

BRIAN D. BYRN

Director / Curator
Midwest Museum of American Art

EDUCATION: **M.S. in Education** (Emphasis in Art), **1996**
Indiana University at South Bend
School of Education

B.A. in Fine Arts (Graduate with Honors), **1981**
Indiana University Southeast at New Albany
Division of Humanities

Since 1981 Brian Byrn has served as **Curator of Exhibitions & Education** for the Midwest Museum of American Art foundation. During this time Byrn has mounted over 350 exhibitions of regional and national significance while assisting in the acquisition of a permanent collection which has grown to **over 6,400 works**. Recent projects include a 25th Anniversary publication/catalogue of works owned by the Midwest Museum of American and numerous educational materials for temporary exhibits. This 36-year position has been spent in the service of the public in the planning and implementation of art appreciation programs, exhibition & collection research and development for the Midwest Museum of American Art located at 429 South Main Street in Elkhart, Indiana. **In May 2017**, Byrn was appointed **Director/Curator**.



Curator Brian Byrn with Grant Wood's *Sheaves of Corn* at MMAA
Photo courtesy of Brian Byrn

As a **Curator**, Byrn has served as **Judge/Juror** for many (over 50) fine art competitions and art fairs over the past 30 years. In 2001 Byrn served as juror for ARC Gallery in Chicago for their first National Competition. Closer to home Byrn has served as judge for the Northern Indiana Artists group annual competition held at the Northern Indiana Center for History or the South Bend Museum of Art and juror for the St. Joseph Valley Watercolor Society and the Northern Indiana Pastel Society. Byrn was the judge for the Minnetrista Cultural Center's *20th Annual Minnetrista Juried Art Show & Sale* in Muncie in 2010 and again in 2017. In 2011 Byrn served as juror of paintings, pastels, and watercolors for the *MAAC Show* at the Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joe, Michigan. Also in 2011, Byrn served as Judge for Indiana's oldest art competition, the *113th Annual Exhibition*, at the Richmond Art Museum. In 2015 Byrn served as Juror for the South Shore Arts annual competition in Munster, Indiana.

As an **artist**, Brian Byrn has exhibited his drawings and mixed media installations throughout the Midwest from 1981 to 1997. His artwork has been the subject of six solo exhibitions in three states. The artist has garnered **15 Best of Show awards** in competitions from 1981 to 1997. His artwork is found in private collections in Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Indiana, Oregon, Texas and California. Byrn has artwork in several public collections including: The Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City; South Bend Museum of Art, South Bend; Carnegie Center for Art & History (formerly Floyd County Museum), New Albany; the Fort Wayne Museum of Art; the Midwest Museum of American Art; and the Indiana University Southeast Collection, New Albany. Byrn put his visual art career on hold in 1997 to pursue his interests in popular music.

As an **Instructor and Lecturer**, Byrn has taught classes at Indiana University at South Bend in Art Appreciation (1987, 1988) and was Visiting Lecturer at Bethel College annually from 1991 to 2007. From 1993 to 1998, Byrn held the additional academic standing as **Assistant Professor of Art at Goshen College** in an adjunct capacity where he taught all levels of Drawing, Painting, Senior Seminar, Advanced Studio, and developed the 20th Century Art (history) course still being used today. Brian Byrn has given hundreds of weekly lectures on various topics of American art over the past 35 years as part of the Midwest Museum's public educational programming.