

John Michael Kohler Arts Center



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Arts Center catalogue *Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe* receives George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award

(April 22, 2020) – The John Michael Kohler Arts Center’s exhibition catalogue *Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe* is the 2019 recipient of the George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award for excellence in art publishing from the Art Libraries Society of North America’s (ARLIS/NA).

Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe is the largest survey dedicated to the artist, examining her life, work, and influence over the course of her 100-year life. This extensive catalogue was produced to accompany the Arts Center’s exhibition series exploring Tawney’s life’s work and her impact on contemporary fiber art.

Published in association with The University of Chicago Press, the publication includes essays from a distinguished group of contributors: Glenn Adamson, Kathleen Nugent Mangan, Karen Patterson, Mary Savig, Shannon R. Stratton, and Dr. Florica Zaharia.

Widely recognized for her groundbreaking work in fiber as well as for her drawings, collages, and assemblages, Lenore Tawney charted a life that was marked by a constant exploration of the physical and the spiritual. Over the course of her lengthy career she pursued innovative interpretations of traditional practices that were central to shifting the perception of weaving from a utilitarian craft to fiber art as we know it today.

As the first extensive survey of Tawney’s artistic output in nearly three decades, the catalogue serves as an overdue and welcome reassessment of this important artist’s oeuvre and influence. Structured in a loose chronological framework, the catalogue’s contributors examined her diverse artistic creations, while also mining her rich archival record and exposing her technical advances.

Readers are introduced to Tawney’s multifaceted world through essays revealing her restrained, yet elegant environments. The catalogue is saturated with an array of photographs that integrate lush, full-bleed spreads with more modest details that illuminate the content and highlight the tactile nature of her practice.

“This volume beautifully exemplifies the Wittenborn Award ethos through its emphasis on scholarly content paired with thoughtful design,” said the Society’s press release.

Staff from the John Michael Kohler Arts Center who provided additional support in the book's production include Valerie Lazalier and Amy Horst (project management), Rich Maciejewski with coordination by Peter Rosen (new photography), and Patricia DuChene and Lisa Schultz (proofreading). As executive director of the Lenore Tawney Foundation and long-time friend of the artist, Kathleen Nugent Mangan, provided valuable insights into Tawney's personal history and intentions as well as access to the artist's work and archive.

The firm of Lucia|Marquand oversaw the book's production with Adrian Lucia serving as project manager and Ryan Polich providing a sensitive and sympathetic design. Additional production concerns were undertaken by Tanya Heinrich, editor, Tina Henderson, typesetter, Carrie Wicks, proofreader, Enid Zafran, indexer, iocolor, color managers, and Artron Art Group, printers and binders.

Established in 1980, the Wittenborn Award honors the memory of George Wittenborn, a premier New York art book dealer and publisher. The members of the 2019 George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award Sub-Committee were: Jon Evans (Chair), Craig Bunch, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Joel Pelanne, Katie Pierce-Meyer, and Mark Pompelia.

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Hours

Visit JMKAC.org or call 920-458-6144

Location

John Michael Kohler Arts Center: 608 New York Avenue, Sheboygan, WI
Art Preserve: 3636 Lower Falls Road, Sheboygan, WI

About the John Michael Kohler Arts Center

Founded in 1967, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center (JMKAC) is dedicated to generating creative exchanges between an international community of artists and a diverse public. Central to its mission is promoting understanding and appreciation of the work of self-taught and contemporary artists through original exhibitions, commissioned works of art, performing arts, community arts initiatives, and publications.

The Arts Center's collection focuses primarily on works by artist-environment builders, self-taught and folk artists, and works created in the Arts/Industry residency program. JMKAC is the world's leading center for research and presentation of artist-built environments. Beginning in August 2020, its collection of 25,000 individual objects and works of art by more than 30 art-environment builders can be viewed year round at the Art Center's new satellite campus, the Art Preserve.

The John Michael Kohler Arts Center is supported by corporate and foundation donors, government grants, and its many members. The Arts Center is not an entity of Kohler Co. or its subsidiaries. The John Michael Kohler Arts Center is located at 608 New York Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The Art Preserve is located at 3636 Lower Falls Road, Sheboygan. Admission to both is free. For information, call 920-458-6144, or visit jmkac.org, [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#).