Nevada Museum of Art

E. L. Wiegand Galleries
Donald W. Reynolds Center for the Visual Arts

MEDIA CONTACT: Valerie Primeau | Director of Communications
775.398.7221 | valerie.primeau@nevadaart.org

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# NEVADA MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS A NEW, SITE-SPECIFIC COMMISSION BY LEONARDO DREW IN THE MUSEUM'S ATRIUM

**Reno, Nev. (Oct. 13, 2026)** — The Nevada Museum of Art announces *Number 136S*, a monumental, site-specific sculpture by internationally acclaimed American artist Leonardo Drew, commissioned for the Museum's Mario J. Gabelli Grand Atrium Commons. Measuring approximately thirteen feet in diameter and nearly thirty feet in length, the suspended monolith transforms the atrium into a dynamic visual and spatial experience, revealing new forms and perspectives as visitors move through the space.

Renowned for his abstract sculptures and installations, Drew manipulates and reconfigures raw materials through processes that evoke fragmentation, weathering, and decay. His work embodies the tension between order and chaos, creating forms that appear to be in the midst of transformation. In *Number 136S*, these recurring concerns extend beyond the object itself, engaging the architecture of the museum and the movement of visitors through shared spaces.

The abstract sculpture invites discovery and contemplation from multiple vantage points. As visitors ascend and descend architect Will Bruder's spiral staircase, they encounter the work from below, above, and at eye level, experiencing new aesthetic experiences from every viewpoint. Like other works in this series, *Number 136S* evokes the impression of an explosion suspended in time.

With each shift in position, the sculpture challenges visitors to reconsider their relationship to space, to the work itself, and to those experiencing it alongside them. The installation heightens awareness of how one's perception of a work of art changes with movement and how individual perspectives contribute to a collective experience. By bringing his longstanding investigation of material transformation into direct dialogue with architecture, Drew creates an environment that encourages awe, curiosity, and discovery.

"Through its dynamic presence in the atrium, *Number 136S* invites visitors to experience sculpture as something that unfolds across time and space. As in other works by Drew, the suspended mass inhabits an equilibrium between an arresting aesthetic object and the entropic forces that imperil its existence," said Apsara DiQuinzio, Andrea and John C. Deane Family Chief Curator at the Nevada Museum of Art. "Drew's work transforms the way we perceive a familiar space, encouraging us to look more closely, find new perspectives, and recognize our shifting position in relation to the work of art."

Drew's artistic practice is rooted in the physical properties and histories of materials. Through carefully orchestrated processes, he gives new materials the appearance of having endured the passage of time, creating intricate compositions that suggest both natural forces and human intervention. His sculptures frequently explore the cyclical nature of existence, the instability of seemingly fixed structures, and the possibility of renewal emerging from disruption. In *Number 136S*, these ideas become an architectural experience, unfolding as visitors move through the atrium and encounter the work in relation to their own bodies and to one another.

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**ABOUT LEONARDO DREW**

Born in Tallahassee, Florida, in 1961, Drew spent his childhood in Bridgeport, Connecticut, where the industrial landscape and an adjacent landfill helped shape his early visual sensibilities. He began exhibiting his work at age thirteen and later studied at Parsons School of Design before earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York. His work has been exhibited internationally and is represented in prominent public collections, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, D.C., and Tate in London. In 2019, he created *City in the Grass*, a large-scale outdoor installation commissioned by Madison Square Park Conservancy in New York. Drew lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

**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.