

PRESS RELEASE

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MATTATUCK MUSEUM

Adventures in Art & History

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Mattatuck Museum Announces Fall 2026 Exhibitions & Opening Celebration

WATERBURY, CT –The Mattatuck Museum invites the community to celebrate three new single-artist exhibitions during a special Fall 2026 Opening Celebration on **Sunday, October 11, from 1–4 p.m.** with remarks at 1:30 p.m. Visitors can enjoy **\$5 reduced admission for the day.**

The celebration will highlight exhibitions featuring artists working across material, genre, style, and concept: Ming Smith’s groundbreaking photographs inspired by jazz, dance, and travel; Sonja Langford’s research-driven photographs and installations exploring medical histories; and the figurative paintings of the late self-taught artist Franne Davids, who crafted new worlds and stories from her Waterbury basement.

Ming Smith: Jazz Requiem – Notations in Blue

On view through January 17, 2027

Ming Smith: Jazz Requiem – Notations in Blue offers a richly layered exploration of movement, memory, and visual rhythm. The exhibition traces photographer Ming Smith’s groundbreaking practice from the 1970s to the present, from her formative years traveling throughout Europe to scenes of everyday life in the United States and her powerful explorations of Black experience. Organized by The Gund at Kenyon College. Support provided by Art Bridges.

Sonja Langford: Archives of Care

On view September 26, 2026–January 3, 2027

In *Sonja Langford: Archives of Care*, the artist investigates women’s experiences navigating the medical field through research in local archives. Langford’s work reveals the complex and sometimes disturbing history of healthcare access and bodily autonomy through quilt-inspired wall hangings, photography, and installation projects.

Langford’s exhibition at the Mattatuck Museum follows her recognition as the First Prize winner of *MIXMASTER*, the Museum’s annual juried members’ exhibition. The award, selected by juror Laurel V. McLaughlin, PhD, Curator and Director of the Collective Futures Fund at Tufts University Art Galleries, included a \$500 prize and a solo exhibition at the Museum.

Langford was one of 43 artists featured in *MIXMASTER 2026*, which showcased contemporary work by artists from across the Northeast.

Franne Davids and the World She Painted

On view October 10, 2026–February 14, 2027

Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, Franne Davids (1950–2022) spent much of her adult life painting in the basement of the home she shared with her parents. Living with schizophrenia, Davids created more than 400 paintings, many featuring feminine figures she referred to as “girls.” These figures became friends and imaginary companions within her otherwise reclusive world.

Franne Davids and the World She Painted marks the artist's first solo museum exhibition and offers visitors an opportunity to discover the remarkable body of work she created throughout her life. For more information about the exhibitions and upcoming programs, visit the Mattatuck Museum website, www.mattmuseum.org. For high-resolution images, interview requests, or additional press materials, please contact: Tanya Labeck, Marketing Manager, at (203) 753-0381 extension 127 or tanya@mattmuseum.org.

ABOUT THE MATTATUCK MUSEUM

Located in the heart of downtown Waterbury's architectural district, the Mattatuck Museum is a vibrant destination, known locally and regionally as a community-centered institution of American art and history. The collections at The MATT span the history of American art from the colonial era to the present day with special strengths in Naugatuck Valley history and Connecticut artists, as well as artists from around the world representing the diversity of our community. The collection includes more than 8,000 objects including paintings, unique works on paper, photography, and sculpture. In February 2021, The Mattatuck reopened after a \$9 million renovation project to reimagine the Museum while continuing to be a welcoming, inclusive, stimulating, and enriching community anchor. The "new" Mattatuck Museum, designed by Ann Beha Architects, includes an extensive 14,000 square foot renovation to the existing space and an addition of almost 7,000 square feet to enhance public access, educational programming, collections storage, and exhibitions.

The Museum is operated with support from the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development/CT Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. The Museum is a founding member of the Consortium of Connecticut Art Museums and is a member of the Connecticut Art Trail, a group of 29 world-class museums and historic sites (ctarttrail.org).

The Mattatuck Museum is located on the Green in Waterbury, CT at 144 West Main Street. The Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays. The Museum offers free, convenient off-street parking directly behind the Museum and in additional lots on Park Place. The Mattatuck Museum website (mattmuseum.org) outlines the Museum's updated guidelines for visitors, including what to expect on your visit, cleaning and safety protocols, and frequently asked questions. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for more updates and content.

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