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'TILTING THE BASIN: CONTEMPORARY ART OF NEVADA' SHOWCASES SIGNIFICANT ARTISTS LIVING AND WORKING ACROSS NEVADA

Exhibition bridges divide between Northern and Southern Nevada communities, providing a wide-ranging overview of accomplished work by more than thirty Nevada artists.



Reno, Nev. – Nevada Museum of Art Curatorial Director and Curator of Contemporary Art JoAnne Northrup has partnered with Las Vegas-based art advisor Michele Quinn to co-curate *Tilting the Basin: Contemporary Art of Nevada*. The exhibition bridges the divide between Northern and Southern Nevada communities, providing a broad overview and deep understanding of the most accomplished work being created by more than thirty artists living and working in Nevada today. *Tilting the Basin: Contemporary Art of Nevada* will be on view August 5 through October 23, 2016, at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery in downtown Reno, Nevada.

The first nationally significant exhibition presenting art made in Nevada occurred in 2007 with *Las Vegas Diaspora: The Emergence of Contemporary Art from the Neon Homeland*, on view at the Las Vegas Art Museum, which has since closed. Organized by the well-respected art critic and curator Dave Hickey, the exhibition celebrated the work of twenty-six artists, all of whom received their degrees from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and studied with Hickey between 1990 and 2001 when he taught art theory and criticism in the Department of Art at UNLV.

It has been almost a decade since a serious spotlight has shone on Nevada's contemporary art scene. Fast forward to the present day. Northrup and Quinn conducted more than fifty artist studio visits across Nevada, spanning Las Vegas to the south, Reno and Carson City in the north. Through these travels a picture of Nevada's contemporary art scene started to emerge.

"These are artists living and working here in the state. They are committed to this community," said Quinn. "We chose works from artists that have a mature development in their work, and that were continuing to evolve. It was important to find something of long-term value, works that could resonate over time."

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pg. 2; Contact: Amanda Horn, Director of Communications at 775.398.7228 or amanda.horn@nevadaart.org

Northrup and Quinn's research revealed the Nevada contemporary art scene does not evidence a singular aesthetic permeating artists' work, but rather a wide array of practices and media.

"Nevada artists are creating innovative work ranging from painting, sculpture, and installation, to photography, interactive, and sound art. Their work is informed by popular culture, the natural environment, and landscape, as well as cultural identity, politics, and current events," said Northrup. "The exhibition aspires to provide contemporary dialogue aimed at enlightening our broader audiences to the richness of our entire arts community and how it can be a powerful tool in the growth of the great state of Nevada."

Tilting the Basin highlights the work of six artists in depth, showing several examples from each in a variety of media. Featured artists include **Galen Brown, Justin Favela, Katie Lewis, David Ryan, Brent Sommerhauser, and Rachel Stiff**. The remaining artists' work will give visitors a wide-ranging picture of the art being created across Nevada today, including painting, sculpture, drawing, photography, mixed media, street art, installation, sound performance, fiber arts and new media. Some work, like that of Reno photographer Megan Berner, will live exclusively on social media. Berner plans to take daily photographs of the Northern Nevada sky for the eleven-week duration of the exhibition. The images will post to the Nevada Museum of Art Instagram account, allowing the community to view the body of work as it develops over time.

Additional collaborations and offsite installations are planned as well. Las Vegas-based artist Brent Sommerhauser will collaborate with Reno-based Holland Project and Nevada Museum of Art E.L. Cord Museum School to create small 'sketches' in glass by layering rich color combinations of glass powder, glass strings and other glass elements over handmade glass tiles that Sommerhauser will fire on-site in his kiln. The resulting tiles will be photographed and shared on the Nevada Museum of Art Instagram account and displayed in the E.L. Cord Museum School. The combined tiles will contribute to a growing work that will serve as a participant record. Performance art elements of the show include Justin Favela's *Family Fiesta*.

