



For Immediate Release

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Tucson Museum of Art features innovative new work by 86 artists in *Arizona Biennial 2020*

Arizona's oldest-running state-wide, juried exhibition opens October 1

Tucson, AZ - Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) celebrates experimentation and innovation by Arizona's outstanding artists in *Arizona Biennial 2020*, a much-anticipated showcase for contemporary art. The exhibition is scheduled for October 1, 2020 to January 10, 2021.

Arizona artists over 18 years of age working in any media were invited to submit works by March 6, 2020 for consideration for *Arizona Biennial 2020*. From 1,351 entries, 91 works were selected for exhibition by guest juror Joe Baker, Executive Director, Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. The exhibition contains a variety of media, including painting, installation, photography, sculpture, textiles/fiber arts, video and works on paper.

Arizona Biennial is the oldest running state-wide juried exhibition featuring exclusively Arizona artists. TMA began Arizona Biennial in 1980 as a way to amplify the artistic diversity of the state, and it remains an important part of the museum's commitment to inclusion, diversity, equity and access outlined in the recently-released IDEA Plan. "At this time of a global pandemic, as the very fabric of the American dream unravels, the artist's voice sounds the alarm for what may be a very different world," said Baker. "Many of the participating artists address the challenges we face as a nation, including cultural inequities, domestic violence, gender politics and environmental threats."

Baker's juror's statement emphasizes the importance of the Biennial for Arizona in spite of the new challenges introduced by organizing and presenting a major group exhibition during the closures and restrictions of COVID-19: "Art is a path to freedom, emancipation and equity. At other times, it is simply a comfort in an upside-down world."

Prior to assuming his role as executive director of the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center, artist, curator and educator Joe Baker (Delaware) served as the CEO/executive director of Palos Verdes Art Center in Rancho Palos Verdes, California, and as co-founder and executive director of Lenape Center, New York. At the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Baker was the Lloyd Kiva New Curator of Fine Arts, where he pioneered new opportunities for emerging and underrepresented artists through innovative international exhibitions and programming. His work has recently focused on addressing issues of identity and global cultural equity. His artwork is in TMA's permanent collection.

Artists selected for inclusion in *Arizona Biennial 2020*:

Paul Abbott
Mia B. Adams

David Adix
Jo Andersen

Julia Arriola
Laura Spalding Best

Willie Bonner	Alan Bur Johnson	Jason Ripper
Barbara Brandel	Benjamin M. Johnson	Lisa M. Robinson
Kate Breakey	Jeffrey Jonczyk	Carolyn Robles
Miro Chun	Saskia Jorda	Todd Ros
Robert Curran	Joseph Labate and Laura LaFave	Ken Rosenthal
Jeff DaCosta	Jessica James Lansdon	Kazuma Sambe
Bill Dambrova	Carolyn Lavender	Henry Schoebel
Cam DeCaussin	Serge J-F. Levy	Perla Segovia
Mary Theresa Dietz	Nathaniel Lewis	Rachel Slick
Martin Dimitrov	Larry Madrigal	Kaitlyn Jo Smith
Amanda Margaretha DuPlooy	Matt Magee	Lisa Galloway Sprietsma
Ernesto Esquer	Cydnei Mallory	Mike Stack
Steffi Faircloth	Mitch Mantle	George Strasburger
Fausto Fernandez	DeAnn Melton	Marilyn Szabo
Kareem-Anthony Ferreira	Mary Meyer	Laura Tanner
Mark Florance	Mark Mitchell	Ani Tung
Rigo Flores	Katherine Monaghan	Alex Turner
Sam Fresquez	Rose Moon	Rhonda Urdang
Jill Friedberg	Mary A. Nation	Linda Valdez
Corinne Geertsen	John Randall Nelson	Zach Valent
Nick Georgiou	Tom Ortega	Ivy Wahome
Denis Gillingwater	Jordan Palmer	Wendy Willis
Lisa Hastreiter-Lamb	Barbara Penn	Danielle Wood
Sara Hubbs	Olen Perkins	Denise Yaghmourian
James M. Huffer	Elizabeth Z. Pineda	Chris Zerendow
Christopher Jagmin	Rembrandt Quiballo	
Zachary Jasper-LlumiQuinga	Anna Brooks Ramsey	

The exhibition is supported by a series of virtual public programs, including:

- The Critical Eye: What Curators of Contemporary Art Look For, with exhibition juror Joe Baker and panelists Miki Garcia and Erin Joyce (October 4, 2 p.m.)
- *Arizona Biennial 2020* Artists Spotlight: Food, with artists Sam Fresquez and Kazuma Sambe (November 5, 6 p.m.)
- *Arizona Biennial 2020* Artists Spotlight: Activism, with artists Julia Arriola and Perla Segovia (December 3, 6 p.m.)
- *Arizona Biennial 2020* Artists Spotlight: Figuration, with artists Kareem-Anthony Ferreira and Rigo Flores (January 7, 6 p.m.)

All programs will be delivered online through Zoom. RSVP is required to receive connection information prior to the event. RSVP on the museum website (<https://TucsonMuseumofArt.org/events>) or contact the admissions desk: 520-616-2684 or mooney@TucsonMuseumofArt.org.

Arizona Biennial 2020 is presented by Dr. Peggy Jones and Alan Willenbrock with additional support from BeachFleischman PC.

High-resolution images and a list of works in the exhibition are available upon request.

About Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block

Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) connects art to life through meaningful and engaging experiences that inspire discovery, spark creativity and promote cultural understanding. Founded in 1924, TMA encompasses an entire city block in historic downtown Tucson and is committed to developing quality exhibitions, expanding and diversifying its collection and presenting relevant and innovative programs while broadening public access to the arts.

The museum features exhibitions of Modern and Contemporary art, Latin American art from ancient to today, Indigenous arts and Art of the American West. A permanent collection of over 12,000 works of art spans continents, centuries and media. TMA's campus includes five properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, an art education center and research library, the Museum Store and the highly acclaimed museum restaurant Café a la C'Art.

TMA is a private 501(c)(3) charitable arts and education organization. For additional information visit TucsonMuseumofArt.org or call (520) 624-2333.

The 2020-2021 Exhibition Season at TMA is presented by James and Louise Glasser.

With support from the following season sponsors: Fran and Jim Allen, Alice and Paul Baker, Mary Jo Brown, Connie Hillman Family Foundation, I. Michael and Beth Kasser, Anne and Ed Lyman, Jeanne Pickering and Mike Andrew, TMA League, Contemporary Art Society, Latin American Art Patrons and Western Art Patrons.

As an institution built upon the original territories of the O'odham, the Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block acknowledges the Indigenous Sonoran Desert communities, past and present, who have stewarded this region throughout generations.

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