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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ANNOUNCING 2024-2025 FELLOW TRISTAN DUKE

The Center for Art + Environment continues its commitment to research with the announcement of Los Angeles-based artist Tristan Duke as its 2024-2025 Fellow.

RENO, NV (May 15, 2024) – The Center for Art + Environment is pleased to announce Tristan Duke as the 2024-2025 recipient of the Peter E. Pool Research Fellowship.

Duke is a Los Angeles-based artist who works at the forefront of experimental photography. From 2010 to 2023, he worked in collaboration with artists Lauren Bon and Rich Nielsen as co-founder of the Optics Division of the Metabolic Studio, a collective project seeking to recontextualize photography as a land-based medium and social practice, and for years was a Fellow at the Museum of Jurassic Technology in Los Angeles. Duke's work on hand-drawn holography led to his invention of the first ever 3D vinyl record hologram process. He has created original vinyl hologram album artwork for Jack White and Guns N' Roses and for soundtrack releases such as *Star Wars*.

His Fellowship project is part of his ongoing photographic work *Glacial Optics*. This work will continue alongside his Fellowship project, which will involve taking portraits of glaciers in the Sierra Nevada using glacial ice as lenses. He will present this project and create an archive for the Center as part of his year-long Fellowship. As Duke explains, "I began to think of the glaciers, perched on mountain tops and in the furthest polar climes, as natural optical elements; giant lenses compacted under the weight of eons, polished by wind and snow. In its massive fragility, the glacier's gaze suggests a perspective both larger in size and longer in duration than our limited, anthropocentric view. This has quickly become an ongoing conceptual obsession."

Duke learned how to make crystal clear ice in his freezer and work the material into lens shapes, designing cameras equipped to hold the ice lenses and make photographs. He studied glaciers and the ice cores glaciologists research, and in 2022 embarked on an expedition to the Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard in the Arctic Ocean with equipment to make ice lenses in a tent camera that he designed to record giant 4 x 8-foot negatives.

A graduate of Naropa University's Interdisciplinary Studies Department, Duke has shared his work internationally, with exhibitions and public talks at institutions including MIT Media Lab, Getty Museum, Santa Fe Institute, de Young Museum, Rhode Island School of Design, C|O Berlin, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. His relationship with the Nevada Museum of Art is long-standing and extends back more than a decade and includes the 2013 Metabolic Studio exhibition, *Lauren Bon & The Optics Division Team: Transforming Inert Landscape into Agency*.

The Center for Art + Environment is the Nevada Museum of Art's 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*.

Peter E. Pool Research Fellowships

Peter E. Pool Research Fellowships are funded by a generous gift from Dr. Peter E. Pool, Trustee, Nevada Museum of Art. Fellowships are awarded annually upon invitation from the Center for Art + Environment for a term of one year. The purpose of the Fellowship is to encourage engagements with materials held in the Center for Art + Environment Archive Collections, as well as the art collections of the Nevada Museum of Art. Past recipients include Fallen Fruit Collective (artists David Allen Burns and Austin Young) (2023-2024), art critic and curator Jeff Kelly (2021-2023), and photographer Janna Ireland (2021-2023).

Image captions: Tristan Duke. Photos: Courtesy of the artist

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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. In 2022, the Museum announced plans to expand its facilities by 50,000 square feet, with the goal of enhancing its education, gallery, and research spaces. The expansion is designed by Will Bruder, the same architect who designed the Museum's current structure, and not only increases gallery space for the Museum's permanent collections, but also provides enhanced access to the vast art, archive, and library collections through a renovated and expanded Center for Art + Environment. The expansion project is scheduled for completion in early 2025.

Learn more at 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 27 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.