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HUDSON VALLEY // CULTURE

Major Native art collection to open Hudson Valley exhibition space this fall

Former Whitney curator Laura Phipps will lead the new space for the Gochman Family Collection in Katonah

By **Matt Moment**, For the Times Union
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Rachel Martin (Tlingit), Gochman Family Chalk drawings, 2022. Site-specific. Phillip Pantuso/Times Union

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BEDFORD — The Gochman Family Collection, one of the country's foremost collections of contemporary Native art, plans to open a 10,000-square-foot exhibition space spanning two sites in the Westchester County hamlet of Katonah this fall.

Laura Phipps, previously an associate curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art, has also been named director of the Gochman Family Collection, according to a news release. Phipps will oversee strategic direction, institutional partnerships and exhibitions.

The sites will open in stages, starting with a 5,000-square-foot main gallery at 18-24 Parkway near the Metro-North Railroad Harlem Line's Katonah station. That location formerly held the clothing boutique Catherine H. Before that, it was a gallery called The Gallery at KGS II.

A Gochman Family Collection spokesperson did not reveal the address of the other site, but said the spaces will "connect in some way with each other."

"We were drawn to the location for its accessibility, as anyone along the Harlem Line can easily reach us by train; for the local Katonah community; and for the broader constellation of arts spaces in the lower Hudson Valley," Becky Gochman told the Times Union.



Cara Romero, (Enrolled citizen of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe), When Animals Were People (A Study), Untitled #2, 2025. Cyanotypes on archival paper, archival ink on silk organza. Courtesy of Cara Romero



Raven Halfmoon (Caddo), Hacah' yosha' (light colored horse | Caddo), 2021. Stoneware and glaze. Alon Koppel

The [Gochman Family Collection](#) was founded in 2021 by Gochman, a philanthropist, and Zach Feuer, a former Manhattan gallerist, "to expand and deepen the global understanding of contemporary Native art," according to its mission statement. The collection includes more than 750 works, many of which have been exhibited at two residences-turned-showrooms — one in uptown Manhattan and another in Palm Beach, Fla. — as well as at major institutions through a no-fee lending program. While the collection focuses on Indigenous artists, it also includes the work by non-Native artists "whose practices broadens and deepens global conversations around identity, history, and cultural perspective." The new Katonah exhibition space is intended to allow greater public engagement with the collection.

"The space in Katonah really opens up new possibilities and opportunities for the way that artists and the public engage with the collection and with ideas about contemporary Native art more broadly," Phipps said. "Our hopes for the space are that it offers not just beautiful exhibition space, but also to think about how programming — be it talks, screenings, concerts or workshops — can expand a sense of community."

Gochman and Feuer connected with Phipps through her curatorial projects at the Whitney.

"It was clear that she shared our belief in supporting living artists, keeping their work visible and in dialogue with institutions," Gochman said.

Phipps joined the Whitney in 2009 as an intern and ascended the ranks, eventually becoming associate curator. She also co-chaired the Indigenous Art, Artists and Audiences Working Group, established in 2017 to promote the research and support of Indigenous art. Phipps curated Jaune Quick-to-See Smith's 2023 retrospective, "Memory Map," the most comprehensive showing of the artist's career to date. The exhibition was made possible in part through loans from the Gochman Family Collection, which holds 19 works by Smith, according to its [public online database](#).

In addition to Phipps, curatorial leadership at the Gochman Family Collection includes Assistant Curator Moonoka Begay (Ndee and Diné), Creative Director and Curator Rachel Martin (Tlingit) and consultants Shándiín Brown (Diné), Ginger Dunnill, Candice Hopkins (Carcross/Tagish First Nation), Larissa Nez (Diné) and Feuer.



Laura Phipps, director of the Gochman Family Collection. Roeg Cohen

The Katonah space will become the collection's primary public-facing site north of New York City, but this isn't Gochman and Feuer's first upstate venture. In 2021, they founded Forge Project to support and promote Indigenous artists through fellowships and educational programming. The organization has since [become a Native-led nonprofit](#), and Gochman and Feuer are no longer involved.

The Gochman Family Foundation also made a [\\$25 million gift](#) to Bard College in 2022 to support its American and Indigenous Studies program.

"The Gochman Family Collection grew out of the meaningful work of Forge Project," Phipps said. "The organizations share many values and goals, especially that of sharing the work of artists widely."

Planning for the first exhibition in Katonah is still in the early stages. While the curatorial team has not yet established a theme, Phipps said, "We are thinking of this first show as an important introduction to the collection."

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