



INTERNAL NEWS RELEASE *Photo by Sara Keith
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (07/28/2026]

Vernon Filley Art Museum Acquires Linda Ganstrom's "Alice" Following Acclaimed "Queens" Exhibition

Pratt, Kansas — The Board of Directors at the Vernon Filley Art Museum is honored to announce the acquisition of *Alice*, a porcelain sculpture by nationally recognized artist Linda Ganstrom. The work now becomes part of the museum's permanent collection following its inclusion in *Queens*, the celebrated exhibition curated by Ganstrom and presented at the museum in Spring 2026. Collections Committee Members Dr. Harlan Shinkle, Dr. Mike Westerhaus, Lisa Perez-Miller, Larry Kahmeyer, Doug Brehm, Brittany Novotny-Vernon Filley Art Museum Executive Director, Sara Keith-Vernon Filley Education and Collections Manager met in June to discuss keeping *Alice* in Pratt Kansas after the other pieces featured in *Queens* returned home. "After getting to know Linda Ganstrom, hearing her speak

and lead discussions here at the Filley, and learning about her creative process-this acquisition was an absolute must for the museum," shared Sara Keith, Education and Collections Manager at the Filley. "Linda's passion for building an art community and making everyone within that circle feel welcome and seen aligns with every single goal and mission of the Vernon Filley Art Museum Foundation. Keeping a piece of her art here, for us to preserve and share, serves as a reminder-everytime we look on *Alice's* face-that Art is for Everyone!"



Throughout the exhibition, *Alice* quietly drew visitors in with her grace, strength, and contemplative presence. While each work in *Queens* explored different expressions and complexities of womanhood, Ganstrom's sculptures stood as a poignant reminder that dignity, resilience, and identity are often communicated not through grandeur, but through subtle gesture and human connection.

The acquisition represents more than the addition of a remarkable lifesize sculpture to the museum's collection. It preserves a lasting connection to an exhibition that invited meaningful conversations about women, history, and the many ways we define women—not by crowns or titles, but by courage, compassion, creativity, and perseverance.

"One of the greatest privileges of presenting temporary exhibitions is the opportunity to share extraordinary works of art with our community," said Brittany Novotny, Vernon Filley Art Museum Executive Director. "To now make *Alice* a permanent part of the Vernon Filley Art Museum ensures that visitors will continue to experience the spirit of the *Queens*

exhibition long after its closing. We are deeply grateful to Linda Ganstrom for creating a work that will inspire reflection for years to come."

Known for her expressive figurative statues, Linda Ganstrom's sculptures celebrate the beauty and complexity of the human experience. Her work is distinguished by its emotional depth, elegant composition, and masterful craftsmanship, earning recognition in galleries, museums, and public collections throughout the United States. "I am so honored to know *Alice* has a permanent home. It is a coming home for me!" reflected Ganstrom. "I am delighted to be a part of the creative community that nurtured me as a young girl. Art is for Everyone!"



VERNON FILLEY ART MUSEUM

421 South Jackson Street, P.O. Box 443, Pratt, KS 67124
P (620) 933-ARTS(2787) • www.vernonfilleyartmuseum.org
Email: info@vernonfilleyartmuseum.org

By acquiring Alice, the Vernon Filley Art Museum continues its mission of building a permanent collection that reflects artistic excellence while connecting audiences with works that encourage curiosity, dialogue, and inspiration. The sculpture now serves as both a significant addition to the museum's holdings and a lasting reminder of the impact the Queens exhibition had on visitors and the community.



Visitors are invited to experience Alice as part of the museum's permanent collection during regular museum hours.

For more information about the Vernon Filley Art Museum, upcoming exhibitions, or educational programming, please contact:

Vernon Filley Art Museum
421 S. Jackson Street
Pratt, KS 67124
(620) 672-7874
www.filleyartmuseum.org

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