

## PRESS RELEASE

Zillman Art Museum - University of Maine

January 21, 2022

Contact: Kathryn Jovanelli  
207.581.3370  
kathrynj@maine.edu  
www.zam.umaine.edu  
High resolution digital images available upon request



**birchbrook**

Admission to ZAM is FREE in  
2022 thanks to Birchbrook

### Zillman Art Museum (ZAM) announces Winter Exhibition

BANGOR – The Zillman Art Museum, located at 40 Harlow Street in downtown Bangor, opened a new exhibition on January 14 that will run through April 21, 2022. ZAM is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am - 5 pm and brings modern and contemporary art to the region, presenting approximately 21 original exhibitions each year. Admission to the Zillman Art Museum is free in 2022 thanks to the generosity of Birchbrook.

### STELLA WAITZKIN: MATERIALITY

January 14 - April 21, 2022

*Materiality* features a selection of works by Stella Waitzkin that were gifted to the Zillman Art Museum by the Waitzkin Memorial Library Trust and the Kohler Foundation. Waitzkin was a sculptor connected to the abstract expressionist movement in New York City, and who worked alongside Jackson Pollock, Franz Kline, and Willem de Kooning. The works in this exhibition are created from cast polyester resin and a number are on display for the first time. Waitzkin famously commented “all words are lies”, so it is paradoxical that the primary subject of her works were books. The artist’s sculpted books are unreadable slabs that seem to entrap narratives and ideas within the rough, translucent pages.

Additional recurring subjects in Waitzkin’s work are birds and clocks, both of which are represented in this exhibition. The rough surfaces and embedded materials, such as silk flowers and assorted fabric, evoke a feeling of uncomfortable nostalgia. The act of casting these everyday objects in the hardened resin material bestows the work with a sort of quirky permanence. In fact, when viewed as isolated objects, one might find them to be somewhat like fossilized relics.

From the 1960s until the early 2000s, the artist lived in the legendary Chelsea Hotel; a hotbed of creativity for artists, musicians, and writers who were drawn to the bohemian spirit that permeated its walls. Waitzkin found inspiration in the various objects she collected. She created a mammoth tableau in her apartment by stacking her sculptures en masse. In an article, her son recounted: “Her entire place was a bedlam of sculpture and old books and wood, garbage, anything that she might make into art.” She was a collector and “put everything imaginable inside her books without words, religious icons, baby shoes, faces of animals. She once embedded a dead bird in one of her sculptures.”

Although Waitzkin’s sculpted books are without words, they invite contemplation. The eccentric forms and the objects embedded within contain unique moments in time that are memorialized by the artist.

Admission to ZAM is FREE in 2022 thanks to the generosity of Birchbrook.

###



**STELLA WAITZKIN** (American 1920-2003)  
*Small Ornithology*, 1975  
Cast resin and found objects

Gift of Stella Waitzkin Memorial Library Trust  
& the Kohler Foundation