Northrup and Quinn sought to bring together Northern and Southern Nevada artists whose work has not been prominently displayed at the Museum in the past. Exhibition artists include:

Las Vegas

Chris Bauder
Mark Brandvik
JW Caldwell
Matthew Couper
Gig Depio
Justin Favela
Sush Machida Gaikotsu
Shawn Hummel
Wendy Kveck
JK Russ
David Ryan
David Sanchez Burr
Sean Slattery
Brent Sommerhauser
Brent Holmes
Krystal Ramirez
Rachel Stiff

Reno/Carson

Megan Berner
Rebekah Bogard
Galen Brown
Erik Burke
Nate Clark
Tim Conder
Joseph DeLappe
Russell Dudley
Jeffrey Erickson
Jen Graham
Ahren Hertel
Katty Hoover
Eunkang Koh
Nick Larsen
Katie Lewis
Sarah Lillegard
Omar Pierce

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pg. 3; Contact: Amanda Horn, Director of Communications at 775.398.7228 or amanda.horn@nevadaart.org

Numerous public programs, educator events, and Museum School classes are scheduled to enhance the visitor experience:

Members' Premiere and First Thursday

Thursday, August 4 / 5 – 7 pm / \$10 / FREE Museum members

Contemporary art in the vast, unapologetic wonder space that is Nevada has never been more fiercely alive and demanding to be witnessed. Meet the Tilting artists and join fellow members and guests as we celebrate this statewide survey of Nevada's diverse and far-flung voices. Meet the artists and enjoy a performance by Michelle Lassaline. A limited edition cask created with indigenous Nevada ingredients will be served by Great Basin Brewing Company and the musical guest is Guitar Woody and the Boilers.

Members' Premiere sponsored by NV Energy; First Thursday sponsored by Barrick Gold of North America. Hosted by The X 100.1 FM Radio and Great Basin Brewing Company. Wine sponsored by Southern Wine & Spirits.

Art Bite: Rachel Stiff on City-Desert Relations and Atmospheric Perspective

Friday, August 5 / 12 – 12:45 pm / \$10 / FREE for Museum Members

Las Vegas artist Rachel Stiff explores how pollution and light create a unique atmosphere that impact artistic perspective. Join us as she discusses life from the edge of town, her process and work featured in *Tilting the Basin*.

Premiere Talk: Tilting the Basin: Contemporary Art of Nevada – Artist Discussion

Saturday, August 6 | 11 am / \$12 General / \$8 Museum members

The Nevada contemporary art scene does not reveal a singular aesthetic permeating artists' work, but rather a wide array of practices and media. Join us for a panel discussion with Northern and Southern Nevada artists featured in the exhibition *Tilting the Basin*.

Art Bite: Make your Mark: Art and Process with Artist Brent Sommerhauser

Friday, September 9 / 12 – 12:45 pm / \$10 / FREE for Museum Members

Las Vegas-based artist Brent Sommerhauser explores the tools and processes he designs to create his drawings and three-dimensional sculptures featured in the exhibition, *Tilting the Basin*.

Hands ON! Second Saturday - Battle Born: Nevada Artists

Saturday, September 10 / 10 am – 6 pm / FREE

Celebrating the Nevada artists represented in *Tilting the Basin*, two local artists will be invited to create and host workshops for families. Children will have the opportunity to create collaborative artwork and meet local working artists during this free family day.

Art Bite: Exhibition Walkthrough with Curator JoAnne Northrup

Friday, September 30 / 12 – 12:45 pm / \$10 / FREE for Museum Members

Curatorial Director and Curator of Contemporary Art, JoAnne Northrup, will lead a public walkthrough and conversation focused on the feature exhibition *Tilting the Basin: Contemporary Art of Nevada*.

Educator Evening: Katie Lewis and the Art of Data and Physical Sensation

Wednesday October 5, 2016 / 4 – 6 pm / FREE

Local educators are invited to this special series on the first Wednesday of every month (excluding January and July). Join Charles N. Mathewson Director of Education Marisa Cooper for a presentation, discussion and activity based on the Museum's collections and current exhibitions as they relate to teaching and the Nevada Academic Content Standards.

