

2023-2024  
IMPACT  
REPORT





## FROM THE DIRECTOR



I am excited to present this report highlighting UMMA’s achievements in 2023-2024 and our impact across the campus, throughout Michigan, and beyond.

With your extraordinary support, UMMA has been a central gathering place, alive with opportunities to connect with art, strengthen civic engagement, and foster community. Through our commitment to serving historically underrepresented groups and amplifying untold stories, we’ve created experiences that spark joy and drive meaningful conversations around today’s most pressing issues. As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we’re eager to continue creating dynamic, inclusive spaces where art unites us, ignites discussion, and shapes the future. I’m grateful for your continued partnership in advancing this important work.



Christina Olsen,  
UMMA Director

UMMA puts art and ideas at the center of campus and public life — creating a true gathering place where everyone can Feel Free.

**YOUR SUPPORT  
MAKES THIS POSSIBLE.**

This report showcases how we harnessed the power of art in 2023-2024.



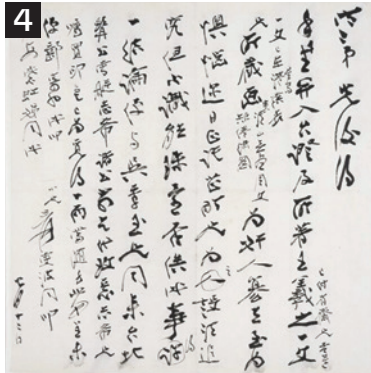
FAST FACT

**90%** of U-M Students  
**PLAN TO RETURN**  
to UMMA after their first class visit



Learn more about how you can deepen your impact at UMMA today





## BUILDING A VITAL COLLECTION FOR THE TIMES WE LIVE IN

Thanks to the generous support of donors and the members of the UMMA Director's Acquisition Committee, UMMA continued to diversify and expand the collection in exciting ways that make the art at UMMA more responsive, accessible, and meaningful to more people.

375

New acquisitions including:

- 1 McArthur Binion, *Self: Portrait*
- 2 Antonius Tin-Bui, *Like the Ocean...*
- 3 Jarod Lew, selections from the *Please Take Off Your Shoes* series
- 4 Lo Chia Lun Calligraphy Collection — The largest gift of art in U-M history

“That’s my language! I want to bring my mom because we speak that at home!”

Student, looking at Khaled Al-Saai’s *Dress of the Poem* in UMMA’s *A Gathering* exhibition

## CHANGING STUDENT LIVES

“There were so many times during our UMMA visits when all of a sudden students who had hardly participated in class at all began sharing all kinds of interesting ideas and insights. I was so impressed!”

Julian Levinson, Samuel Shetzer Professor of American Jewish Studies, Associate Director, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies

## INSPIRING REAL CHANGE

# ARTS & RESISTANCE

In 2023, UMMA led a wildly successful, campus-wide, semester-long celebration of the power of artistic expression to impact society.

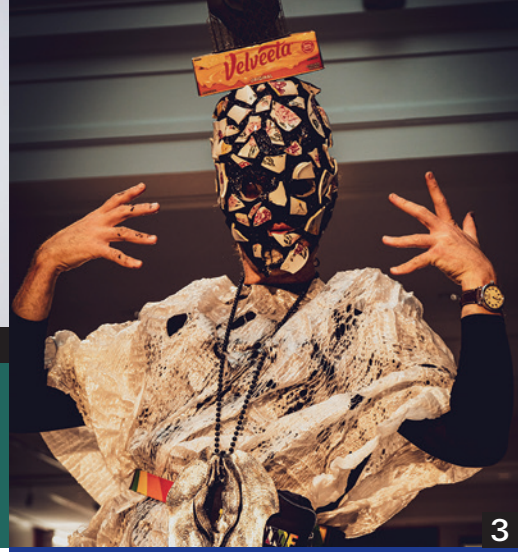
- 100+ U-M Courses related to the theme
- 100+ Performances, Events & Exhibitions
- 74% of U-M Students said they attended at least one Arts & Resistance event
- 94% of event attendees said the Theme Semester inspired them to learn more about art as a form of resistance



1



2



3

# 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS EXHIBITIONS & PROGRAMS

## HEAR ME NOW: THE BLACK POTTERS OF OLD EDGEFIELD, SOUTH CAROLINA

A landmark exhibition of more than 60 objects representing the work of African American potters in the decades surrounding the Civil War.

Our *Free to Speak!* convening brought together 100+ scholars and community leaders to uplift artistic practice and inspire institutions to repair racial injustices. **1**

## MACHINE DAZZLE: OUROBOROS

*A Maximalist Wonderland for the Senses*

Using reclaimed Michigan trash, Witt Artist In Residence Machine Dazzle's exhibition stunned in three acts. Culminating in an electrifying fusion of sculpture, couture, and movement. **3**

## YOU'RE WELCOME: CANNUPA HANSKA LUGER & MONUMENT LAB

A dynamic three-part exhibition challenging institutional memory and the whitewashing of history.

*You're Welcome* featured a bold, experimental, time-based commission on the Museum's front facade. G-I-F-T scrawled across the stone for all to see. **4**

## PARTNERSHIP WITH 826MICHIGAN

*Arts experiences for every 3rd Grade Student in Ypsilanti Community Schools*

A year-end party brought hundreds of students and families to UMMA for a celebration of self-expression and creativity. **2**

## FEEL GOOD FRIDAY

Thousands gathered to be surrounded by art and community at our four *Feel Good Friday* events! **5**

From creating platforms for diverse voices and viewpoints to setting the stage for deep levels of inquiry, UMMA's exhibitions and programs in 2023-2024 brought new ideas, joy, and connection to our communities.



4  
5

