

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Amanda Horn, Director of Communications  
 (o) 775.398.7228 / (m) 775.636.2567 / [amanda.horn@nevadaart.org](mailto:amanda.horn@nevadaart.org)

**‘CONTEMPORARY NEVADA: STATE OF THE STATE’ 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.



Katie Lewis



Justin Favela



Galen Brown

**Reno, Nev.** – Nevada Museum of Art Director of Contemporary Art Initiatives JoAnne Northrup has partnered with Las Vegas-based art advisor Michele Quinn to co-curate *Contemporary Nevada: State of the State*. 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. *Contemporary Nevada: State of the State* 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.”

**'CONTEMPORARY NEVADA: STATE OF THE STATE' SHOWCASES SIGNIFICANT ARTISTS LIVING AND WORKING ACROSS NEVADA**

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.”

*Contemporary Nevada* 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 De Pio  
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  
Eunkang Koh  
Nick Larsen  
Katie Lewis  
Sarah Lillegard  
Omar Pierce

-more-

**'CONTEMPORARY NEVADA: STATE OF THE STATE' SHOWCASES SIGNIFICANT ARTISTS LIVING AND WORKING ACROSS NEVADA**

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

*Contemporary Nevada: State of the State* 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.

####

**About the Nevada Museum of Art**

The Nevada Museum of Art is a museum of ideas. The only accredited art museum in the state, it is a private, non-profit organization supported by the generosity of its membership as well as by sponsorships and grants. Through creative programming and scholarship, the Museum provides the opportunity for people to encounter, engage and enjoy a diversity of art experiences. 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.

**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.