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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**COMPANION EXHIBITIONS BY ARTIST GUILLERMO BERT INTRODUCE STUDENTS TO IMMIGRANT NARRATIVES**

*The Nevada Museum of Art and the John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art host exhibitions by Guillermo Bert whose work explores the endurance of immigrants.*

**Reno, NV (August 29, 2023)** –This fall, the Nevada Museum of Art and the University of Nevada, Reno are offering companion exhibitions of work by Chilean, Los Angeles-based artist Guillermo Bert to engage a younger generation in important conversations around identity, culture and immigration. The companion exhibitions arrive at the one-year anniversary of the Museum’s announcement of the Wayne L. Prim Free Student Admission Program that offers students at the University and Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) free admission to the Nevada Museum of Art in perpetuity.

In many ways, Bert’s work is an ideal entry point for college students seeking to understand more about both art and immigration: blending tradition with technology, Bert examines themes familiar to undergraduate students while offering a unique take on what it means to be rendered (in)visible in the post-COVID world. In *Guillermo Bert: The Journey*, an exhibition opening on Aug. 26 at the Nevada Museum of Art, the artist re-defines the modern, “local warrior” as front-line workers who continue to stock grocery store shelves, harvest fruits and vegetables, drive delivery trucks and make the on-demand economy function in the exhibition’s centerpiece, an installation titled *Local Warriors*.

A companion exhibition, *Guillermo Bert: Groundwork* at the John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art opening on Sept.5 also examines the immigrant experience, but through the lens of Bert’s personal experiences through a survey of the artist’s earlier works. A native of Santiago, Chile, Bert’s early work draws metaphorical relationships between the journeys of migrants, harsh and empty desert landscapes, and the commodification and objectification of American values. Bert employs a variety of unconventional media and materials and uses a blended storytelling approach to connect viewers to his vibrant work.

“We live in a world where the ancient and the new live in the same time zone, and the interpretation of reality should have a more holistic approach,” Bert said. “The lack of an integrated historical, anthropological, and psychological perspective is at the core of some of the pressing social issues we face today.” Through these two exhibitions, Bert gives voice to stories that articulate the immigrant experience by layering tradition and technology.

Students—and the public—will have multiple opportunities to engage with the artist with talks and events. On Wednesday, Sept. 6 from 12-1 p.m., attendees are invited to an artist conversation with Guillermo Bert, followed by a tour of the exhibit, both hosted in the gallery at the John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art at the University.

On Thursday, Sept. 7, independent curator Alma Ruiz joins Bert for a conversation on the endurance of immigrants who enter the United States along the U.S. – Mexico border that explores Bert’s artwork and the inspiration for his immersive installations. The conversation happens at 4-5 p.m. Following the talk, guests are invited to visit the galleries and join the Museum’s monthly Members’ event, [First Thursday](#) to enjoy live music and panoramic views in the Nightingale Sky Room.

For students who are exploring the myriad narratives around immigration, these two exhibitions offer multiple, rich perspectives on immigrant experiences that embrace the historical, cultural and political realms. Admission to both exhibitions is free for University students.

**FREE STUDENT ADMISSION FOR UNIVERSITY AND TMCC STUDENTS**

The opportunity to view two iterations of Bert’s work through companion exhibitions bring attention to the undeniable perk of being a college student in Northern Nevada: free admission to the Nevada Museum of Art and the John and Geraldine Lilley

Museum of Art. In Fall 2022, the Nevada Museum of Art announced the launch of its Free Student Admission Program sponsored by the Wayne Prim Student Admission Endowment.

Students can utilize the benefits of this new program during regular operating hours. The Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays and closed on select national holidays. For more detailed information, visit: <https://www.nevadaart.org/learn/ongoing-programs/free-student-admission/>

*The Free Student Admission Program was made possible through a generous endowment by longtime Nevada Museum of Art Trustee and Philanthropist Wayne Prim.*

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

*Guillermo Bert: The Journey* is guest-curated by Vivian Zavataro and will be on view at the Nevada Museum of Art August 26, 2023 – February 4, 2024. Bert's work has been widely exhibited at both museums and galleries including Queens Museum in New York, Palm Springs Museum, Lille3000 in France, Anchorage Museum, Museum of Latin American Art, Pasadena Museum of California Art, Museum of Art and Design in New York, L.A./L.A. Pacific Standard Time and the Folk and Craft Museum. His work first debuted at the Nevada Museum of Art in the 2017 *Unsettled* exhibition.

Additionally, his work has been reviewed nationally and internationally by *Smithsonian Magazine*, *ArtNews Magazine*, *LA Times* and *LA Weekly*. He was awarded a COLA individual artist grant from the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department, received the California Community Foundation Fellowship in 2015, the Center for Cultural Innovation Quick Grant for Education in 2015, and the 2010 Master Artist Grant from National Association of Latino Arts.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a 200+ page book published by the Nevada Museum of Art. The bilingual publication includes contributions from Alma Ruiz, former curator at MOCA Los Angeles, Dr. Tressa Berman, founder of the Institute for Cultural Practice, and Dr. Ximena Keogh Serrano, assistant professor of Spanish and Latinx Studies at Pacific University.

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**The Nevada Museum of Art** is the only art museum in Nevada accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). A private, nonprofit organization founded in 1931, the statewide institution is supported by its membership as well as sponsorships, gifts and grants. Through its permanent collections, original exhibitions and programming, and E.L. Cord Museum School, the Nevada Museum of Art provides meaningful opportunities for people to engage with a range of art and education experiences. The Museum's **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, the Center for Land Use Interpretation, Great Basin Native Artists Archive, Ugo Rondinone's *Seven Magic Mountains*, and Trevor Paglen's *Orbital Reflector*. Learn more at [nevadaart.org](http://nevadaart.org).

### Land Acknowledgement

The Nevada Museum of Art acknowledges the traditional homelands of the *Wa She Shu* (Washoe), *Numu* (Northern Paiute), *Newe* (Western Shoshone), and *Nuwu* (Southern Paiute) people of the Great Basin. This includes the 28 tribal nations that exist as sovereign nations and continue as stewards of this land. We appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on these Indigenous homelands.

**The John and Geraldine Lilley Museum of Art at the University of Nevada, Reno**, was founded in 1971 as the University Galleries and renamed to celebrate its expanded collection and exhibition space made possible when it moved to its new building in 2019. The Lilley Museum of Art has a permanent art collection of approximately 5,000 objects that is noted for its strengths in self-taught and folk art, ancient Chinese art, Native American art, works on paper, and art from the Great Basin and Northern California. The mission of the Lilley Museum of Art is to "Showcase Art that Sparks Conversation," with a vision to be a bold educational center engaging our various communities in the power of art. Learn more at [unr.edu/lilley](http://unr.edu/lilley).