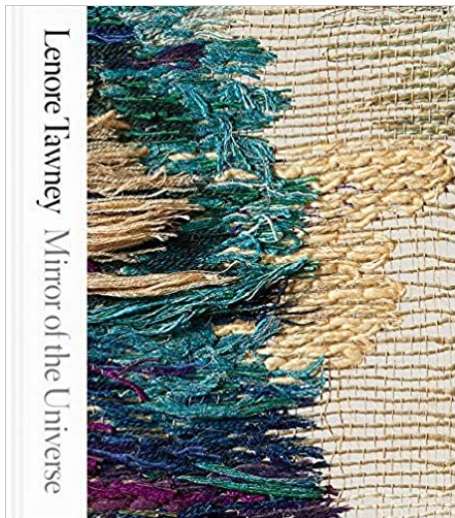


## Art Librarians Honor *Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe* with 2019 George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award



(April 22, 2020) – The exhibition catalogue *Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe* has been recognized by the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) for excellence in art publishing. Karen Patterson, curator at the Fabric Workshop and Museum and former senior curator at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, accepted the 41st Annual George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award. A [video presentation](#) of the award is available on the ARLIS/NA website.

Established in 1980, the Wittenborn Award honors the memory of George Wittenborn, a premier New York art book dealer and publisher who was a prominent supporter of the Society in its formative years.

*Lenore Tawney: Mirror of the Universe* is the largest survey dedicated to the artist, examining her work and influence over the course of her 100-year life. This extensive catalogue accompanies an ambitious program of four exhibitions mounted at the John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Published in association with The University of Chicago Press, the publication was the product of a distinguished group of contributors: Glenn Adamson, Kathleen Nugent Mangan, Karen Patterson, Mary Savig, Shannon R. Stratton, and Dr. Florica Zaharia. 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. Staff from the John Michael Kohler Arts Center provided additional support from Valerie Lazalier and Amy Horst, project management, Rich Maciejewski with coordination by Peter Rosen, new photography, and Pat DuChene and Lisa Schultz, proofreading. 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. 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.

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 also introduced to Tawney's multi-faceted world through essays that reveal her restrained, yet elegant environments. In addition to the textual content, the catalogue features an array of photographs that integrate lush, full-bleed spreads with details that illuminate the content and highlight the tactile nature of her technique. Back matter in the form of a detailed chronology, bibliography, and index round out this stunning production.

This volume beautifully exemplifies the Wittenborn Award ethos through its emphasis on scholarly content paired with thoughtful design.

We would also like to acknowledge as an honorable mention another exceptional exhibition catalogue: *Beyond Line: The Art of Korean Writing* edited by Stephen Little and Virginia Moon; designed by Lorraine Wild and Xiaoqing Wang for Green Dragon Office: Los Angeles County Museum of Art and DelMonico Books, 2019.

The members of the 2019 ARLIS/NA George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award Sub-Committee were: Jon Evans (Chair), Craig Bunch, Lauren Gottlieb-Miller, Joel Pelanne, Katie Pierce-Meyer, and Mark Pompelia.

### **About the Art Libraries Society of North America**

Founded in 1972, the Art Libraries Society of North America is a dynamic, international organization of more than 1,000 individuals devoted to fostering excellence in art and design librarianship and image management in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The membership includes architecture and art librarians, visual resources professionals, artists, curators, educators, publishers, students, and others interested in visual arts information. To serve this diverse constituency, the Society provides a wide range of programs and services within an organizational structure that encourages participation at all levels.

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