

# Bruce McColl

Artist-Educator-Leader

DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT, CURRIER MUSEUM OF ART

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## About

A passionate and committed practitioner of museum-based education using historic and contemporary art as a focus for building individual and community connections, historical and cultural awareness, creative agency, and a sense of well-being for all.

Builds and manages strong collaborative and creative teams who are focused on actualizing the mission of the Currier, by connecting individuals, families, and communities with the vital spirit of art.

Driven to make art a changemaker for individuals, families, and communities through broadening realms of accessibility and the delivery of exceptional gallery and educational experiences.

Believes that beauty, compassion, curiosity, and humor are essential to a better world and workplace.

A noted visual artist in New England, represented in the collection of the Currier Museum of Art, and regional public and private collections.

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## Education

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| 1994 | MFA, Painting, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan  |
| 1988 | BA, History, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4-year varsity athlete, Brown University Men's Ice Hockey</li></ul> |
| 1984 | Cranbrook School, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3-year varsity athlete, Cranbrook School Boy's Ice Hockey</li></ul>            |
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## Professional Experience

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| 2010-2023 | From 2010-2023, has served on the Leadership Team of the Currier Museum of Art with a particular focus on art education in classrooms, our galleries, and in the broader community; and fundraising in areas of education, and wellness programs. In 2020, formally took on larger scope of fundraising at the Currier in role as Director of Engagement, by directly overseeing |
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Director of Development. Additionally, has led numerous Board level standing committees during a 19-year tenure at the Currier including, the Art Center, Community outreach, and Nashua Arts committees.

2020-present

**Director of Engagement, Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, New Hampshire**

Responsible for management of Education and Development Departments, overseeing a diverse set of fundraising efforts including grants, annual gala, annual fund, stewardship of membership and cultivation of higher-level giving circles, cultivation of corporate sponsors, and relationship building with individual donors and Trustees.

Excels at connecting people to the mission of the Currier through stewardship, classroom education, gallery programming, and curatorial activities.

*Highlights:*

- o In partnership with COO developed a strong and dynamic team of development professionals who are goal oriented, collaborative, creative, and community oriented.
- o Currier fundraising outcomes grew from \$900,000 to \$1,300,000 annually between 2020 and 2023. In the area of grants, in the same period, income substantially increased to \$400,000 annually.
- o Has developed a large state-wide affiliation with non-profit organizations, cultural stakeholders, public officials, and public and private funders.

Maintains enduring, collaborative partnerships with a diverse set of regional non-profits and funders to serve underserved audiences:

- o Highlights include long-term programming partnerships including, NH Easterseals, Manchester/NH VA Hospital, the Moore Center, The PLUS Company, Elliot Hospital's Solinsky Center for Cancer Care, and The Center for New Americans/Inti Academy; and funders, Swim with a Mission, the Elliot Family Foundation, and NH State Council on the Arts, among many.

Strategic Planning, 2023 and 2016:

- o Co-led Strategic Planning processes in 2016 and 2023, including the creation of a new mission statement, 5-year strategic plan, which involved diverse stakeholders inside and outside of the Currier Museum.

2014-2020

**Director of Art Education, Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH**

Oversaw diverse set of educational programs that included public programs, school tours, art classes, vacation camps and workshops for children to adults, community outreach, and art and wellness programs. In total, programs directly served over 15,000 individuals on an annual basis.

*Highlights:*

The collaborative design of a slate of innovative and first of their kind

museum-based art and wellness programs that serve individuals and families in need of art focused, behavioral health oriented, wellness programs, including:

- The Art of Hope for families supporting a loved one with substance use disorder, in consultation with the Center for Addiction, NYC
- Art for Vets for veterans, active service members, and their families, in coordination with the Manchester VA Hospital and regional partners

2005-2014

**Director, Currier Museum Art Center, Manchester, NH**

Created and managed a diverse set of educational programs in the Currier's historic Art Center, focusing on studio-based experiences for students of all ages. Programs offerings including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and ceramics. Developed innovative pathways into programs for diverse set of students and families without economic means, through community outreach and fundraising.

Realigned Art Center programs in concert with the mission of Currier Museum and found creative ways to connect studio programs to the assets of the museum for students of all ages.

*Highlights:*

- Increasing student enrollments annually to over 1,200
- Increased art center revenue through diverse set of programs including classes, vacation camps, workshops, exhibitions, museum shop sales, and "Heart of the Arts" gala fundraising
- Impacted larger Currier Museum culture by placing the creative experience at the center of mission for large, diverse, and inclusive student population at the Currier Art Center
- Led numerous fundraising efforts for the Currier Art Center to shore up budget, including the first set of annual Currier galas focused on education, access, and impact
- Led Board-level Art Center committee comprised of trustees, community leaders, and art center parents

2002-2005

**Adjunct Professor of Art & Art History, Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA**

Taught Renaissance to Modern Art History survey and 2-dimensional design.

1994-2001

**Fine Arts Instructor, Tabor Academy, Marion, MA**

Taught painting, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture Oversaw school gallery and rotating student and professional artist exhibitions. Hosted annual artist in residence program to benefit the Tabor School community.

1989-1991            **Instructor of Basic Design and History, Cranbrook-Kingswood School, Bloomfield Hills, MI**  
Taught Basic Design and World History.

