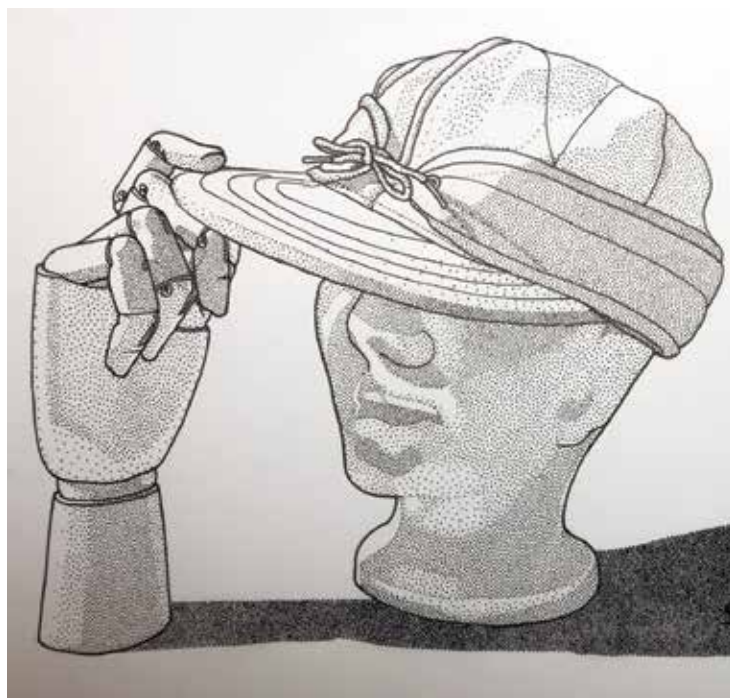
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January 28 Saturday Noon – 5 pm

Snow Sculpture

Team USA Snow Sculptors – Mike Martino, Tom Queoff, and Mike Sponholtz – inspired by Stormy Kromer hats, work their winter magic during their 33rd year creating snow sculptures at the Woodson Art Museum.



Call for High School Poetry

Submit Entries by January 15

The Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets, organizer of an annual student poetry contest, partners with the Woodson Art Museum, inviting high school students to participate in a statewide ekphrastic poetry competition. Students will write and submit poems inspired by artwork images from the Museum's collection. An installation of the winning poems and collection artworks will follow in April during National Poetry Month.



Get more details at <https://bit.ly/3CSkRPy> and entry guidelines at www.wfop.org/student-contests.



Left page, from left: Woman's Skullcap (Taqiyah), Afghanistan, mid-twentieth century, cotton, metal, coins, © 2012; Tarabuqueño montera, Bolivia, mid-twentieth century, wool, cotton trim, embroidery, metal, sequins, © 2012; both courtesy of Hat Horizons, photographs by Matthew Hillman

This page, from top: Leonora Carrington, *The Saints of Hampstead Heath*, 1997, oil and gold leaf on canvas board; Millard Sheets, *Enchanted Island*, 1978, acrylic on canvas; Stowe Wengenroth, *House at Port Clyde*, 1938, lithograph

February 2 Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Hmong Garments & Headwear

Panel Presentation

A group of Hmong representatives, coordinated by the Central Wisconsin Hmong Professionals, will show, tell, and share insights into styles and types of garments and headwear from various regions and clans.



February 4 Saturday 11 am – Noon & 2 – 3 pm

Regalia Runway

Learn from Hmong-American community members about the traditional Hmong garments and headwear used in celebration and ceremony during a fashion show in the Woodson Art Museum galleries. Central Wisconsin Hmong Professionals invite all to enjoy a fun and fashionable introduction to the artistry and meaning behind regalia produced and worn with pride by different Hmong clans; Q&A follows each morning and afternoon runway show.

February 9 Thursday 10:30 am – Noon

SPARK!

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46TH Annual Student Art Exhibition

Submissions accepted:

Tuesday, February 14 – Tuesday, February 21

Look ahead to March and Youth Art Month by celebrating the creative efforts of central and north central Wisconsin students in grades 5-8. Prospectus and submission information available online in January at www.lywam.org/exhibition/46th-annual-student-art-exhibition-2023.

February 22 Wednesday 1 – 3 pm

Making @ the Museum

Starlight, Starbright

Drop in to the Museum's classroom studio to create art projects inspired by *Light's Edge: The American Nocturne* with light, shadow, and a star-filled sky in mind.



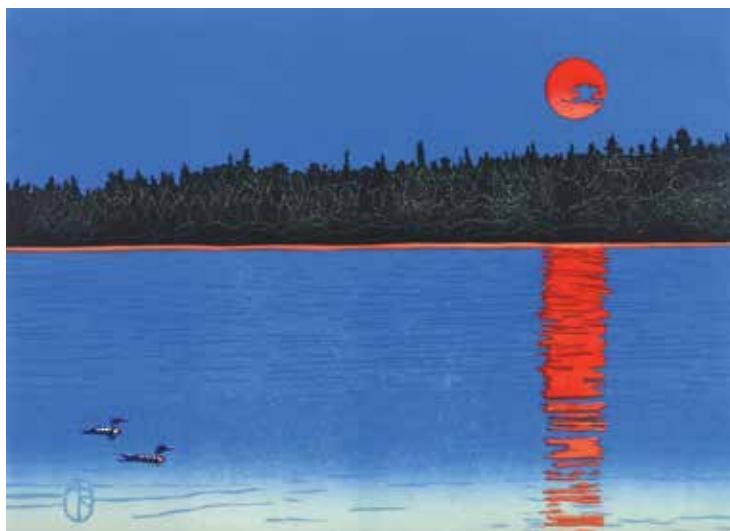
This page: Charles H. Davis, *Twilight*, 1889, oil on canvas

