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EDGAR ARCENEAUX EXHIBITION, NEXT IN JOYNER/GIUFFRIDA VISITING ARTIST SERIES, OPENS AT NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

RENO, NEV. (June 24, 2025) – The Nevada Museum of Art is pleased to announce *Edgar Arceneaux: A Joyner/Giuffrida Visiting Artist Program*, a new exhibition presented as part of the visiting artist series hosted by esteemed art collectors and philanthropists Pamela Joyner and Fred Giuffrida. On view July 26 through September 14, 2025, the exhibition highlights a growing body of work by Los-Angeles-based multi-media artist Edgar Arceneaux, who is in residence in Reno as part of the program.

The exhibition centers on Arceneaux's shapeshifting series *Skinning the Mirror* (2021–present), for which he has developed a unique chemical and physical process to separate glass mirrors from their reflective substrate and apply the materials to the surface of the canvas. The resulting works retain imperfections—shards, cracks, and flaws—that echo the fragmented nature of memory and identity. These evocative mirror paintings are then placed at historically significant sites, where environmental exposure alters their surfaces over time, embedding them with the atmosphere of the location and further deepening their narrative.

“Edgar Arceneaux’s polymorphous and historically resonant practice prompts us to think about the construction of memory and identity in new ways,” said Apsara DiQuinzio, senior curator of contemporary art. “Through his material experimentation and conceptual rigor, he invites viewers to witness transformation in action in his *Skinning the Mirror* series, as his painterly surfaces are mutable while also pushing abstract painting in new directions.”

These works are simultaneously mirrors and paintings, abstractions, and also environmental relics. Arceneaux often situates his mirror works at sites of historical significance, allowing elements in the atmosphere to alter their surfaces and suffuse them with local context. While in residence in Reno, he will respond to a newly selected site that speaks to the complex layers of the region’s history.

“Arceneaux’s innovative process and commitment to material and historical inquiry make him a unique artist to showcase at the Museum,” said CEO David B. Walker. “We are proud that Edgar’s work is represented in our permanent collection and that he was a featured speaker at our 2021 Art + Environment Conference. We have long-admired the ways he reveals the imprint of time—both literal and metaphorical—to shape the stories we tell.”

The mirror—a simple optical device, yet one loaded with meaning—is central to the series. Arceneaux explores how mirrors are an important construction of identity, beginning in Lacan’s “mirror stage” of self-recognition to our now modern dependence on screens and cameras that reflect idealized images back to us. In *Skinning the Mirror*, Arceneaux asks: what happens when the mirror fails to confirm our wholeness and place in the world?

On August 8, the Museum will host a public conversation between Edgar Arceneaux and artist and professor Charles Gaines, who taught Arceneaux at CalArts, to discuss how Arceneaux’s body of work relates to his exhibition at the Museum.

ABOUT THE JOYNER/GIUFFRIDA VISITING ARTIST PROGRAM

Edgar Arceneaux is the third artist featured at the Nevada Museum of Art through a program developed in partnership with patrons Pamela J. Joyner and Alfred J. Giuffrida. The residency program fosters dynamic conversations around contemporary art and includes artist residencies, public programs, and exhibitions of newly created work.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Edgar Arceneaux (b. 1972) lives and works in Los Angeles. His practice spans drawing, painting, performance, sculpture, video, and installation. He is known for conceptually rigorous works that examine social and historical narratives through a personal lens. Arceneaux has had solo exhibitions at institutions such as The Kitchen, New York; the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; the Vera List Center at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Basel, Switzerland; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Museum of Contemporary Art, Linz, Austria.

SPONSORS

Presentation of the exhibition and related programming is sponsored by Pamela Joyner and Fred Giuffrida.

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ABOUT THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

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 was designed by architect Will Bruder. The four-level, 120,000 square foot building is inspired by geological formations in Northern Nevada and is a visual metaphor for the institution’s scholarly focus on art and environment. The Museum’s permanent collections are divided into thematic focus areas including the Art of the Greater West, the Altered Landscape, contemporary art, and work ethic in American art.

The Museum’s **Center for Art + Environment** is an internationally recognized research center that supports the practice, study, and awareness of creative interactions between people and their natural, built, and virtual environments. The Center houses significant archive materials from more than 1,000 artists working on all seven continents.

Learn more at nevadaart.org.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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 the land. We appreciate the opportunity to live and learn on these Indigenous homelands.

CAPTIONS

1. Edgar Arceneaux, *Skinning the Mirror #55 (A+B)*, 2022. Silver nitrate, acrylic paint, glass, and paper on canvas (diptych), 101 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 160 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (257.2 x 407.7 x 9.5 cm) (overall); 101 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 80 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (257.2 x 203.8 x 9.5 cm) (each panel). The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection. Image courtesy of the artist and Vilemetter, Los Angeles. Photo: Jeff McLane.
2. Edgar Arceneaux, *Skinning the Mirror #54 (A+B)*, 2022. Silver nitrate, acrylic paint, glass, paper on canvas (diptych), 101 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 160 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. (257.2 x 407.7 x 9.5 cm). Courtesy of the artist and Vilemetter Los Angeles. Photo: Brica Wilcox.
3. Edgar Arceneaux, *Skinning the Mirror #35*, 2022. Silver nitrate, acrylic paint, glass, and leaf on canvas, 45 $\frac{1}{4}$ x 35 x 2 in. (114.93 x 88.9 x 5.08 cm). Courtesy of the artist and Vilemetter Los Angeles. Photo: Jeff McLane.