



TUCSON MUSEUM *of* ART
CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY

Newsletter | Spring 2023



From the CAS President



Dear CAS Members,

The Contemporary Art Society has had a successful year. CAS supported four contemporary art exhibitions at TMA, including the recently opened *Arizona Biennial 2023*. Established 75 years ago, the Biennial celebrates contemporary Arizona artists and is the perfect stage for our regional museum to showcase Arizona's artistic trends. Your membership dues, combined with gifts and proceeds from fundraising efforts, has allowed CAS to contribute to these important contemporary exhibits. Thank you all for that.

The CAS event schedule for the 2022-2023 season has included a variety of experiences. We emphasized meeting with contemporary artists, both in their studios and at exhibitions of their work. We visited two personal collections of contemporary art. The Phoenix area day trip returned to our schedule and, as always, was a fun and informative way to see what's happening with our neighbor to the north. And, on April 16th, we will spend an afternoon enjoying the *Arizona Biennial* with Dr. Julie Sasse, Chief Curator, and a few of the artists juried into that exhibit.

We will be saying goodbye to three CAS Directors in June. Moira Geoffrion's creativity and commitment have been vital to the CAS board for twelve years, including two years as President. Our beverage committee has relied upon Robyn Kessler to keep our members' thirsts quenched. Glory Tacheenie-Campoy's enthusiasm and organizational skills were utilized in a number of our events while she served on the board. We thank all three for their time and commitment and will look forward to continuing to learn from and socialize with them at future CAS events.

It is with profound sorrow that we note the death of TMA and CAS Board Director Jim Glasser. His wisdom and vision on the CAS Board provided guidance for 19 years. The following page paints a picture of Jim and his tireless support of the arts.

I will be stepping down as President of CAS in June. But I'm staying on the Board, so you're not done with me yet! Leading the group has been fulfilling and I want to thank all my fellow directors for working together so effectively. I also thank Julie Sasse and the TMA staff for their support.

The Events Committee and Travel Committee are planning some great experiences for 2023-2024. So, stay tuned via our Newsletters and event flyers. Have a great summer and we'll see you in the fall.

Best to you all,
Jeanne Pickering
CAS President

Honoring Jim Glasser



Jim and Louise Glasser visiting with Nick Cave in his studio on the CAS trip to Chicago in 2014

The CAS community mourns the loss of James (Jim) J. Glasser, a TMA Trustee Emeritus who passed away March 14th. Jim's incredible generosity and spirit have made a significant impact on the Tucson Museum of Art and far beyond.

Jim and his wife Louise R. Glasser have a long history of civic philanthropy in Tucson and Chicago. They have made transformative gifts to the Tucson Museum of Art over the years, including major support for TMA's building expansion, endowing a curator position: the Glasser Curator of Art of the American West, and naming the James J. and Louise R. Glasser Gallery. Jim and Louise received the Arizona Governor's Arts Award for Philanthropy in 2019 and TMA's Ambassador Circle Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020.

Jim was a founder of TMA's Western Art Patrons and was a Director of the Contemporary Art Society Board for 19 years. His leadership and support have had profound impacts on TMA which will endure for countless years to come. CAS extends heartfelt condolences to Louise and the Glasser family.

Upcoming CAS Events

Arizona Biennial 2023: Discussion and Reception

Tucson Museum of Art | April 16, 2023 | 3:00pm-5:00pm

The *Arizona Biennial*, first organized in 1948, showcases some of the most innovative and diverse new works being created in the state. Featuring artwork by both emerging and established artists, this year's juried exhibition is an opportunity to see an exciting variety of work selected by guest juror Taína Caragol, the Curator of painting, sculpture, and Latinx art and history at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. As she details in her juror's statement: "More than four hundred artists answered the open call for entries for this 37th edition of the Biennial. The final selection of sixty-eight works reveals a dynamic artistic landscape, at once strong in its regional roots, culturally diverse, and aligned with global contemporary art."

Join the Contemporary Art Society at 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 16 to explore the Biennial. We will begin at the Alice Chaiten Baker Center for Education, located across from the museum at 166 West Alameda, Tucson, AZ 85701.

CAS members will meet for refreshments on the TMA Larkin Patio, followed by a presentation and overview of the Arizona Biennial 2023 by Dr. Julie Sasse in the Stonewall Community Room. There will be time for an in-person viewing of the exhibition from 4:15- 5pm.

The CAS Membership Meeting will be conducted during this event, with a Member vote on the slate of CAS Board Directors for the fiscal year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.