1988-1989            **Professional Ice Hockey Player, Roma IF, Visby, Sweden**

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### **Museum Honors and Awards**

2023                    Governor's Arts Award in Arts in Health NH State Council on the Arts, Concord, New Hampshire

2018                    Champions in Action: Community Arts - Sponsored by Citizens Bank and the Union Leader, New Hampshire

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### **Creative, Leadership, and Education Honors**

2013                    Leadership Fellowship, Community Arts Education Leadership Institute, National Guild for Community Arts Education, Bryn Mawr, PA

2002                    Who's Who Among American Teachers

2000                    Pollock-Krasner Foundation Fellowship in Painting  
Artist in Residence Fellowship, ArtWorks, New Bedford, MA

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### **Curatorial Experience**

2023                    Co-curator with P. Andrew Spahr, Director of Historic Houses, *Toward the New: A Journey into Abstraction*, Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH

2014                    *Transforming Lives through Art: 75 Years at the Currier Art Center*,

2012                    Co-curator with P. Andrew Spahr, Director of Collections and Exhibitions, *Transcending Nature: Paintings by Eric Aho*, Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH.

- Includes essay "A Second Approach: The Landscapes of Eric Aho" in exhibition catalogue
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### **Selected One and Two-Person Exhibitions**

2019                    *Bruce McColl: New Paintings*, Sullivan Gallery, Portsmouth, NH

2017                    *In Full Bloom*, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH

2014                    *The Color of Seasons*, McGowan Fine Art, Concord, New Hampshire  
*Mountains and Orchards*, McGowan Fine Art, Concord, NH

2010                    *Semblances of Life*, Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center, St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH

- Nursery Rhymes*, AVA Gallery and Art Center, Lebanon, NH
- 2004 *Remnants*, New England College Gallery, Henniker, NH
- 2000 *The Studio*, The Roger Smith Gallery, New York, NY
- 1999 *Interiors*, Davidson and Daughters, Portland, ME and Marion Art Center, Marion, MA
- 2012 *Connections: Exploring the Ties between Poet Jim McCord and Painter Bruce McColl*, Mandeville Gallery at Nott Memorial, Union College, Schenectady, New York
- Publication, "Building Relationships: Selected Works by Jim McCord and Bruce McColl"
- 2005 "Inside/Outside: Bruce McColl & Don Resnick," Mandeville Gallery at Nott Memorial, Union College, Schenectady, New York (Catalogue)
- 2002 *Bruce McColl and Jimmy Leslie: Common Themes*, Monmouth University, NJ
- Intimate Exposures: Bruce McColl and Bo Lembo*, ArtWorks! New Bedford, MA
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### **Selected Group Exhibitions**

- 2018 *Curator's Choice*, George Marshall Store Gallery, York, Maine
- 2006 *New Hampshire Painting in the 21st Century*, Kimball Jenkins School of Art and Plymouth State University, NH
- 2004 *BCC Art Faculty Exhibition 2004*, Grimshaw-Gudewicz Gallery, Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA
- Summer Show*, The Train Station Gallery, West Stockbridge, MA
- 2003 *Inside-Outside: Bruce McColl, Jimmy Leslie, Amy Schusser*, Grimshaw-Gudewicz Gallery, Bristol Community College, Fall River, MA
- Small Treasures & Inaugural Exhibition*, A & C Fine Art, East Greenwich, RI
- 2002 *Director's Choice*, The Harrison Gallery, Williamstown, MA
- 2001 *In- Residence*, ArtWorks! New Bedford, MA
- 1999 *The Vault Series: Chairs*, New Bedford Art Museum, New Bedford, MA
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### **Public Collections**

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH

Union College, Permanent Collection, Schenectady, NY

Chapel Art Center, St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH

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### Visiting Artist/Lecturer, Highlights

- 2012 Artist Talk with Jim McCord, poet, celebrating *Connections: Exploring the Ties between Poet Jim McCord and Painter Bruce McColl*, Mandeville Gallery at Nott Memorial, Union College, Schenectady, New York
- 2010 *From Homer to Hopper: American Watercolor Masterworks from the Currier Museum of Art*. Audio tour with Susan Strickler, Executive Director, Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH
- Artist Talk, Alva de Mars Megan Chapel Art Center, St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH
- 2009 *How Paintings Work*, Currier Museum of Art. Lecture with Kurt Sundstrom, Associate Curator, Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH
- 2007 *Being Modern: Hans Hofmann and the NY School*, Currier Museum Art Center, Manchester, NH
- 2005 *Flora Returns: Artists and Flowers, Aha!*, New Bedford, Massachusetts Union College, Department of Fine Arts, Schenectady, NY
- 2002 Union College, Department of Fine Arts, Schenectady, NY
- 1998 Brown University, Department of Visual Arts, Providence, RI
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### Art Reviews

- 2012 Griffin, Amy. "Ties Between Painter and Poet," *Times Union*, Albany, NY
- 2010 Stockwell, Craig. "Bruce McColl: Nursery Rhymes," *Art New England*, February- March
- 2002 Boyce, David. "Bruce McColl," *The Standard-Times*, New Bedford, MA
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### Art Publications

- 2010 *Building Relationships: Selected Works of Jim McCord and Bruce McColl*, Green Lotus Press, Niskayuna, NY
- 2005 *Inside/Outside: Paintings and Drawings by Bruce McColl and Don Resnick*, Mandeville Gallery, Union College, NY
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**Community Service**

2015-2019                      Trustee, Inti Academy, Manchester, NH

2002-2004                      Trustee, ArtWorks! New Bedford, MA

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