



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Tucson Museum of Art features work by local students in *Call + Response***

Tucson, AZ - Tucson Museum of Art and Historic Block (TMA) is now showing work by Tucson-area students in *Call + Response: High School Students Responding to the Works of Patrick Martinez*. The exhibition will be on view through April 4, 2021 in TMA's Community Gallery located in the Goodman Pavilion.

Patrick Martinez's (b. 1980) L.A. suburban upbringing and diverse cultural background provide him with a unique lens through which he interprets his surroundings. Through a wide variety of media (painting, neon, ceramic and sculpture), Martinez scrutinizes everyday realities of suburban and urban life in L.A. with humor, sensitivity and wit.

TMA invited students from Cholla High School and Marana High School to respond to Martinez's work, including *Racism Doesn't Rest During a Pandemic Pee Chee* (2020) and *Paradise Lost* (2019), by looking at their personal life or historical and contemporary events. The resulting works tell unique stories about different Southern Arizona communities, the complexities of identities, and contemporary society.

Elizabeth Denneau, instructor in the Marana High School Art Department, feels that Martinez's work speaks sophisticatedly about the challenges of communities of color while using familiar cultural icons that connect with her students. "My main goal is to create an atmosphere where students feel empowered to express their voices and learn about social justice topics through relatable and impactful artwork made by contemporary artists."

Ukiah Hoy, visual arts educator at Cholla High School, teaches students about contemporary artists to introduce them to the idea of art as an expressive language that can traverse multiple barriers and reach a wider audience. "This project encouraged students to explore new modes of both making and thinking. Seeing Martinez's processes linked to his outcomes built an understanding of meaning in compositional choices. Students then identified controversy/adversity in their own lives and found validation through artmaking."

*Racism Doesn't Rest During a Pandemic Pee Chee* is on view alongside the students' work, courtesy of the artist. *Paradise Lost* was recently acquired by TMA thanks to a gift of the family of James J. Glasser in honor of his birthday. The mixed media work is on view in the Kasser Family Wing of Latin American Art. A solo show of Martinez's work is planned for the 2021/22 exhibition season at TMA. *Patrick Martinez: Falling Empire* will open on November 4, 2021 in the Contemporary Latin American section of the Kasser Family Wing.

## **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](http://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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