Kaitlyn Jo Smith, *Fixtures*, 2021, porcelain, PVA, wood, steel, 48" x 72" x 96"



Doug Shelton, *Marshall*, 2022, oil on canvas, 36" x 50"

Upcoming CAS Events

Arizona Biennial 2023: Discussion and Reception

Tucson Museum of Art | April 16, 2023 | 3:00pm-5:00pm



EVENT TIMELINE

Larkin Patio

3pm to 3:45pm

Refreshments

Stonewall Community Room

3:45pm to 4:15pm

Presentation by Dr. Julie Sasse
and CAS Annual Member Meeting

Museum Galleries

4:15pm to 5pm

Visit the Exhibition



Above: Alejandro Macias, *Five Minutes of Solace (Self-portrait)*, 2022, oil, acrylic, graphite on canvas mounted over iPad with video on a five-minute loop, 20" x 16"

Left: Heather Green, *Tidal Timespace (Imprints and Palimpsests / Tide Sequence 1: Bahía Adair / artist book)*, 2022, cast plaster, steel, inkjet on Asuka, photopolymer, letterpress, handmade paper, 42" x 144" x 24"

Upcoming CAS Travel

MEXICO CITY 2024

Mark your calendars for the 2024 CAS trip to Mexico City. We will be traveling February 6-11 to coincide with Zona Maco, Mexico City's major art fair. More trip details and registration information will be coming to your email inbox later in April.





SHARING THE WEALTH: LENDING WORKS FROM THE COLLECTION

Over the years, I have borrowed many works from other museums for exhibitions that I have organized for the Tucson Museum of Art, most of which augment exhibitions that were based on our own collection. Likewise, TMA regularly lends works from the permanent collection to other institutions for the same purposes. Sharing our collection through such loans is a way to bring distinction to our institution. It also exposes various works from the collection to wider audiences and adds to the provenance of those loans—a win/win arrangement.

For example, in 2005, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art borrowed TMA's Robert Bechtle painting entitled *Foster's Freeze* (1975) for his retrospective exhibition, which ultimately traveled to the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. It was borrowed again for *The Painting of Modern Life* in 2006 at the Hayward Gallery in London, UK, an exhibition that traveled to Castello di Rivoli in Turin, Italy. And in 2009, it was requested for an exhibition at the Deutsche Guggenheim in Berlin, Germany.

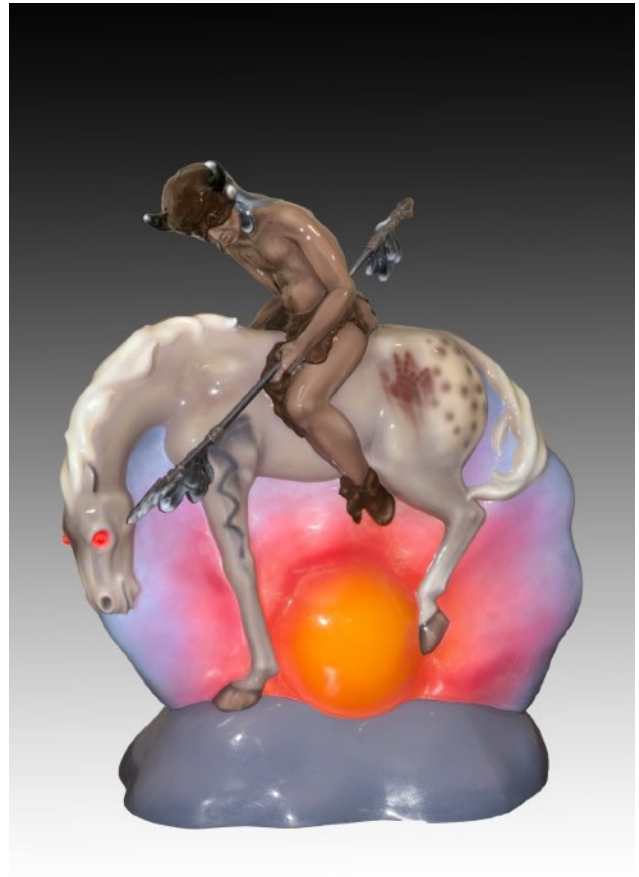
In 2015, the Provincetown Art Museum borrowed TMA's Paul Resika painting entitled *Fallen Trees, The Ramapo* (1977-78), and in 2018, the Whatcom Museum in Bellingham, Washington, borrowed CAS-purchased Tom Uttech's *Nin Mamenawendam* (2006) for an exhibition about endangered species. Later, in 2016, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles borrowed Steven Parrino's *Frankenstein's Monster in the Arctic* (2001) for an exhibition about the fashion designer Rick Owens; three years later, the Sarasota Art Museum borrowed it for the exhibition *Color, Theory & b/w*.

