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THE JOYNER/GIUFFRIDA VISITING ARTIST PROGRAM CONTINUES WITH ODILI DONALD ODITA AND TARIKU SHIFERAW SOLO EXHIBITIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Reno, Nev. (May 6, 2026) – The **Nevada Museum of Art** is pleased to announce two exhibitions by artists **Odili Donald Odita** and **Tariku Shiferaw** as part of the **Joyner/Giuffrida Visiting Artist Program**. The series, a collaboration with philanthropists and collectors **Pamela Joyner** and **Fred Giuffrida**, presents innovative contemporary artists whose work expands conversations around abstraction, identity, and cultural history.

On view **June 20 – August 16, 2026**, **Odili Donald Odita: A Joyner/Giuffrida Visiting Artist Program** will present three paintings featuring his signature use of bold color, geometric abstraction, and architectural space. Known for his immersive installations and large-scale murals, including *Songs from Life*, currently on view in the lobby of the Museum of Modern Art, Odita explores color as both a formal and political language. His work reflects on global histories, migration, and the layered complexities of identity. Born in Nigeria, and raised in the American Midwest, Odita draws from both Western modernism and African cultural traditions in his practice. Through his work, Odita often critiques Western consumerism and popular culture's reductive representations of racial identity.

On **August 4**, the Museum will host a public conversation between Odili Donald Odita and artist **Torkwase Dyson** focused on their respective practices and shared approaches to abstraction, space, and perception.

Tariku Shiferaw: A Joyner/Giuffrida Visiting Artist Program will be on view **August 29 – October 18, 2026**. Shiferaw is known for using abstraction and mark-making to examine systems of meaning, visibility, and power.

Drawing from both his Ethiopian heritage and Los Angeles upbringing, Shiferaw's practice uses the language of graffiti, music, and redactions to explore specific metaphysical concepts and cultural histories. This exhibition will present works that continue his inquiry into how systems of meaning are constructed and perceived through layered abstractions.

On **September 30**, the Museum will host a public talk with **Shiferaw** and Hammer Museum curator **Erin Christovale** exploring how of mark-making can question, trouble, and assert physical, social, and political space.

"The upcoming exhibitions with Odili Donald Odita and Tariku Shiferaw highlight two distinct approaches to abstraction," said **Apsara DiQuinzio**, the Andrea and John C. Deane Family Chief at the Nevada Museum of Art. "Through color, gesture, rhythm, and form, both artists use painting to engage larger questions around identity, history, and perception."

The Joyner Giuffrida Visiting Artist Program remains dedicated to fostering dialogue between artists and the community through exhibitions, public programs, and educational initiatives. Both exhibitions are co-curated by DiQuinzio and Carmen Beals, Associate Curator and Outreach Director, Las Vegas.

For more information, visit nevadaart.org.

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ABOUT THE JOYNER/GIUFFRIDA VISITING ARTIST PROGRAM

Odili Donald Odita and Tariku Shiferaw are, respectively, the sixth and seventh artists featured at the Nevada Museum of Art through a program developed in partnership with patrons Pamela J. Joyner and Alfred J. Giuffrida. "The initiative fosters dialogue around contemporary art through artist residencies, public programs, and exhibitions of newly created work."

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Odili Donald Odita (b. 1966, Enugu, Nigeria) brings heightened awareness to color and space in paintings where abstraction is an optically, physically, and culturally-felt phenomenon. Though they are rooted in a broad range of historical lineages—Africanist approaches to pattern; modernist painting and design; and contemporary conceptual positions, to name a few—his compositions make immediate appeals to the senses in the here and now. Odita's take on non-objective art is suffused with connectivity to the world around him, and arises from memories, philosophical reflections, and meditations on the ways in which political forces shape relationships between perception and form. His primary stance is one of constant engagement, as evidenced by Odita's interest in creating both discrete works and large-scale, site-specific installations.

Tariku Shiferaw (b. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia) is a New York-based artist who explores the concept of 'mark-making' to address the physical, social, and political spaces of art and societal constructs. A select list of institutions where Shiferaw has exhibited includes the Whitney Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Baltimore Museum of Art, The Drawing Center (NY), Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt (Germany), Museum of Contemporary Art Cleveland, California African American Museum, Zuckerman Museum of Art (GA), Museum of the African Diaspora (CA), and Smack Mellon (NY). Shiferaw has participated in the Independent Study Program at the Whitney Museum of American Art and in Open Sessions at The Drawing Center. He has also been an artist-in-residence at the LES Studio Program, Silver Art Projects, ARCAthens (Greece), Experimental Print Residency at Lafayette College, Vermont College of Fine Arts, and Hermitage Artist Fellowship.

ABOUT THE NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART

The Nevada Museum of Art is the state's only art museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM). Founded in 1931, the Museum is distinguished by its focus on the relationship between art and environment. Located in

Reno at the intersection of the Sierra Nevada and the Great Basin, the Museum features programming and collections organized around thematic areas including the Art of the Greater West, the Altered Landscape, contemporary art, and work ethic in American art. In 2025, the Museum completed a major renovation and expansion with the Charles and Stacie Mathewson Education + Research Center, further strengthening its role as a hub for learning, scholarship, and community engagement.

The Museum's Institute 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 Institute houses archives, special collections, and rare books connected to the Great Basin Native Artists organization; artists Beverly Buchanan, Judy Chicago, Helen and Newton Harrison, Michael Heizer, Walter De Maria, Lita Albuquerque, Trevor Paglen; and organizations including Burning Man, High Desert Test Sites, Desert X, and the Center for Land Use Interpretation.

Learn more at nevadaart.org.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Nevada Museum of Art acknowledges the traditional homelands of the Waší-šiw (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.