Right page, from top: Andrea Rich, *Moon Rise*, 2007, woodcut on Goyu paper; Kayapo/Mekranoti Headdress (Akkapa-ri), Brazil, mid-late twentieth century, feathers, cotton, reed, © 2012, courtesy of Hat Horizons, photograph by Matthew Hillman

From the Museum's Collection

Light's Edge: The American Nocturne

Behold the brilliance of nighttime in all its stages: the beginning, zenith, and end. From the delicate light of dawn to the moody shadows of twilight, artworks illuminate the first, musical meaning of “nocturne” – an ephemeral work of music to be performed for an evening’s audience. Scenes of the natural world and American wildlife are featured, emerging from these shades of shadow and light. The artworks extend an invitation: come look at the light’s edge.



In Touch with Art: Tactile Sculpture

A table with sculpture – original artwork from the Museum’s collection – is available for all visitors to experience through touch. Visitors are invited to gently explore these touchable artworks, each accompanied by a large-print label, braille label, and audio description, to discover new ways to perceive artwork in the mind’s eye via touch.

A Green Bay Packers Foundation grant supported the development of *In Touch with Art*.

GREEN BAY PACKERS
FOUNDATION



Exhibition Extras

Videos Learn about the cultural significance of objects on view and hear acquisition stories from around the world from *The Global Language of Headwear* curator Stacey W. Miller on the Museum’s YouTube channel, accessed on your smartphone or tablet.

Art Park Design and adorn a hat that displays your identity and imagine its individual meaning. This winter, themes in the Museum’s family-friendly interactive gallery are inspired by the various shapes, styles, forms, and purposes of headwear from around the world. Art Park support comes from the Bell Family Charitable Foundation.



Bell Family
Charitable Foundation

Art Kits & Stop-by Studio Pick up Art Kits – free, take-and-make art materials for all ages – in the Museum or from the always-open Stop-by-Studio, for in-gallery or at-home art making. Art Kits, also developed for “Art for Dessert,” are supported by a grant from M&T Charitable Foundation and Wilmington Trust.



WILMINGTON
TRUST

Activity Guide Explore the diversity of cultural headwear with inspirational design ideas and prompts for hands-on making, free, in print and online at www.lywam.org/activity-guides.

Art à la Carte Gather at a table and chairs in the galleries or in Art Park for hands-on art making. Also, seize occasions when the Art à la Carte cart appears.



Pop-Up Possibilities Watch for additional opportunities to look, learn, and make. Follow the Museum on social media for details; Museum members will receive email notices.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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**STORMY
KROMER**

We thank members, donors, grantors, and sponsors who support exhibitions and programs. Exhibition support comes from Mary C. Dudley and Greg Wortman and from Jim and Sue Konkel. Educational support comes from Mary C. Dudley and Greg Wortman, William and Brenda Everson, Pamela and Gary J. Frary, Jim and Sue Konkel, Sandy Ott, and Robert and Ann Dudley Shannon. A Joint Effort Marketing grant from the Wisconsin Department of Tourism supports expanded *Stormy Kromer* marketing efforts. Marketing is supported in part by City of Wausau Room Tax funds. Exhibitions and programs are supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Dudley Foundation

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Creativity. Culture. Community. Commerce.

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Accredited by
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ALWAYS FREE Admission
Woodson Art Museum

Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday	9 am – 4 pm
First Thursday of each month	9 am – 7:30 pm
Saturday – Sunday	Noon – 5 pm
Closed Monday and holidays, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day	

Contact Us

Phone: 715.845.7010
Email: info@lywam.org
Online: www.lywam.org

Connect with Us

& Share Your Images



Weekly blog *Woodson Wanderings*



Cover, from top left, clockwise: Pende Chief's Hat (Misango MaPende), Pende Tribe, Democratic Republic of the Congo, mid-twentieth century, fiber, beads, © 2012; Original Stormy Kromer® Cap; Dayak/Kenyah Ceremonial Headdress, Borneo, Indonesia, mid-twentieth century, rattan, cloth, glass beads, goat hair, hornbill feathers, © 2012; Naga Helmet, India, mid-twentieth century, cane, dyed goat hair, boar tusks, © 2012; Tekke Wedding Headdress, Turkmenistan, early twentieth century, metal, beads, cotton, silk, © 2017, photograph by Stacey Miller; Calabash Helmet (Tabungaw), Philippines, mid-twentieth century, Calabash gourd, cotton, beads, © 2012

Inside cover, from left: Phami Akha Headdress, Thailand, mid-twentieth century, metal, beads, coins, cotton, © 2012; Lega Bwami Hat, Democratic Republic of the Congo, mid-twentieth century, fiber, buttons, beads, elephant tail hair, © 2014; photograph by Kenzie Robbins

This page: Tiger cap, China, early twentieth century, silk, cotton, embroidery, © 2012
The Global Language of Headwear photographs by Matthew Hillman except for Tekke Wedding Headdress and Lega Bwami Hat, all courtesy of Hat Horizons