Recently, in 2022, works by Luis Jiménez and Carlotta Boettcher were lent to the Phoenix Art Museum's *Desert Rider* exhibition and they are soon to travel to the Denver Art Museum when they will present the same exhibition. And Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History borrowed Hector Martínez Arteché's *Madre Seri*, for the exhibition *La Grandeza de Mexico*. And just last week, the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Seattle Art Museum have asked to borrow our CAS-purchased sculpture by Joyce Scott entitled *Shhhhhh!* (2012) for a major retrospective of her work. Such loans affirm the importance of our collection and provides crucial opportunities for enhancing artists' legacies. I am proud to be a part of acquiring such works of fine caliber for the museum and look forward to future such loans to share our collection with the world.

Julie Sasse, Ph.D.

Chief Curator and Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art
Tucson Museum of Art

Curator's Corner



Top left: Joyce Scott, *Shhhh!*, 2012, Nigerian wooden object, plastic and glass beads, thread drawing, fabric, 33.5" x 18.5 x 17.5", 2015.01, Gift of the Contemporary Art Society

Top right: Luis Jiménez, *End of the Trail with Electric Sunset*, 1971, fiberglass resin and epoxy, 81" x 70.5" x 45, 1991.30, Gift of Lawrence and Agnes Heller Fund

Bottom left: Robert Bechtle, *Fosters Freeze, Escalon*, 1975, oil on canvas, 40.75" x 58.75", 2001.50.1, Gift of Ivan and Zoya Gerhath

Modern and Contemporary Art Exhibitions at TMA

Arizona Biennial 2023

April 1, 2023 – September 17, 2023

Guest Juror: Taína Caragol, Ph.D.

Taína Caragol is Curator of Painting and Sculpture & Latinx Art and History at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

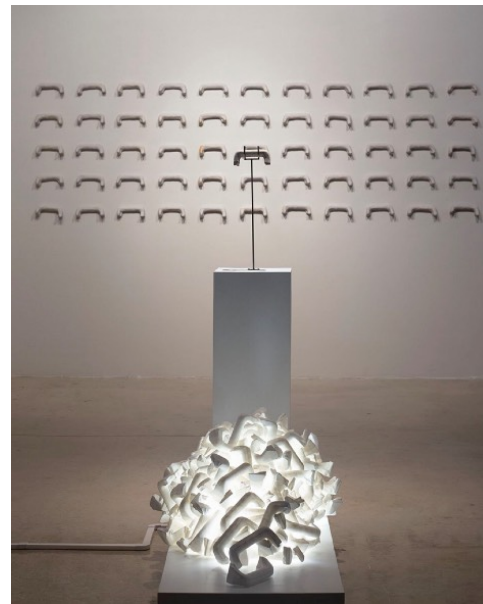
The *Arizona Biennial* is a juried exhibition that showcases some of the most innovative and diverse new works being created in the state. For emerging artists, this exhibition often provides an opportunity to exhibit their art in a museum setting or to introduce their work to the public for the first time. Museum visitors are also exposed to works by established artists with statewide, national, and international reputations. For each biennial, a new juror from outside the state is selected to review the works of hundreds of artists and create a cohesive exhibition that becomes an overview of artistic creativity in Arizona.

Enduring Legacies: The James T. Bialac Indigenous Art Collection

February 2, 2023 – February 25, 2024

Curated by Christine Brindza

Enduring Legacies: The James T. Bialac Indigenous Art Collection presents an expansive array of contemporary Indigenous art featuring late 20th- early 21st century paintings and works on paper. Donated to the TMA collection by Arizona collector James T. Bialac, this exhibition celebrates his lifelong passion to collect Indigenous works of art, befriend and support artists, play a role in nurturing creativity, and help sustain Indigenous artistic traditions. *Enduring Legacies* includes representation from Arizona, the Southwest, and the greater American West, providing a glimpse into the cultures, histories, artistic styles, and experiences of contemporary Indigenous artists.