Hands ON! Second Saturday: Family Fiesta with Visiting Artist, Justin Favela

Saturday, October 8 / 10 am – 6 pm / FREE

Participants will enjoy a presentation and interactive performance with Las Vegas-based visiting artist, Justin Favela. Families will be invited to participate in Favela's performance "Family Fiesta" celebrating the artist's Mexican-American heritage and personal traditions. Participants will create *papel picado*. Live performances by Hug High's mariachi band, docent-guided tours, and storytelling will round out the day's offerings.

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The Folk and the Lore: A Nevada Story - Nevada Stories from Beyond Our City

Saturday, October 15 / Doors and cash bar 5 pm / Performance 6 pm / \$12 / \$8 Museum Members

From the creative mind of Jessi LeMay comes the storytelling and narrative filmmaking project The Folk & the Lore. This multimedia project aims to collect, archive, and tell stories from throughout the region through photography, short films, and live storytelling events.

Museum School Class: Tilting the Basin: Learning to Look

Thursdays, September 15 - October 6 / 7 - 9 pm / \$72 General / \$64 Museum Members

Students will enjoy this four-week gallery and classroom based series on the art of learning to look while analyzing the exhibition Nevada Contemporary. Students will develop a visual literacy and will build on their visual language while examining the diverse artwork of Nevada-based contemporary artists. Instructor: Katty Hoover. Ages: Adult (15+) / All Levels

Museum School Classes: Guest Artist Workshops

Select Saturdays throughout the exhibition

Various artists included in *Tilting the Basin* will host one-day workshops in the E.L. Cord Museum School. Artists include Katie Lewis, Sarah Lillegard, Galen Brown, Megan Berner, Jen Graham, Eunkang Koh, and Nick Larsen. More at <http://www.nevadaart.org/learn/e-l-cord-museum-school/class-schedule/>.

Tilting the Basin: Contemporary Art of Nevada is co-curated by JoAnne Northrup and Michele Quinn and will be exhibited August 5 through October 23, 2016 at the Nevada Museum of Art, Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts, E. L. Wiegand Gallery located at 160 West Liberty Street in downtown Reno. The exhibition will travel to Las Vegas in 2017, at a venue to be determined.

Premier sponsorship provided by Stacie Mathewson and Doors to Recovery. Lead sponsorship by Wayne and Miriam Prim. Major sponsorship by Jacqueline Black. Supporting sponsorship by Maureen Mullarkey and Steve Miller; Nevada Arts Council; and The Private Bank by Nevada State Bank. Sponsorship by Kathie Bartlett; Elaine Cardinale; Barbara and Tad Danz; Dolan Law; Tammy M. and Brian E. Riggs; and Sari and Ian Rogoff. Media sponsorship by Getaway Reno-Tahoe; Juxtapoz Magazine; KUNR Reno Public Radio; Nevada Magazine; Reno-Tahoe International Airport; Tahoe Quarterly; and Western Art and Architecture.

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About Nevada Museum of Art

Nevada Museum of Art is the only AAM accredited art museum in Nevada. A private, non-profit organization founded in 1931, the Reno-based institution is supported by its membership as well as sponsorships, gifts and grants. Through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and programming, and Museum School, the Nevada Museum of Art provides the opportunity for people to engage with a range of art and education experiences. Its Center for Art + Environment is an internationally-recognized research center dedicated to supporting the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their environments. The Center houses unique archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents, including Cape Farewell, Michael Heizer, Walter de Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Burning Man, Center for Land Use Interpretation, and Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains* project. The Museum is open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm, late on Thursdays until 8 pm, and closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and national holidays. Admission is FREE for members, \$10 General Admission, \$8 Student / Senior, \$1 children 6 to 12 years and free for children 5 and under. Annual Museum Membership starts at just \$30. More at nevadaart.org.

About Michele C Quinn Fine Art Advisory

A full-service art advisory firm with more than 20 years of professional experience, Michele C Quinn Fine Art Advisory specializes in the acquisition, installation and collection management of post-war and contemporary art for private, public and corporate art collections. Services include the procurement of fine artworks by mid-career to established blue-chip artists and museum-quality, fine-art handling of private and corporate fine art collections. MCQ Fine Art Advisory also features exhibitions of both locally and internationally recognized artists.