Above: Kaitlyn Jo Smith, *Fixtures*, 2021, porcelain, PVA, wood, steel, 48" x 72" x 96", Courtesy of the artist

Below: David Bradley (b. 1954), Chippewa, *Another Minnesota Folk Legend*, 1987, oil on canvas. Collection of the Tucson Museum of Art. Gift of James T. Bialac



Modern and Contemporary Art Exhibitions at TMA



Above: Frances Murray, *Pear and Space*, gelatin silver print, 32.25"x 28.25", 1999, Gift of the artist

Below: Monica Aissa Martinez in her studio



Frances Murray and Harold Jones: *Simpatico*

August 11, 2022—August 6, 2023

Curated by Dr. Julie Sasse

This exhibition debuts a significant gift of photographs by Frances Murray (b. 1947, Ireland) and Harold Jones (b. 1940, United States) to the Tucson Museum of Art. Murray is an award-winning fine art photographer who captures surreal still lifes, sensual figures bathed in natural light, and elegant botanical studies in black and white and in color. Jones is the founding director of the University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography (1975) and established the photography program at the University of Arizona where he taught for over thirty years. Murray and Jones were among the new wave of photographers active in Tucson in the 1970s. Together, they contributed greatly to the photographic arts in the region.

Monica Aissa Martinez: *Nothing in Stasis*

September 1, 2022 – April 23, 2023

Curated by Dr. Julie Sasse

Interested in the intricacies of the physical body, Phoenix-based artist Monica Aissa Martinez (b. 1962, Texas) uses line, shape, space, and color to represent the complex connections between body, mind, and spirit. Martinez is drawn to the language of myth and symbol, feminine and masculine, emotion and logic, circle and line, and horizontal (heavens and spirit) and vertical (earth and body), finding beauty in the systems and organization of living things. Inspired by the works of Leonardo da Vinci, Martinez focuses on the bodies of animals, insects, family, and friends to tell a greater story of the interconnectivity of all living things.

Recent CAS Events



PHOENIX, SCOTTSDALE & TEMPE DAY TRIP

January 14, 2023



TUCSON ARTIST STUDIOS

January 29, 2023



Recent CAS Events



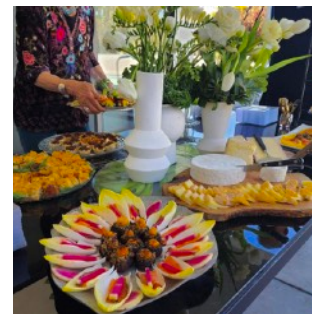
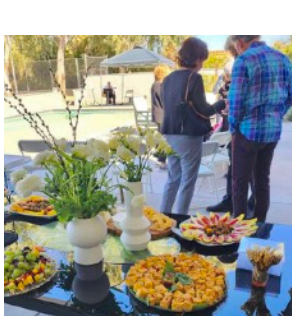
BARBARA GRYGUTIS SCULPTURE STUDIO

February 19, 2023



PATRONS AND BENEFACTORS PARTY AT THE HOME AND COLLECTION OF SUSAN BERGER AND ROBERT LANIER

March 26, 2023



CAS BOARD 2022— 2023

Rameen Ahmed
David Andres
Candice Davis, Secretary
Mark Flynn
Moirra Geoffrion
Jim Glasser
Regina Heitzer-Momaday
Benjamin M Johnson
Robyn Kessler
Pam Parry
Jeanne Pickering, President
Cita Scott
Carrie Seid
Marvin Shaver
Glory Tacheenie-Campoy
David Wohl, Vice President and Treasurer
Dr. Julie Sasse, Chief Curator and Staff Liaison

CAS MISSION

Established in 1999, the mission of the Contemporary Art Society (CAS) is to foster a greater community awareness of the role contemporary art plays in the region's cultural identity.

Objectives include furthering the goals of the Tucson Museum of Art by actively acquiring contemporary art for the permanent collection, supporting exhibitions of contemporary art at the museum, and sponsoring lectures by contemporary artists, curators, and critics.

In addition, CAS organizes studio visits, tours, workshops, and events that promote the study, discussion, and appreciation of contemporary art.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CAS MEMBERS!

Susan* & Fredric Conaway

Pamela Ledgerwood

Michael Cox

Julie Medow

Beverly Fisher, Studio Light | Space**

Sarah Shifrin

Blair Friederich

Linda Sypherd

Lauri Kaye*

Helen Walthier*

*Artist member

**Gallery member



Cover (All images are details:)

Left: Heather Green, *Tidal Timespace (Imprints and Palimpsests / Tide Sequence 1: Bahía Adair / artist book)*, 2022, cast plaster, steel, inkjet on Asuka, photopolymer, letterpress, handmade paper, 42" x 144" x 24"

Middle: Kaitlyn Jo Smith, *Fixtures*, 2021, porcelain, PVA, wood, steel, 48" x 72" x 96"

Right: Doug Shelton, *Marshall*, 2022, oil on canvas, 36" x 50"
